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Campus Computing News

PeopleSoft, now Oracle ...what does that mean for the University of North Texas?

By [Misty Wells](#), UNT Central Web Support

As the person primarily responsible for the [creation](#) of the [MyUNT portal](#), Misty Wells has a keen interest in the ramifications of the Oracle/PeopleSoft merger. The [combined](#) Oracle/PeopleSoft company was launched Tuesday, January 18 via a Webcast. It is doubtful that Oracle will have much to say about the higher-education components they have inherited from PeopleSoft, as they -- like most any big organization -- are likely to be concerned about their commercial and government customers first. A number of people from the Computing and Information Technology Center will be attending the Higher Education User Group (HEUG) [conference](#) in March and it is hoped that by then Oracle will be able to give us a better idea of what their plans are. Our representatives hope they will be able to get a feeling at HEUG for Oracle's commitment to (or at least awareness of) higher education as a significant industry. Look for more on this topic in subsequent issues of Benchmarks Online. -- Ed.

It has been a long time coming -- Oracle taking over PeopleSoft -- but it has finally happened. Oracle's [last extended offer](#) for PeopleSoft closed Tuesday, January 4. Now the real work begins, integrating PeopleSoft products with Oracle products. This is anticipated to be a great challenge, at the technical and organizational levels as well as for customers and employees.

Most people agree that this was a much-needed acquisition for Oracle. A benefit to PeopleSoft's customers is that Oracle pledged to support all current customers for 10-years. As Ephraim Schwartz recently noted in [InfoWorld](#), "what Oracle has not promised is to continue R&D for PeopleSoft products beyond the next release," a point about which this University should be concerned. It is not definite what will happen beyond this point, but it is apparent that there is grave concern about the choices that PeopleSoft customers have. That is, if PeopleSoft customers do not shift to Oracle then we (including the University of North Texas) may be stuck with our current version until further notice.

However, there are other Enterprise solution companies, such as [SAP](#), that will surely use this take-over to their advantage, so all is not gloom and doom. Additionally, customers can re-affirm with Oracle that they will expect Oracle to keep promises that were made during the negotiation process with PeopleSoft. They rightfully should expect Oracle to fulfill their existing agreements with PeopleSoft. PeopleSoft customers should begin to weigh their options and act accordingly.

In spite of all the uncertainty the University of North Texas really doesn't have anything to fret about. There will still be a PeopleSoft support team available as well as other programs or products for the next couple of years that will work with the various versions of our PeopleSoft software. Furthermore, just as we adapted to PeopleSoft being the new and improved system on campus we can adapt to Oracle in the future if that's our direction several years from now.



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Virus News

By [Claudia Lynch](#), Benchmarks Online Editor

The virus writers and scammers have been busy, as usual. Cataclysmic events seem to give them extra motivation, however, as can be witnessed by the various Tsunami-related items reported by [scambusters](#):

- 1. Phishing scams:** fraudulent websites have been set up pretending to be legitimate tsunami relief organizations. These sites request charitable donations, but in fact steal financial information and may be used for identity theft as well. Contributions go into the pockets of the scammers.
- 2. Variants of the Nigerian fee scam:** unsolicited email (spam) is sent with the supposed purpose of retrieving large amounts of money tied up in areas devastated by the tsunami disaster.
- 3. Viruses and trojans:** Spam is sent that includes photos of disaster areas or individual survivors, and these attachments contain computer viruses.
- 4. Fee-based spam:** unsolicited emails offer, for a fee, to locate loved ones who may be disaster victims.

We are not surprised by these scams since the same thing happened right after 9/11, and after every major natural disaster since then.

On a happier note, **McAfee VirusScan 8.0i** can now be [downloaded](#) for **FREE** from the UNT Antivirus site by all UNT students, faculty, and staff. You can also purchase a CD from the software bookstore in the Student Union for \$3.00, if you prefer.

Please note: McAfee VirusScan *can only be installed* on PC's running Windows NT, Windows 2000, Windows 2000 Server, Windows XP or Windows 2003 Server. **It will not run on PC's running Windows 95, Windows 98 or Windows ME.**

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Computer-based Training Curriculum Update

By [Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner](#), Student Computing Services Manager

With December came the renewal of our contracts with online training companies SkillSoft and KnowledgeNet. UNT CITC ACS provides free online training from these companies to all University community members. For more information, see the computer-based training website at www.unt.edu/cbt/.

You can directly login to the training can by visiting <https://cbt.acs.unt.edu/logon.htm> and access courseware with your EUID and password. **Please note** that if you are fairly new to UNT, you may not yet be in the system (I update the rolls at the end of registration), and if you encounter this, contact me at ehinkle@unt.edu.

Changes and additions

Currently our KnowledgeNet and SkillSoft course offerings feature older versions of technologies such as Windows 2000 and Office 2000. With our new order, we will be receiving training on the latest versions of software from Microsoft as well as general courses on Linux and Macromedia products.

We have dropped our Adobe training because the Adobe company itself now provides excellent free online training (discussed in another article in this issue of *Benchmarks Online*). We have also added some new courses including several pertinent offerings in security issues and procedures and some Human Resources instruction in workplace management, compliance, and ethics. We are also happy to be able to offer training in Microsoft server 2003 technologies to students. Folks utilizing the more technical aspects of PeopleSoft will be interested in using our courseware in Crystal Reports and Oracle 10g. I will send announcements when these contracts get processed and these new courses are available.

Please also note that in addition to the Adobe online courseware, we will also be getting in new e-learning modules for faculty and staff on Microsoft Office 2003 and Server 2003. This online training that comes directly from Microsoft itself will be announced as soon as it arrives and interested persons can have it installed on their machines by their network managers.

On order . . .

Listed below are the current web courses that have now been ordered from

SkillSoft and KnowledgeNet for use by the UNT community:

KnowledgeNet Courses - run on Windows (Explorer and Netscape, Firefox), Macintosh (Explorer and Netscape), Linux (Mozilla):

**Microsoft Office 2003*

- Microsoft Access 2003 Core Skills
- Microsoft Access 2003 Expert Skills
- Microsoft Access 2003 New Features
- Microsoft Excel 2003 Core Skills
- Microsoft Excel 2003 Expert Skills
- Microsoft Excel 2003 New Features
- Microsoft Outlook 2003 Core Skills
- Microsoft Outlook 2003 Expert Skills
- Microsoft Outlook 2003 New Features
- Microsoft PowerPoint 2003 Core Skills
- Microsoft PowerPoint 2003 Expert Skills
- Microsoft PowerPoint 2003 New Features
- Microsoft Word 2003 Core Skills
- Microsoft Word 2003 Expert Skills
- Microsoft Word 2003 New Features

**Server 2003 Technologies*

- Introduction to .NET for IT Professionals
- Microsoft Exchange Server 2003 Administration and Maintenance 2.0
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Active Directory Strategy and Implementation 2.0
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Active Directory and Network Infrastructure Design 2.0
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Environment Management and Maintenance 2.0
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Network Services Management 2.0
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Network Services Planning and Maintenance 2.0
- Updating Microsoft Windows 2000 MCSA Skills to Windows Server 2003 2.0
- Updating Microsoft Windows 2000 MCSE Skills to Windows Server 2003 2.0
- Updating Microsoft Windows NT 4.0 MCSE Skills to Windows Server 2003 Administration Skills 2.0

**Upcoming: Novell GroupWise 6.5 - Summer 2005*

SkillSoft Courses - run on Windows Explorer only:

**Crystal Reports 8.5: Report Writing Basics*

- Creating Reports with Crystal Reports

**Linux: Basic System Administration I*

- Using the Shell in Linux
- Managing the Filesystem in Linux

- Administration Tasks in Linux

**Linux: Basic System Administration II*

- Hardware Considerations for Linux Installations
- Installation and Package Management for Linux
- Updating the Kernel in Linux

**Linux: Basic System Administration III*

- Editing and Printing in Linux
- Shell Scripting in Linux

**Linux: Basic System Administration IV*

- Networking Fundamentals for Linux Administrators
- Networking Services in a Linux Environment
- Security within a Linux Environment

**Linux: System Administration Update I*

- Linux and CLI
- Streams, Pipes, Redirects, and Processes
- Regular Expressions and Text Processing
- File Handling in Linux
- Filesystem Mounting and Management
- Partitions, filesystems, and disk quotas in Linux

**Linux: System Administration Update II*

- Hardware Issues for Linux
- Hardware Configurations for Linux
- Linux Installation Techniques
- Debian and Redhat Package Management
- The X Window System

**Linux: System Administration Update III*

- Updating the Linux Kernel
- Printing and Documentation in Linux
- Shell Scripting in Linux
- Administrative Tasks in Linux
- Managing Linux group and user accounts
- Automating System Tasks and Backup Strategies

**Oracle Database 10g: New Features I*

- Oracle Database 10g: New Installation and Configuration Features
- Oracle Database 10g: New Data Loading Features
- Oracle Database 10g: New Automatic Management Features
- Oracle Database 10g: New Resource, Scheduling, and Task-Management Features
- Oracle Database 10g: New Space Management Features
- Oracle Database 10g: New Storage Features
- Oracle Database 10g: New Tuning, Performance-monitoring, and Analysis

Features

- Oracle Database 10g: New Backup and Recovery Features
- Oracle Database 10g: Using Flashback
- Oracle Database 10g: New Features in Security and Software Maintenance
- Oracle Database 10g: New Features in VLDB Support
- Oracle Database 10g: Miscellaneous New Features

**Web Site Design - Principles*

- Design Concepts for web sites
- Advanced HTML Design Elements
- Advanced Technology Concepts for Web Designers

**Macromedia ColdFusion MX: Foundation*

- Getting Started with ColdFusion MX
- Data Retrieval and Manipulation in Macromedia ColdFusion MX

**Macromedia Coldfusion MX: Experienced*

- Working with Complex Data in ColdFusion MX
- Working with Persistent Data in ColdFusion MX
- Creating Reusable ColdFusion MX Code
- Enhancing ColdFusion MX Applications

**Macromedia DreamWeaver MX: Foundation I*

- Using Basic DreamWeaver MX Tools
- Structuring Web Pages with Macromedia DreamWeaver MX

**Macromedia DreamWeaver MX: Foundation II*

- Using Advanced DreamWeaver MX Tools

**Macromedia DreamWeaver MX for ASP.NET*

- Introducing DreamWeaver MX and ASP.NET
- Using DreamWeaver MX to Develop ASP.NET Applications

**Macromedia Fireworks MX: Foundation*

- Using Fireworks MX with DreamWeaver MX and Flash MX
- Working with Images in Macromedia Fireworks MX
- Adding Interactive Objects in Macromedia Fireworks MX

**Macromedia Flash MX: Foundation*

- Basic Animation in Macromedia Flash MX
- Increased Application of Macromedia Flash MX

**Macromedia Flash MX Developer: Action Script: Experienced*

- Using ActionScript in Flash MX
- Objects, Functions, and Components in Flash MX

**Macromedia Flash MX: Design Techniques; Experienced*

- Basic Design Functionality of Macromedia Flash MX
- Advanced Design Functionality of Macromedia Flash MX

**GIAC Security Essentials*

- Networking Concepts
- TCP/IP, Routing and Host Security
- Network Security Overview
- Information Warfare and Web Security
- Internet Security Technologies, Network Vulnerabilities
- Intrusion Detection and Risk Management
- Introducing Encryption and Cryptography
- PKI and Steganography
- Secure Communications
- Wireless Security
- Windows Security
- Windows XP Security and IIS Security
- Backing up Windows and UNIX
- Managing Software, System Services and Auditing
- UNIX Security

**Net Safety*

- Network Security Issues

**Security Networked Information I*

- Introduction to Security in Networked Environments
- Encryption Technologies
- Firewalls and VPNs

**Security Networked Information II*

- Operating System and File Security Issues
- Intrusion Detection and Response in Networked Environments
- Security Analysis and Auditing in Networked Environments
- Securing Access to Networks

**Human Resources Courseware:*

- Workplace Aggression: The Scope of the Problem
- Change Leadership
- Business Writing Essentials
- Managing Your Anger
- Business Ethics

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Adobe Provides Thorough Online Instruction at No Cost

By [Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner](#), Student Computing Services Manager

The use of Adobe products - especially Acrobat - has become ubiquitous on the UNT campus with most of the General Access Computer Labs featuring applications such as Photoshop and Illustrator on their desktops and the inclusion of duties requiring digital editing and publishing in almost every facet of staff and faculty work. As coordinator of computer-based training on campus, I am continuously getting requests for training in these often very 'dense' applications and their use.

Unfortunately, traditional online learning companies often take several months (and sometimes years) after a product's release date to provide training in that particular version of the application. Adobe has attempted to mitigate this problem by providing a market-savvy free training solution which helps current and potential customers become more familiar and more comfortable with their products while giving almost instantaneous training reinforcement in the newest versions of applications to coincide with their release. Fortunately, this is one commercial solution which has the happy result of helping the company AND the customer at the same time.



The homepage of Adobe Education and Training

The extensive free training in Adobe products offered at <http://www.adobe.com/education/> gives a user every tool he or she will need to make use of these applications. I personally have pretty extensively 'vetted' the site and am also continuing to have members of the UNT CITC Helpdesk go through the materials to test their usability for the campus community. So far we have all be pretty impressed so I want to describe how to access and use the training.

The majority of useful training can be found under the Curriculum heading (indicated in the picture above). One can also find materials under the Training heading (also indicated) but they are little bit harder to search for. After you click on Curriculum you will get a general table of contents page which allows you to pick courses emphasizing web development or video applications etc. After choosing one of those you DO, unfortunately, find the one 'gotcha' page - yep, you've got to register! Oh well, the Adobe spam just goes into my GroupWise spam filter along with all the Rolex and Viagra ads!

Adobe Web Tech Curriculum is an exciting, online year-long course that shows students how to complete a Web site design project using Adobe® InDesign® CS, Adobe Illustrator® CS, Adobe GoLive® CS, Adobe Photoshop® CS, and Adobe Acrobat® software. The course includes [11-unit online curriculum](#), [a two-volume printed Student Guide](#), and [an online Instructor's Guide with password-protected testing materials](#).

Units 6-11 are now posted
[Register to view the units](#). Educators and students can preview the new, updated units, as well as review the original units.

**GoLive
Illustrator
Photoshop
Acrobat
InDesign**

Key features

- Helps students master a digital workflow for the Web
- Eleven units of study, with three to six lessons per unit — a total of about 50 lessons
- Incorporation of national information technology standards
- Student Guide activities and assignments are referenced within the online curriculum to cue both teacher and students

Aligned to national standards
The Adobe Web Tech Curriculum was developed by instructional designers with the guidance of a consortium from six states (Ohio, Washington, Michigan, Utah, New York, and California) that are leaders in the field of information technology. Because the consortium is deeply involved with the U.S. Department of Education's Career Cluster Information Technology Initiative, the Adobe Web Tech Curriculum is aligned to the national standards for information technology from the National Center for Emerging Technologies and the Education Development Center.

Learn more about the Adobe Web Tech Curriculum.
[Read the success story \(PDF: 512k\)](#)

Register to view the Adobe Web Tech Curriculum:
REGISTER

Highlights

[Register to view the online curriculum](#)
Use the online course site as a presentation vehicle in class, and for student review and study at home or in the lab. Register once — then save the Table of Contents page in your browser, so you can return to it anytime.

[Purchase Student Guides for](#)

you must register :-('

**woo-hoo!
more spam
in your
mailbox!**

Students only: These include a quiz and answer key for each of the more than 50 lessons in the curriculum, ready to download, print out.

The official Adobe Spam Generator Registration Page

After you register, you get a Table of Contents page - be sure to save that in your Bookmarks - then you can just click on the bookmark next time and avoid having to register again.

http://www.adobe.com/education/webtech/CS/toc.htm

United States

Products Solutions Support Purchase Company

Adobe Web Tech Curriculum

Revised for Adobe Creative Suite

Adobe Web Tech Curriculum has been completely updated to reflect the CS products. CS Update boxes have been added throughout the lessons to provide a reference point for those who may be familiar with the previous version of the curriculum and software. The update boxes identify significant changes in the software versions to help students build on previous knowledge. In addition, PDF addenda have been added for the Web Tech student guides.

Lessons requiring student guide addenda are clearly identified on the lesson home page and include a link to the relevant PDF file. The student guide addenda identify significant changes and/or replacement information for the existing Adobe Web Tech student guides. This online year-long course shows high school students how to complete a Web site design project using five great Adobe products:

- Adobe® InDesign® CS — prepare Web site design documents
- Adobe Illustrator® CS — create illustrations for both the design document and the Web site
- Adobe GoLive® CS — build the Web site
- Adobe Photoshop® CS — create and edit images for the site
- Adobe Acrobat® 6.0 — distribute information

Table of Contents: Lessons Revised for CS

Internet Overview

Unit 1: Introduction to the Internet

- [Lesson 1.1: Brief History of the Internet](#)
 - The Internet and Its History
 - Internet Committees
 - Common Internet Protocols
- [Lesson 1.2: The World Wide Web and Browsers](#)
 - The Internet and the World Wide Web

The Table of Contents of Adobe Curriculum

You will notice that you can choose from older, original courses or ones that have been updated to include items pertinent to the current CS versions of Adobe products. You are also able to scroll through the Table of Contents of all the courses located on this same page.

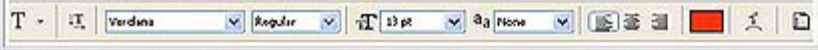


After that you simply click on the link to the info you need and start accessing courses. If you are looking for a particular solution to a question (ex. "How to use paths in Photoshop CS?"), simply use the Search engine provided on the Adobe site. The training and instructions are thorough and well-illustrated:

Unit 5: Introduction to Graphics

Lesson 5.3: Photoshop Basics

The Default Palettes

The typical default palettes that open during the Photoshop startup are:

<p>Tools — This palette (also known as the Toolbox) shows the various tools available within Photoshop.</p>	
<p>Options — This palette displays the available settings for the currently selected tool in the Toolbox. The example below shows a portion of the options palette for the Horizontal Type Tool. The Options Palette changes, based on the tool selected.</p>	
	
<p>Navigator — This palette is used to navigate within an image or to adjust the zoom level of an image. A red View Box Marquee appears around the entire image until the zoom level of the image is altered. Once the zoom level is changed, the View Box Marquee is used to navigate within the image. The Hand Tool appears when the cursor is placed over the image in the Navigator Palette and is used to navigate the View Box Marquee. The Navigator Palette can also be used to zoom in and out. A set of zoom options are available at the bottom of the Navigator Palette. The zoom options from left to right are: the zoom field where a zoom percentage can be entered; the Zoom Out button; the Zoom Slider; and the Zoom In button.</p>	
<p>Color — This palette is used to choose colors and to adjust foreground and background colors. Values can be entered directly into the Red, Green, and Blue fields to mix colors to obtain the desired color.</p>	

A well-illustrated example of training

These training resources should be quite helpful for students, faculty, and staff looking to begin using Adobe products or to update their knowledge about them. These are a great supplement to hands-on classroom training and courses also. Tom Dent, our sales rep for Adobe also points out the following regarding the popular, long-running Adobe *Classroom in a Book* series: "For every Classroom in a Book for every product, all chapters are downloadable FREE from our Education web site at: <http://www.adobe.com/education/curriculum/classroominabook.html> All you need is one hard copy that has a CD in the back with the exercises. Schools use these all the time for their classroom training."

If you have any questions about accessing the Adobe online training please contact the CBT coordinator at ehinkle@unt.edu. Now - I am off to learn more about those paths in Photoshop which I NEVER have understood! My thanks to Mike Wright for his initial research about this valuable resource.

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How to Access Training for the Sorenson Video Relay System (VRS)

By [Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner](#), Student Computing Services Manager



Last month [I promised](#) a tutorial article on using the new Sorenson VRS located in the ACS/Adaptive General Access Computer Lab. Well, this might possibly be the shortest *Benchmarks* article I've ever written! That is because Sorenson themselves have thoughtfully provided a thorough training manual, downloadable for free from their website! I just love it when others do my job for me!

The URL for the Sorenson VRS users' manual is http://www.sorensonvrs.com/media/VP-100_User_Manual.pdf. Users will want to concentrate primarily on the sections: *Using the Sorenson VP-100* and *Configuration Screens*. Most of the other information pertains to setting up the phone on the computer network which is already done in the lab.

Any further questions regarding use of the Sorenson VRS in the ACS/Adaptive lab can be directed to me at ehinkle@unt.edu.

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Today's Cartoon

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www.glasbergen.com



“If I want to impress a woman online, what font should I use? Aristocrat Bold so she’ll think I’m rich or Comic Sans so she’ll think I’m funny?”

From "Today's Cartoon by Randy Glasbergen", posted with special permission. For many more cartoons, please visit www.glasbergen.com.

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Network Connection

By [Dr. Philip Baczewski](#), Director of Academic Computing and User Services

The Newest "Napster"?

Maybe you remember Napster. I guess it would be more accurate to say, perhaps you remember the Napster controversy. Napster was the phenomenally successful music download service that raised the ire of the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), absorbed bandwidth on college campus networks, and was ultimately shut down by an RIAA lawsuit.

The RIAA won it's lawsuit by claiming that Napster was supporting the downloading of songs by those who had never purchased them. The RIAA had enough of a case to win in court, but they seemed to miss the point that a market existed for downloading music. Instead of embracing Napster or a similar model, they fought the technology and clung to their business practice of controlling the music market by controlling the media on which the songs were sold.

And then there was the iPod.

Apple Computer, with it's iPod hardware and iTunes software created a new phenomenon, sold millions of \$.99 worth of music, and proved the RIAA to be a band of foolish idiots. OK, perhaps its harsh to say both foolish and idiots, because with Apple's help the RIAA companies are still making more money than their "artists" ever see, and in a short time, Apple has reshaped a large chunk of the music industry.

Still, after it's success with Napster, the RIAA has continued to paint any peer-to-peer file sharing as a crime and has set to shutting down Kazaa, Morpheus, Grokster, and any other P2P programs it can get in its sights. You'd think by now that the RIAA would have stopped suing and started selling, but I guess old habits die hard.

And now, there's BitTorrent.

[BitTorrent](#), written in 2001 by [Bram Cohen](#), uses a new [approach](#) to file sharing which allows large files to be downloaded in a shorter amount of time than previous methods allowed. BitTorrent splits a large file into smaller pieces. A BitTorrent client downloads a file by fetching all the small pieces it needs to make the complete file. The client can also serve up the pieces it has to others who want to download the file. The more people that are interested in a file, the more pieces that are out there, and the faster the download can happen.

BitTorrent is ideal for downloading CD images of new Linux releases or other large software. Of course, it is also idea for downloading digitized copies of movies, TV shows,

and video games. Napster's downfall was that it used a centralized server to help clients locate songs to download. BitTorrent clients rely on "tracker" sites which keep track of where a client can find the different pieces of a file. Some of these servers also store "torrents" which are files which have the information needed by a client to start the download process for a particular file.

Enter the MPAA.

You might recognize the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) as the forward-looking folks who tried to ban the VCR. Recent [reports](#) indicated that the MPAA had set its sites on BitTorrent trackers and torrent [servers](#). Sure enough, it did not take long for the [reports](#) that some torrent servers had been shut down.

I have no sympathy for people that distribute intellectual property when they have no authority to do so, but you have to wonder about the sue-first/think-later strategy of the MPAA. Some of the items on the [list](#) of torrents bothering the MPAA were apparently episodes of ABC's "Desperate Housewives", that new TV show, featuring adultery and deception, brought to you by the pillar of family entertainment, Disney Inc. You'd think that if that many people were interested in the show, ABC would set up it's own torrent server and provide the show to folks commercials and all. It's not like its not already recorded on a bunch of VCRs, TiVos, or other PVRs out there.

But, instead of seeing a new way to distribute their show and increase it's popularity in an expanding market, the MPAA and their ilk cling to their fantasy of controlling the time and place where you see their show. Have they noticed the iPod yet? Have they yet to put quill to parchment and figured out it won't be long before an iPod-sized device will be able to store multiple movies?

Chaos theory, anyone?

Going after servers not only shuts down content which may be unauthorized, but also may prevent "perfectly legal" content from being served to the Internet world. There's another side effect. Going after centralized torrent servers promotes the development of decentralized methods for distributing files via BitTorrent. One such idea is called [Kenosis](#).

Eric Ries, one of the project administrators for Kenosis, [describes](#) one of the advantages of Kenosis as follows: "The current Kenosis-enabled BitTorrent software provides automatic tracker failover. This prevents any single tracker from becoming the central point of failure for any given file. As soon as a tracker goes down or becomes unreachable, clients automatically switch over to another tracker." This approach allows an unlimited number of trackers and makes it much harder for people like the MPAA to stem the flow of downloads.

In response to the recent BitTorrent servers shutdowns, a site called [monkeymethods.org](#) decided to [ask](#), "How big of a blow are these shutdowns?" They determined that "a small number of sites constituted a huge percentage of the torrents." But, they also went on to say, "For the people that aim to stop P2P, they have turned a centralized system like Napster - easily controlled, easily monitored - into a fully decentralized system in the form of Kazaa, as well as a fragmented ecosystem of thousands of centralized servers through BitTorrent. This was probably a bad decision."

Do you think that the MPAA will look up from their inkwells and take notice?

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Link of the Month

Each month we highlight an Internet, USENET Special Interest Group (SIG), or similar mailing list(s) or website(s).

Turnitin.com at UNT - Plagiarism Prevention



UNT has recently purchased a one-year campus-wide license for unlimited instructor submissions of student papers to Turnitin.com. This service is described as providing a powerful, easy-to-use online tool that thoroughly checks student papers for duplication of existing materials. The Plagiarism Prevention system is said to be recognized worldwide for its searching capabilities and its deterrent effect on cheating in educational settings.

Patrick Pluscht, Associate Director of the Center for Distributed Learning, recently gave an overview of the service and hosted a discussion on how it can be used to promote academic integrity within the University. You can view Pluscht's PowerPoint presentation [here](#).

How do I start using Turnitin?

Information on how to begin using Turnitin.com has been distributed to Deans and Department Chairs for sharing with all UNT instructors. According to the turnitin.com website (under the heading "New to Turnitin"?):

If you are an educator:

1. Either you or your institution purchase a license for Turnitin.[UNT has purchased a one-year campus-wide license]
2. The administrator of your account (either you or someone designated by your institution) receives an account ID number and creates an account password.
3. You visit www.turnitin.com, create a user profile (just like an email account) and use the account ID and account password to join.

If you are a student:

1. Your instructor gives you a class ID number and a class enrollment password.
2. You visit www.turnitin.com, create a user profile (just like an email account) and use the class ID and enrollment password to enroll in the class.



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IRC News



Minutes provided by Sue Ellen Richey,
Recording Secretary*

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: PHILIP TURNER, ELIZABETH HINKLE-TURNER, LOU ANN BRADLEY, COY HOGGARD (for JONEEL HARRIS), JIM CURRY, PATRICK PLUSCHT, ROBERT NIMOCKS, JON NELSON, SANDRA TERRELL, RAMU MUTHIAH, BRUCE HUNTER, JUDITH ADKISON, SCOTT JOYCE (for CHUCK FULLER) **NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:** SUE ELLEN RICHEY (Recording Secretary) **MEMBERS ABSENT:** JONEEL HARRIS, JOE ADAMO, MAURICE LEATHERBURY, MARGARET AMBUEHL, KATHY SWIGGER, MAX KAZEMZADEH, DON GROSE, ABRAHAM JOHN, CENGIZ CAPAN, JOHN PRICE, RICHARD HARRIS, KENN MOFFITT, CHRISTY CRUTSINGER, DOUG MAINS, BOBBY CARTER, CHUCK FULLER **GUESTS:** JENNIFER LAFLEUR

There are no minutes to report this month due to a lack of quorum at the last meeting. There should be several sets of minutes in the next issue *Benchmarks Online*.

* For a list of IRC Regular and Ex-officio Members click [here](#).

IRC Meeting Schedule

The [IRC](#) generally meets on the third Tuesday of each month, from 2-4 p.m., in the Administration Building Board Room. From time to time there are planned exceptions to this schedule. All meetings of the IRC, its program groups, and other committees, are open to all faculty, staff, and students.

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Research and Statistical Support University of North Texas

RSS Matters

Link to the last RSS article here: [Creating Web Based Surveys with Zope - An Open Source Application Server](#) - Ed.

A.M.: Faculty Evaluations After the Mainframe

By [Patrick McLeod](#), Research and Statistical Support Services Consultant

As [documented in the](#) pages of past *Benchmarks* issues, the academic and administrative mainframes are now completely decommissioned. One of the many tried and true services that the mainframe produced for the UNT academic community was faculty and instructor evaluation reports.

Academic Computing Services management, Data Management staff, and Research and Statistical Support staff have collaborated on a project to replace the mainframe-based faculty and instructor evaluations with a desktop-based reporting system using [SAS](#). The new SAS-generated faculty and instructor evaluations continue to provide all the reporting structure of the mainframe-based evaluations while integrating the computational power and flexible syntax of SAS with reports saved in [Rich Text Format](#) files that are easily imported into Microsoft Word.

Mainframe-based evaluations were produced within the infrastructure of mainframe computing at UNT: Desktop clients to log in to the mainframe, code that ran on the mainframe and printouts that were produced on the printer formerly located in the I/O Area in the ISB. Since all of this infrastructure save for the desktop login clients are now either decommissioned (the mainframe) or no longer standing (the printer), the new desktop-based solution takes advantage of SAS' capability to export output to Rich Text and to [Comma Separated Values](#) files (as with RTF files and MS-Word, CSV files are easily imported into MS-Excel) to deliver the reports on a floppy disk to the requesting departments.

New Look, Same Information

The new faculty and instructor evaluations make use of SAS' data step, PROC

SUMMARY and PROC FREQ to analyze response data and generate output. Click [here](#) for an example of the PROC FREQ output sorted by Instructor, Course and Section.

This piece of output is generated as part of a larger Rich Text file of all the output for each department's evaluations. This output is easily imported into MS-Word where it can be re-sized and page breaks can be added for printing out reports to provide to each instructor. This piece of output provides the frequency of answers to questions in a cross-tabulation table sorted by Instructor, Course and Section. A second piece of output generated using PROC SUMMARY provides mean and standard deviation scores for aggregated questions (overall means and standard deviations and aggregated means and standard deviations for specific groups if output is requested in parts instead of one overall analysis); this example [here](#), once more, is sorted by Instructor, Course and Section.

These two pieces of output offer the same information that the mainframe output offered in a slightly different format. Just like the mainframe output, this output can be generated by any number of categories: Overall (no breakdown), by instructor name, by instructor number, by instructor and course, by course only, by instructor, course and section and by instructor within course. If there is a way to logically divide your data, SAS can be prompted to analyze your data based on this divide and to generate output from it.

More information returned

In order to provide the departments and schools with more information, the faculty and instructor evaluations will be returned in electronic format on floppy disks. Each of these disks will have one raw data file (the data that the optical reader scans from the department and school Scantrons), one or more .CSV files (depending on what types of analysis are requested and how many parts they are broken down into) and one or more .RTF files of output. Departments and schools can then import the .RTF file(s) into Microsoft Word to insert comments, format the output with page breaks and to store the information locally for future reference.

We hope that this new system of faculty and instructor evaluations will continue to provide the expected level of performance that the mainframe-based evaluations provided in the past; in addition, we hope that the enhancements to this process will make usage, distribution and storage easier for all the departments and schools that Academic Computing Services serves across the entire UNT system.

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New CWS Staff Member

By [Shane Jester](#), Campus Web Administrator

We have a new member in the Central Web Support team. Please join me in welcoming **J.P. Williams** to our community. J.P. brings many years of programming and Web technology experience to the team and I'm sure will be a very valuable member of UNT's Web community over the years. So just for a refresher, here is list of the people in Central Web Support and their duties:

- [Shane Jester](#) – Central Web Support Manager. That's me. I tell these other guys what to do.
- [Charity Beck](#) – Web Developer. Charity is our design and content expert. She also performs many system administration duties on our web servers.
- [Shannon Peevey](#) – Web Developer. Shannon is in charge of running our database and dynamic content servers.
- [Misty Wells](#) – Portal Administrator. Misty works with the EIS project on all things portal, including design implementation and application integration.
- [JPWilliams](#) – Web Developer. JP works with special projects in CWS as well as assists Charity and Shannon with system administration duties.

Of course, you can contact any of us if you have any questions and we would be glad to help you out.

Look for some exciting changes in the coming months regarding the services that CWS offers to the campus.

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Short Courses

By [Claudia Lynch](#), *Benchmarks Online* Editor

The spring Short Courses will be announced in the next couple of weeks. In the meantime, surf over to the [Short Courses](#) page to see the types of classes that we offered last semester. We plan to offer similar classes this semester. The schedule should be out in mid-to-late-January.

Customized Short Courses

Faculty members can request customized short courses from ACS, geared to their class needs. Other groups can request special courses also. Contact ACS for more information (ISB 119, 565-4068, lynch@unt.edu).

Especially for Faculty and Staff Members

In addition to the [ACS Short Courses](#), which are available to students, faculty and staff, staff and faculty members can take courses offered through the [Human Resources](#) Department, the [Center for Distributed Learning](#), and the UNT Libraries' [Multimedia Development Lab](#). Additionally, the Center for Continuing Education and Conference Management offers a variety of [courses](#) to both UNT and the general community, usually for a small fee.

EIS Training

Student Records Level I Training

The Registrar's Office will continue to offer EIS Student Records Level I Training throughout the Spring 2005 semester. Please review the training schedule below for available times and dates.

STUDENT RECORDS LEVEL I TRAINING: Level I Student Records Training is a hands-on training session that concentrates on basic view access in EIS. In addition to discussions on basic EIS academic structure the users will view student personal information, FERPA status, residency status, registration eligibility, study lists (schedules), grades, enrollment requests, programs/plans, service indicators (blocks) and print unofficial transcripts. Users will also learn how to search for classes and rooms, view class rosters and look up instructor schedules and view the my.unt.edu student portal.

TO REGISTER: Email Sara Akers at sara@acad.admin.unt.edu with your preferred training time. Please include your EUID, full email address and position at UNT. If you do not know your EUID please go to:

<https://ams.unt.edu/whatsmyeuid.php>

Dates for Level I training in ESSC 152 lab:

- January 24, 2005: 8:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m.
- February 8, 2005: 1:30-3:00 p.m.
- March 29, 2005: 8:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m.
- April 14, 2005: 1:30-3:00 p.m.
- May 4, 2005: 8:30-11:00 a.m.

GroupWise Training

Information about GroupWise training can be found at the GroupWise course [site](#).

If you missed the class, the handout for the GroupWise 6.5 JunkMail Class is online at

http://basicgroupwise.unt.edu/downloads/PDF/Dealing_with_SPAM.pdf.

If you would like to have a Basic GroupWise seminar for your area, please contact Jason Gutierrez, Network Computing Services, jasong@unt.edu.

Center for Distributed Learning

The Center for Distributed Learning offers courses especially for Faculty Members. A list of topics and further information can be found at http://www.unt.edu/cdl/training_events/index.htm

The center also offers a "Brown Bag" series which meets for lunch the first Thursday of each month at Noon in Chilton 245. The purpose of this group is to bring faculty members together to share their experiences with distributed learning. One demonstration will be made at each meeting by a faculty member with experience in distributed learning. More information on these activities can be found at the [Center for Distributed Learning](#) Website.

Technical Training

Technical Training for campus network managers is available, from time to time, through the Network Computing Services (NCS) division of the Computing and Information Technology Center. Check the NCS [site](#) to see if and when they are offering any training.

UNT Mini-Courses

There are a variety of courses offered, for a fee, to UNT faculty, staff and students as well as the general public. For additional information surf over to <http://www.pware.com/index.cfm?clientid=2694a>

Library Workshops for Graduate Students

The Library has scheduled three workshops for graduate students this semester. The dates and times are:

Wednesday, Jan. 19, 4:00 - 5:30

Saturday, Jan. 22, 10:00 - 12:00

Saturday, Feb. 26, 10:00 - 12:00

They will be held in the Willis Library Learning Center, W136, immediately to your left as you walk into the Library.

These workshops are open to all graduate students, and will give hands-on experience with some of the general databases that contain many full-text scholarly articles, plus Digital Dissertations, the primary database for searching dissertations. Other information of importance to graduate students will also be covered, such as interlibrary loan and setting up search alerts. If time allows, more subject-specific databases will be covered. The workshop will take place in the Willis Library Learning Center (W 136), immediately to the left as you enter the Library doors (not the General Access Lab). It will last approximately ninety minutes.

If you have questions, please call or e-mail Frances A. May at 940-565-4812, fmay@library.unt.edu.

Alternate Forms of Training

Many of the [General Access Labs](#) around campus have tutorials installed on their computers. For example, the College of Education has Macromedia Tutorials for DreamWeaver 4.0, Flash 5.0 and Fireworks 4.0.

The [Training](#) Web site has all sorts of information about alternate forms of training. Computer Based Training (CBT) is one of the alternatives offered.

For further information on CBT at UNT, [Check Out the CBT Website for all Your Online Training Needs](#) in the July issue of *Benchmarks Online*.

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Staff Activities

Transitions

New Employees:

- **Vincent Santa Maria**, Information Security Intern, Information Security (team), CCA (part-time).
- **Don McClure**, Remedy Developer, in Academic Computing Services.

No longer working in the Computing and Information Technology Center:

- **Matt Kernan**, CITC LAN Technical Assistant (part-time), has left CITC to be the Assistant Network Manger in Housing.

Changes:

- **Dr. Philip Baczewski** was named Director of Academic Computing and User Services January 1, 2005. He was previously Associate Director of Academic Computing. See the CITC organization [chart](#) for a list of areas now reporting to him.

Awards, Recognition, Publications, etc.

Samantha Moss, CITC Administrative Assistant, was featured in the "Portrait Gallery" of the January 14, 2005 issue of *Inhouse*. You can read about her achievements in the [article](#) "Samantha Moss: Denton rocker finds success."

Richard Harris, Associate Vice President for Computing and Chief Technology Officer, was recognized in the January 14, 2005 issue of *Inhouse* for being named the IT Executive of the Year for the Dallas-Ft. Worth area by the Society for Information Management on December 13, 2004. You can read the Society's press release [here](#).

New Baby

Congratulations to **Craig Terrell**, Network Computing Services, and his wife Amy on the birth of their daughter Emily Louise on December 21, 2004.



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Don't Forget Our Monthly Columns!

By [Claudia Lynch](#), *Benchmarks Online* Editor

In addition to our feature articles, *Benchmarks Online* publishes monthly columns that are focused on specific aspects of computing here at UNT (and beyond, in some cases). Check out what is waiting for you this month:

- [RSS Matters](#) - "RSS Matters" is the monthly column written by the Research and Statistical Support [Group](#) in Academic Computing Services. Their articles focus on topics of a statistical and/or research methods nature. **This month's article is by Patrick McLeod and is titled "A.M.: Faculty Evaluations After the Mainframe."**
- [The Network Connection](#) - "The Network Connection" may well be the longest running column in computer publishing history. Certainly in University of North Texas computer [publishing history](#).

This month, Dr. Baczewski asks the musical question "The Newest 'Napster'?" Go to the article and find out the latest on this timely topic.

- [Link of the Month](#) - As it says on the top of the "Link of the Month" page, "each month we highlight an Internet, USENET Special Interest Group (SIG), or similar mailing list(s) or Website(s)." Lately we have been confining ourselves to featuring UNT specific sites. **This month learn about "Turnitin.com at UNT - Plagiarism Prevention."**
- [WWW@UNT.EDU](#) - "WWW@UNT.EDU" is a monthly column written by the Central Web Support [Group](#) in Academic Computing Services. The topics usually focus, in some way, on World-Wide-Web-related issues. **This month, meet the staff of Central Web Support.**
- [Short Courses](#) - Every semester, Academic Computing Services (ACS) offers short courses on computer-related topics, many of them having to do with statistical research. This column keeps you up-to-date on what is being offered and when as well as other training opportunities. Fall Short Courses are over and the spring classes haven't started yet, but there is still training in other areas available and listed on this page.
- [IRC News](#) - As their Webpage [says](#), "the IRC is an advisory and oversight body created to foster communication and cooperation between and among UNT information resources providers and users." We publish the minutes of the IRC meetings each month, when they are available. There are no minutes this month.

Staff Activities - This column focuses on new employees, people who are no longer employed at the Computing and Information Technology Center, awards and recognitions and other items of interest featured here.

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