Benchmarks Online

Computing and Information Technology Center

Volume 10 - Number 1 * January 2007

Columns

UNT DALLAS

Don't forget our monthly Columns!

Campus Computing News

About Benchmarks

Search Archive

Subscribe to Benchmarks

Return to top

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

Questions, comments and corrections for this site: lynch@unt.edu
Site was last updated or revised : June 15, 2007

Please note that information published in *Benchmarks Online* is likely to degrade over time, especially links to various Websites. To make sure you have the most current information on a specific topic, it may be best to search the UNT Website - http://www.unt.edu . You can also search **Benchmarks Online** - http://www.unt.edu/benchmarks/archives/back.htm as well as consult the UNT Helpdesk - http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/ Questions and comments should be directed to benchmarks@unt.edu

UNT home page | Search UNT | UNT news | UNT events

Benchmarks Online

Skip Navigation Links

Page One

Campus Computing News

Getting Direct Access to Gartner Researchers

Daylight Savings Time Zone Changes

Document Imaging and Retention Management (DIRM)

CCTV at the ACS GAL!

Sol.acs.unt.edu Decommissioned

Today's Cartoon

RSS Matters

The Network Connection

Link of the Month

Helpdesk FYI

WWW@UNT.EDU

Short Courses

IRC News

Staff Activities

Subscribe to Benchmarks *Online*

Campus Computing News

You're Invited!

By Maurice Leatherbury, Associate Vice President and Chief Technology Officer

Dr. Bataille has invited* an *IT Peer Review Team* composed of Mary Doyle (Washington State University,) Robyn Render, (University of North Carolina,) and Joel Hartman (University of Central Florida) to UNT to advise the campus on our computing environment and services. The team will be on campus next Friday, January 19, to gather information for their report and has requested that an open meeting be held during which members of the UNT community can express their thoughts and feelings about IT services.

That meeting will be held in the **Information Sciences Building 201 from 2 to 3 p.m., Friday, January 19.** Faculty, staff, and students are invited to the meeting to share their thoughts about computer services at UNT with the peer review team.

---

* The article Peer practitioners to visit campus, begin review of operations appeared November 30 in *InHouse* and discusses the use of peer practitioners to help UNT reach goals set within the Strategic Plan.

Return to top

Benchmarks Online

Skip Navigation Links

Page One

Campus Computing News

Getting Direct Access to Gartner Researchers

Daylight Savings Time Zone Changes

Document Imaging and Retention Management (DIRM)

CCTV at the ACS GAL!

Sol.acs.unt.edu Decommissioned

Today's Cartoon

RSS Matters

The Network Connection

Link of the Month

Helpdesk FYI

WWW@UNT.EDU

Short Courses

IRC News

Staff Activities

Subscribe to Benchmarks *Online*

Getting Direct Access to Gartner Researchers

By Tom McElwee, Enterprise Systems Technical Service Director

Last year the CITC announced the sponsorship of a new research alliance with Gartner and hosted "Gartner Day" at the Research Park to introduce the new service. That service has been used extensively by UNT over the last five months providing access to a great deal of research. We have had access to their core research published on the web, but not to their researchers.

CITC is now sponsoring direct access to Gartner researchers. We can now conference directly with Gartner researchers on specific topics for thirty minute technical discussions. Having direct access to a researcher may provide information not addressed in the published reports and surface new developments since the last publishing.

Scheduling a session

Our contract requires that one person schedule the sessions and facilitate the calls. I am the liaison between UNT and Gartner, so when you need to schedule a session, send me an email with the specific topic from the Gartner website and Ill make the request. Gartner will respond with several times the researcher is available. We will select a time and schedule the call.

The website for all UNT students, faculty, and staff to access Gartner is: https://gartner.unt.edu/ Please let me know if you have any questions:

Tom McElwee
Director Enterprise Systems Technical Services
Computing & Information Technology Center
University of North Texas
940-565-3866 office

Return to top

Benchmarks Online

Skip Navigation Links

Page One

Campus Computing News

Getting Direct Access to Gartner Researchers

Daylight Savings Time Zone Changes

Document Imaging and Retention Management (DIRM)

CCTV at the ACS GAL!

Sol.acs.unt.edu Decommissioned

Today's Cartoon

RSS Matters

The Network Connection

Link of the Month

Helpdesk FYI

WWW@UNT.EDU

Short Courses

IRC News

Staff Activities

Subscribe to Benchmarks *Online*

Daylight Savings Time Zone Changes

By Brian Richman, EIS Technical Services Team

Who says this is just a case of sleeping an extra hour in the fall? Beware. The saying "Spring forward and Fall back" will not have exactly the same meaning from now on!

"Huh?" and "Its news to me" are the kind of responses I get from most people when I tell them about all this. In fact, that's exactly the same response I got over a decade ago when I started to tell people about the possible problems that the Year 2000 (Y2K) "bug" could bring too. Not that the DST time zone changes are in anything the same league as the Y2K problems were, but just the same, it's a potential problem for UNT and we have to deal with it.

So what is this time zone change exactly?

Starting in the spring of 2007, the daylight saving time (DST) start and end dates for the United States will change to comply with the Energy Policy Act of 2005. This means that the dates when DST changes in the United States will start three weeks earlier (2:00 A.M. on the second Sunday in March) and will end one week later (2:00 A.M. on the first Sunday in November).

While almost everyone accepts the DST time zone changes, the original idea is attributed to Benjamin Franklin (in his 1784 essay, "My Economical Project"). The idea was first advocated seriously by a London, England builder Mr. William Willett in the pamphlet, "The Waste of Daylight" (1907). It was adopted during the First World War and has been in use on and off so to speak, in the USA since 1918.

Complications

The impact of this on the EIS systems in use at UNT is not quite as simple as a change to exactly ***when*** in the year us humans 'spring forward and fall back', as the UNT Enterprise Information System (EIS), has to be made to accommodate these changes properly. We need to remember, accessing EIS from the World Wide Web means exactly that. It is world-wide in scope and that people anywhere in the world can access EIS and see information about UNT. As some of this information is dated material (and will be potentially time sensitive in nature) this has the potential to be an important matter and so we should get it right.

It's further complicated by our having a large number of servers (over 150 in fact) that make up the EIS system, some with databases as well as a varied collection of software packages that have to work together and date and time issues are deeply integrated into them all. Luckily for us, the manufacturers of the computer systems and the software vendors we use are working on or even already making patches and updates available to accommodate the change in "spring forward and fall back" dates.

So far (as of the first week of January 2007), the effect on EIS is limited to the need to ensure

that all the servers have the correct revisions of patches applied to them. As not all of our vendors release patches at the same time, this is something of an ongoing activity.

The technical services team is busy investigating what needs to be changed from the operating system perspective of these servers as are the other CITC teams that look after the other aspects of the EIS system. We currently have several servers in test with patches applied to them and if no problems are observed we will roll-out these patches to all the other EIS servers in the few weeks. As with Y2K we have a finite amount of time before the new and earlier time change happens and are taking appropriate steps to ensure our servers should handle the date change correctly at the right time on the right day.

This kind of activity underlines the complex and interrelated nature of our systems here at UNT. We need to keep a broad as possible view of things such as these and remain as flexible as we can when these changes creep up on or are imposed on us. Who says this is just a case of sleeping an extra hour in the fall?

Return to top

Document Imaging and Retention Management (DIRM)

By Tracy Hansen, DIRM Project Manager

Did you know institutions of higher-education teem with documents? Of course you did. The proliferation of student applications, prior transcripts, financial aid requests, purchase orders, receipts and other items, combined with varied retention schedules for each document, has forever made the lives of University employees more difficult. Not to mention, the paperwork has occupied entire rooms or warehouses, slowly squeezing out any potential office space, resulting in increased overhead and decreased efficiency.

With the evolution of electronic technologies, however, institutions of higher-education are now able to reduce the paper load, or in some cases, eliminate it all together. Document imaging–the process of making electronic versions of all that paperwork, and storing it in a format which is conveniently accessible to the appropriate staff as well as secure–is making it all happen.

UNT is currently researching document imaging and retention management systems that will dove-tail with our Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system (PeopleSoft), making it possible to manage the data within a single application, or with other modules such as workflow, to help move the data around, while keeping track of it.

The project is called Document Imaging and Retention Management (DIRM), and is comprised of a working committee and a steering committee with members who represent a cross-section of the University. The committees have completed extensive research including demonstrations from many vendors around the nation and are now completing an RFP to begin the purchase process for an imaging system.

If you have any questions regarding the project please check out our website http://dirm.unt.edu, or contact Tracy Hansen (project manager) at Hansen@unt.edu

Return to top

Benchmarks Online

Skip Navigation Links

Page One

Campus Computing News

Getting Direct Access to Gartner Researchers

Daylight Savings Time Zone Changes

Document Imaging and Retention Management (DIRM)

CCTV at the ACS GAL!

Sol.acs.unt.edu Decommissioned

Today's Cartoon

RSS Matters

The Network Connection

Link of the Month

Helpdesk FYI

WWW@UNT.EDU

Short Courses

IRC News

Staff Activities

Subscribe to Benchmarks *Online*

CCTV at the ACS GAL!

By Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner, Student Computing Services Manager

The Academic Computing Services General Access Lab now has a CCTV (closed circuit television) reader for persons who need screen magnification of printed materials. This is very handy for students with textbooks, handouts, and other printed material because it allows them to read these resources at the exact magnified resolution needed for their particular disability. The buttons along the bottom of the CCTV screen also allow readers to adjust brightness and contrast, switch to white text on black background if needed, and zoom in on particular areas of a document for viewing.

The compact yet powerful CCTV Magnifying Reader from Ash Technologies

Training in the use of the new CCTV takes only about a minute and ACS GAL personnel are happy to assist patrons on this device which provides a 17-inch flat panel display for reading. Many thanks to the Office of Disability Accommodation for adding this device to the ACS lab's adaptive hardware.

For detailed information on the technical specs of our new CCTV go to: http://www.cragside.com/accessability/cctv_readers/ash_tech/eclipse.html.

Return to top

Sol.acs.unt.edu Decommissioned

By Dr. Philip Baczewski, Director of Academic Computing and User Services

The ACS research Unix system, sol.acs.unt.edu, has outlived its usefulness and has been taken out of service as of January 15, 2007. Sol has been replaced with a system named o4.acs.unt.edu which will perform the same function as sol. All active accounts have been transferred to o4. Inactive accounts may be reactivated by request on the new platform by contacting me, Dr. Philip Baczewski , Director of Academic Computing and User Services.

The name, "o4", is derived from the fact that the new system has two dual-core AMD Opteron processors. Similar to sol, o4 has CRSP and Compustat data collections installed and has SAS, S-Plus, R, Matlab, and Fortran and C compilers available. Any questions about this new system should be directed to me at baczewski@unt.edu .

Return to top

Benchmarks Online

Skip Navigation Links

Page One

Campus Computing News

Getting Direct Access to Gartner Researchers

Daylight Savings Time Zone Changes

Document Imaging and Retention Management (DIRM)

CCTV at the ACS GAL!

Sol.acs.unt.edu Decommissioned

Today's Cartoon

RSS Matters

The Network Connection

Link of the Month

Helpdesk FYI

WWW@UNT.EDU

Short Courses

IRC News

Staff Activities

Subscribe to Benchmarks *Online*

maincontent

Today's Cartoon

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

Please note that information published in *Benchmarks Online* is likely to degrade over time, especially links to various Websites. To make sure you have the most current information on a specific topic, it may be best to search the UNT Website - http://www.unt.edu . You can also search ***Benchmarks Online*** - http://www.unt.edu/benchmarks/archives/back.htm as well as consult the UNT Helpdesk - http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/ Questions and comments should be directed to benchmarks@unt.edu

Return to top

Network Connection

By Dr. Philip Baczewski, Director of Academic Computing and User Services

The Convergence Beat Goes On

Recently, Apple Inc. announce a product they are calling the iPhone. This new product has raised a number of questions. Is it a phone or a media player? Is it a camera or an Internet browser? What's the name of Apple's choice for its cellular service? And, is it an iPhone or isn't it?

Is it a phone?

OK. Let's take one question at a time. Is it a phone or a media player or a camera or an Internet browser? The answer is, yes. It is all those things, and true to Apple form, is all those things in a rather spiffy design package. Apple bills the iPhone as a "revolutionary mobile phone." The revolutionary part is that they've done away with the keypad in favor of the touch screen. The hardware technology has been around for a while to enable such a change, but it may take Apple's software technology to finally pull it off. They've provided a phone keypad and even a qwerty keyboard on the screen, but have built in a number of features that allow you to take advantage of shortcuts or avoid the keypads altogether.

Way back in 2004, I posited that my next phone would have more characteristics of a PDA, with Bluetooth to sync with my Macintosh OS X system, and the ability to support a portable Bluetooth keyboard and headset. About a year ago, I made the commitment to a Palm Treo 650 which almost meets all of those goals. My other wish was for "reasonably fast Internet service via my cell phone provider would pretty much relegate my WiFi use to eliminating one more cable to the computer on my desk." The "reasonably fast" part has come true and I can read my e-mail and browse most web pages on my Treo. But, the "native" cellular network data speed still leaves much to be desired.

The Treo 700p supports EvDO, enabling much faster Internet access. The Treo, however, still comes with warts, such as rebooting at the drop of a hat due to poor memory management and an easy-to-use, but screen real estate-eating thumb keyboard. The iPhone can access WiFi as well as high-speed cellular-based networking. So, it would appear that the iPhone is my dream device, except for one thing. Apple chose Cingular (or did it?) as their exclusive cellular service provider. For one thing, this is a disincentive for me and maybe many others because of an established relationship and a preference for a different service provider. Also, Cingular supports the EDGE rather than EvDO protocol for broadband networking. According to Wikipedia, "Compared to the GPRS and EDGE networks employed by GSM networks, the 1xEV-DO feature of CDMA2000 networks is significantly faster."

Is it Cingular or isn't it?

After spending millions developing the artificial name "Cingular" and spending more millions to be sure we didn't pronounce it "kingular," it appears that the name is being dropped in favor of the "AT&T" brand. You'd think they could have either waited a few days or finalized this decision sooner, so that Apple's iPhone info wasn't immediately obsolete. Cingular came back to AT&T when its acquisition of Bell South became final. AT&T had spun off its wireless service, which was acquired, in part, by SBC, which later acquired AT&T and adopted its name, but didn't fully control Cingular until it acquired Bell South which owned the rest of Cingular which is now being renamed back to AT&T. I fully expect to see Pan Am flying again any day now.

AT&T isn't the only one playing the name game. Apple, while announcing their foray into phone and home entertainment technology (the much unreported AppleTV), dropped the "Computer" from their name. They are now to be know simply as Apple Inc. This is not surprising, since they've probably had more volume of sales in music and music players over the last several years than in computers. It's also perhaps a recognition that computers are a means and not an end and can come in many forms these days.

Is it an iPhone or isn't it?

For years, everyone has talked about the possibility of an Apple iPhone which would combine the best features of a cell phone and Apple's iPod and iTunes technologies. Motorola did introduce something with Apple-endorsed iPod functionality called the "ROKR" which never quite caught on as well as the iPod. In the mean time, in spite of everyone's assumption, it turns out that Apple doesn't hold the rights to the iPhone name. Cisco, the network device company, does, having acquired it when they acquired Linksys who acquired it when they acquired Infogear Technology Corporation (when you get big enough, you don't have to invent any more - you just eat smaller companies). At least Cisco claims to own the rights to that trademark.

Trademarks are not as solidly owned as copyrights. Apple has a number of strategies it could use to attempt use of the name, other than paying Cisco a bunch or money. They can claim that Cisco has not adequately defended the trademark, although, Cisco suspiciously released its own iPhone last December (at least the timing is suspicious). Apple could claim a general trademark on their i-stuff usage, with a stable that includes the iPod, iTunes, iMac, iLife, iPhoto, iMovie, iSteve?, etc. Whatever the strategy, other than showing up with a wheelbarrow full of money, it appears that we'll be treated to a protracted legal battle over this issue.

It's a Convergence

The one thing the iPhone does represent is a further convergence in mobile communication devices, and possibly computing in general. The iPhone runs Apple's OS X, so with it's 4 or optional 8 gigabytes of storage, you might make the case that this is a mobile computer and not just a phone. We'll have to wait and see to what extent applications are made available for it. With it's ability to talk over WiFi or cellular protocols, it is an adaptable Internet access point. And it's a phone.

Convergence is happening without the iPhone. When was the last time you saw anyone with a pager? The ubiquity of cell phones has pretty much done away with the pager market. Likewise, do you take more photos with a camera or with your phone? Serious photographers will still want the better technology found in camera-only devices, but for the occasional snapshot, phones are pretty handy. Apple hasn't invented convergence, but

they've made it even easier with a better camera and really pretty package. So, those who wish to converge can't wait until March when they can get their hands on a Cingular, or whatever it's called, Apple Computer, or whatever it's called, iPhone, or whatever it's called.

Return to top

Benchmarks Online

Skip Navigation Links

Page One

Campus Computing News

Getting Direct Access to Gartner Researchers

Daylight Savings Time Zone Changes

Document Imaging and Retention Management (DIRM)

CCTV at the ACS GAL!

Sol.acs.unt.edu Decommissioned

Today's Cartoon

RSS Matters

The Network Connection

Link of the Month

Helpdesk FYI

WWW@UNT.EDU

Short Courses

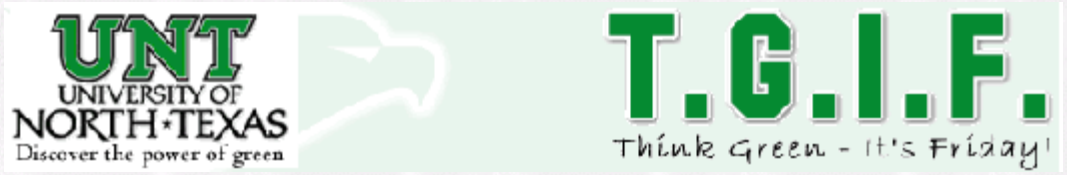
IRC News

Staff Activities

Subscribe to Benchmarks *Online*

Link of the Month

Each month we highlight an online mailing list or website. Frequently the link is associated with UNT.



The **Green Pride Campaign is** all about getting people excited about being at UNT. Visit the Green Pride Campaign website and:

Tell us your best ever!

Tell us your best experience at **UNT** - best instructor ever, best day ever, best UNT moment ever - we want to know about it. Tell us your story and you'll be entered to win the new **iPod Shuffle**.

You have two chances to win: The 'best' submission will be selected by a panel of judges, and another will be selected at random. **Contest ends February 28, 2007**.

Please note that information published in *Benchmarks Online* is likely to degrade over time, especially links to various Websites. To make sure you have the most current information on a specific topic, it may be best to search the UNT Website - http://www.unt.edu . You can also search **Benchmarks Online** - http://www.unt.edu/benchmarks/archives/back.htm as well as consult the UNT Helpdesk - http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/ Questions and comments should be directed to benchmarks@unt.edu

Return to top

Benchmarks Online

Skip Navigation Links

Page One

Campus Computing

Getting Direct Access to Gartner Researchers

Daylight Savings Time Zone Changes

Document Imaging and Retention Management (DIRM)

CCTV at the ACS GAL!

Sol.acs.unt.edu Decommissioned

Today's Cartoon

RSS Matters

The Network Connection

Link of the Month

Helpdesk FYI

WWW@UNT.EDU

Short Courses

IRC News

Staff Activities

Subscribe to Benchmarks *Online*

Helpdesk FYI

By Jonathan "Mac" Edwards, Assistant Manager of the CITC Helpdesk

Eaglemail Filters: Using whitelists and blacklists

Besides a robust rule system for filtering your mail, Eaglemail also provides users with two forms of filters, a blacklist and a whitelist. Both of these filters allow for very different filtering of specific email addresses. In addition both of these filters are extremely easy to set up.

The whitelist provides users a way to allow specific email to always enter their in-box. As described by the Eaglemail help files "The whitelist is a list of (legitimate) email addresses that you always wish to see in your INBOX." This can be especially important when a user has many rules set up that might accidentally delete an important email (this is a good place to put your bosses email address.) In contrast, the blacklist is a list of email addresses you never want to enter your inbox. This can be a very useful tool for removing unwanted spam from a known email address (this is a very bad place to put your bosses email address.)

Setting up the filters

Setting up these filters is very easy. Start by logging into Eaglemail and selecting the filters icon near the top of the screen. If you wish to add an address to your whitelist simply select "Whitelist," and type in the email addresses you wish to always allow, then select save. Each address should be entered on a new line.

To edit your blacklist, from the Filters page select "Blacklist." Once again simply enter each email address you wish to blacklist, entering each new address on a separate line. With the blacklist you may also chose whether an email that has been filtered is deleted, or moved to a specific folder. These options can be found at the top of the Blacklist page. When you are finished select save.

Disabling the filters

On a final note, you can easily disable either one of these lists by clicking on the corresponding check mark under the Enabled field located on the Filters page.

Return to top

Benchmarks Online

Skip Navigation Links

Page One

Campus Computing News

Getting Direct Access to Gartner Researchers

Daylight Savings Time Zone Changes

Document Imaging and Retention Management (DIRM)

CCTV at the ACS GAL!

Sol.acs.unt.edu Decommissioned

Today's Cartoon

RSS Matters

The Network Connection

Link of the Month

Helpdesk FYI

WWW@UNT.EDU

Short Courses

IRC News

Staff Activities

Subscribe to Benchmarks *Online*

IRC News

Minutes provided by Sue Ellen Richey, Recording Secretary*

December 19, 2006

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: MAURICE LEATHERBURY (for PHILIP TURNER, CHAIR), PAUL HONS (for JUDITH ADKISON), PATRICK PLUSCHT, TIM CHRISTIAN, JOE ADAMO (for LOU ANN BRADLEY), ELIZABETH HINKLE-TURNER, UWE ROSSBACH, JON NELSON, JOHN HOOPER, RAMU MUTHIAH, MARGARET AMBUEHL, CATHY HARTMAN (for DON GROSE), BRUCE HUNTER, SCOTT WINDHAM **NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:** PHILIP BACZEWSKI, SUE ELLEN RICHEY (Recording Secretary) **MEMBERS ABSENT:** CHARLIE ANDREWS, GINNY ANDERSON, SARA WILSON MCKAY, ROBERT NIMOCKS, RAY BANKS, BOBBY CARTER, JIM CURRY, CENGIZ CAPAN, GUILLERMO OYARCE, ABRAHAM JOHN, STEVEN KING, CHRISTY CRUTSINGER, JOHN PRICE **GUESTS PRESENT:** JIM BYFORD

Distributed Computing Support Management Team**

Philip Baczewski reported for the Distributed Computing Support Management Team that DCSMT met on December 1 and December 15. The December 1 meeting featured a presentation by Armin Sabeti and Todd Phillips of Intel. They provided an overview of Intel's processor roadmap and a demonstration of Intel's vPro technology which allows for remote management and provisioning of workstations by integrating onboard hardware technology with standard tools such as Microsoft's SMS and the Altiris management suite. On December 15, Chris Straus and Don McClure, CITC call tracking system administrators, provided an overview of the ITSM 7 system which is an upgrade of our current Remedy call tracking system. The new call tracking system will allow customization of problem categorization by support area and will give distributed managers the ability to configure and manage their specific sites. Active testing involving distributed support areas has begun and will continue after the holidays. The new system is tentatively targeted for a mid-spring rollout.

EIS Planning Group

John Hooper reported for the EIS Planning Group that their Program Management Group had met and discussed the charter for the PeopleSoft 8.9 upgrade. They also had a meeting of the EIS User's Group where they discussed the charter as well as the upgrade of the Learning Enhancement module. Other items of discussion were the imaging application, CRM project (which is underway), the RFP for help with budget applications, which has had to go out for bid again due to only getting one bid response.

Learning Enhancement Planning Group

Patrick Pluscht reported for the Learning Enhancement Planning Group that Horizon Wimba's Voice Tools has been rolled out and is in use for the spring semester. Live Classroom has the new server built. They are looking at how to administer its use outside of WebCT Vista. Horizon Wimba provides 24 x 7 technical support but there will be a need to administer virtual room scheduling. The Live Classroom product can also be used for web conferencing of administrative meetings. It is licensed for 2,000 simultaneous users, and they are hoping to get administrative support in the scheduling process from distributed areas. In the discussion that followed, Tim Christian suggested that whenever distributed areas are going to be involved, it would be a good idea to demo a product or discuss an acquisition at DCSMT prior to its purchase and/or implementation, so that the distributed areas know what's coming. Patrick agreed to plan a demo of the Horizon Wimba products at the January 19th meeting of the DCSMT, and pointed out that Horizon Wimba's software support is very good, and they can be contacted directly by any end-user. The only support needed by distributed areas would be in the scheduling of the product usage and that only when needed.

Standards & Policy Planning Group

Tim Christian reported for the Standards & Policy Planning Group that a complaint had been received by Human Resources about some wording in the Computer Use Policy; therefore, his committee would be reviewing that policy. He asked that IRC members send him any comments regarding that policy.

Student Computing Planning Group

Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner reported for the Student Computing Planning Group that a sub-committee had a conference call with a representative of RUCKUS. It was clear that there must be a student buy-in of this service before it is pursued any further. Elizabeth said that the RUCKUS representative is scheduled to make a presentation to the Student Senate in January. There was some discussion about the need for some sort of copyright infringement service or device, and how they operate.

Timekeeping software

In response to a question about the status of the timekeeping software that CITC purchased, Margaret Ambuehl reported that the software is being used in three UNT departments, and is a "time-clock" application which interfaces with the EIS Time & Labor system. Another set of departments will begin using the software in January. Margaret added that following the upcoming PeopleSoft upgrade, they plan to implement a self-service time reporting procedure for all departments.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

---

* For a list of IRC Regular and Ex-officio Members click here.

**DCSMT Minutes can be found 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. The schedule can be found here. All meetings of the IRC, its program groups, and other committees, are open to all faculty, staff, and students.

Return to top

Benchmarks Online

Skip Navigation Links

Page One

Campus Computing News

Getting Direct Access to Gartner Researchers

Daylight Savings Time Zone Changes

Document Imaging and Retention Management (DIRM)

CCTV at the ACS GAL!

Sol.acs.unt.edu Decommissioned

Today's Cartoon

RSS Matters

The Network Connection

Link of the Month

Helpdesk FYI

WWW@UNT.EDU

Short Courses

IRC News

Staff Activities

Subscribe to Benchmarks *Online*

Research and Statistical Support
University of North Texas

RSS Matters

This is a is a republication, with a title change, of July 2001's RSS Matters, You can link to the last RSS article here:
Creating Web Based Surveys with Zope - An Open Source Application Server - Ed.

Attention R Users:

R DVD's can be picked up at the UNT bookstore free of charge. These "live" DVD's allow R to be run from the DVD without installing software on the local PC; this allows R to be used on open access lab computers where R is not installed.

An Introduction to Robust Measures of Location using R

By Dr. Rich Herrington, Research and Statistical Support Services Manager

This month we demonstrate the use of robust estimators of location using the GNU S-Plus language, "R". R is a statistical programming environment that is a clone of the S and S-Plus language developed at Lucent Technologies. In the following document we will illustrate the use of a GNU Web interface to the R engine on the "rss" server, http://rss.acs.unt.edu/cgi-bin/R/Rprog. This GNU Web interface is a derivative of the "Rcgi" Perl scripts available for download from the CRAN Website, http://www.cran.r-project.org (the main "R" Website). Scripts can be submitted interactively, edited, and re-submitted with changed parameters by selecting the hypertext link buttons that appear below the figures. For example, clicking the button below:

Histogram of a Normal Distribution

opens a new window with a "browser entry form" where the program code that has been submitted is displayed. The script can be edited and re-submitted to produce a new program output. Scrolling down the browser window displays text from the program execution. Selecting the "Display Graphic" link will open another browser window where graphics will be displayed. Readers are encouraged to change program parameters to see what the effect will be on results.

Introduction to Robust Estimation

Conventional wisdom has often promoted the view that standard ANOVA techniques are robust to non-normality. However, this view is with respect to type I error (Wilcox, 1998). When it is assumed that there are no differences between groups in a group difference testing setting, then the probability level corresponding to the critical cut-off score, used to reject the null hypothesis, is found to be close to the nominal level of .05. However, many statistical journals have pointed out that standard methods are not robust when differences exist (Hample, 1973; Tukey, 1960). As early as 1960, it was known that slight deviations away from normality could have a large negative impact on power whenever means were being compared, and that popular measures of effect size could misleading (Tukey, 1960). Later, a theory of robustness was developed by Huber (1964) and Hampel (1968). Today, there is a well established mathematical foundation for dealing with these issues(Huber, 1981; Rousseeuw & Leroy, 1987). Moreover, basic coverage of the theory and the use of computer software in performing robust analyses can be found in introductory textbooks (Rand Wilcox, 1997, 2001).

Dealing with Outliers

It is often assumed in the social sciences that data conform to a normal distribution.Numerous studies have examined real world data sets for conformity to normality, and have strongly questioned this assumption (Hampel, 1973; Tukey, 1960; Micceri, 1989; Stigler, 1977).Sometimes we may believe that a normal distribution is a good approximation to the data, and at other times we may believe this to be only a rough approximation.Two approaches have been taken to incorporate this reality.One approach is a two-stage process whereby influential observations are identified and removed from the data. So-called outlier analysis involves the calculation of leverage and influence statistics to help identify influential observations (Rousseeuw & Leroy, 1987). The other approach, robust estimation, involves calculating estimators that are relatively insensitive to the tails of a data distribution, but which conform to normal theory approximation at the center of the data distribution. These robust estimators are somewhere between a nonparametric or distribution free approach, and a parametric approach. Consequently, a robust approach distinguishes between plausible distributions the data may come from, unlike a nonparametric approach, which treats all possible distributions as equal.The positive aspect of this is that robust estimators are very nearly as efficient (very nearly optimal estimators) as the best possible estimators(Huber, 1981). It is possible to get a sense of how much you can violate the normality assumption before inferences are compromised.

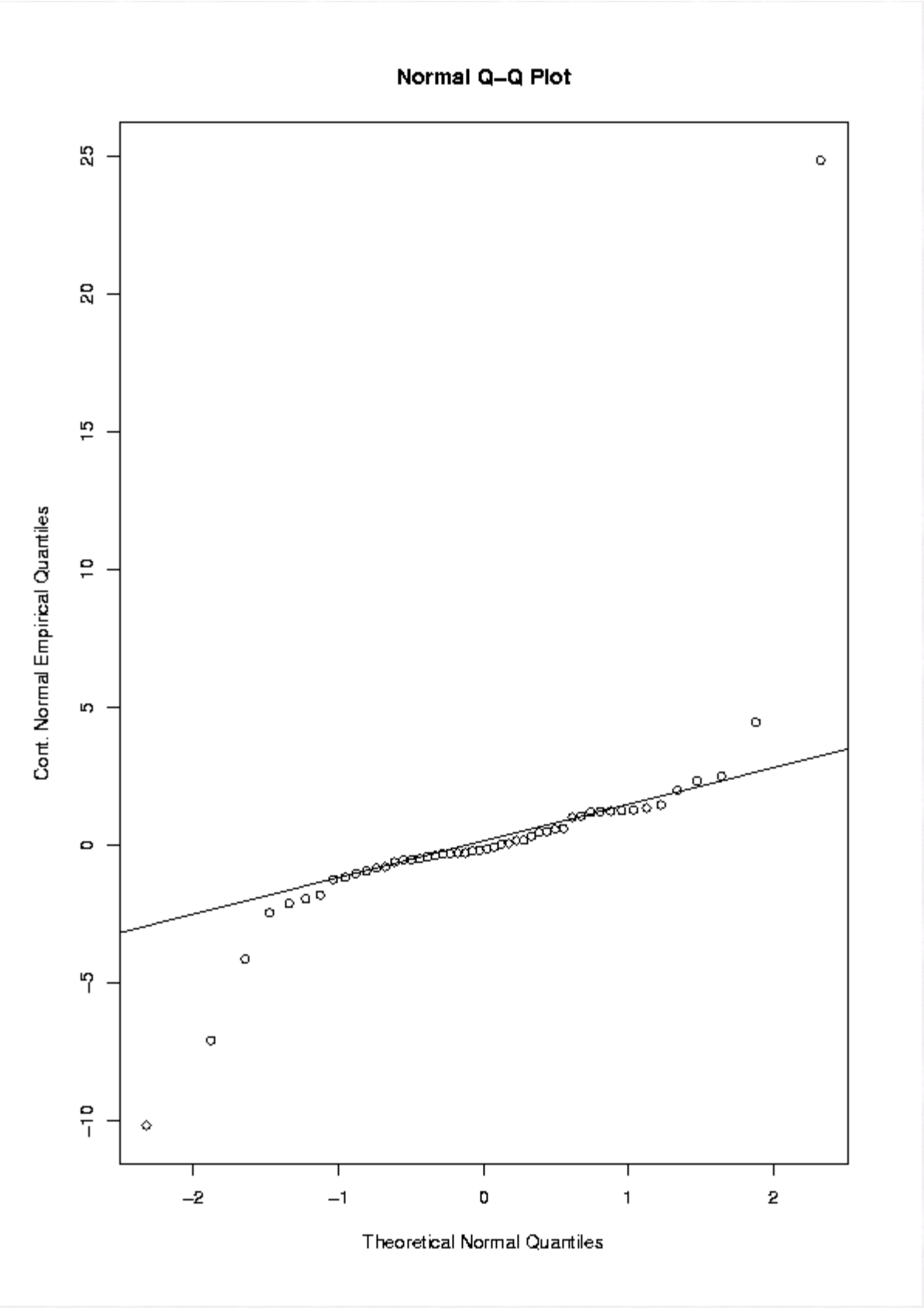
Symmetric and Asymmetric Distributions

Historically, statisticians have focused on estimators that assume symmetry in the population. The reason for this is that estimators of location are best understood when a distribution s natural candidates for location all nearly coincide (e.g. mean, median, mode).Additionally, when a distribution is treated in a symmetric way so that no bias arises, a trade off is not needed between bias and variability (e.g. M-estimators with odd influence functions are unbiased estimators whenever the distribution is symmetric). Moreover, whenever a distribution is admitted as skew, there is some question as to what measure of location we are trying to estimate.That is, asymmetric distributions do not have a natural location parameter as the center of symmetry, of a symmetric distribution (Hoaglin, Mosteller, & Tukey, 1983). It is a common practice to re-express the data, such as in a functional transformation (e.g. log-transformation), so that the data more nearly

resembles a symmetric distribution.Often, if the departure from symmetry is not too large, it is found that estimators that rely on symmetry are still satisfactory (Hoaglin, Mosteller, & Tukey, 1983). The use of quantile-quantile plots can aid in the assessment of skewness (see below). In the case of M-estimators for location, we would like the M-estimate to be an unbiased, robust estimate of the population mean.This goal can be realized in the case of a symmetric distribution.

The Contaminated Normal

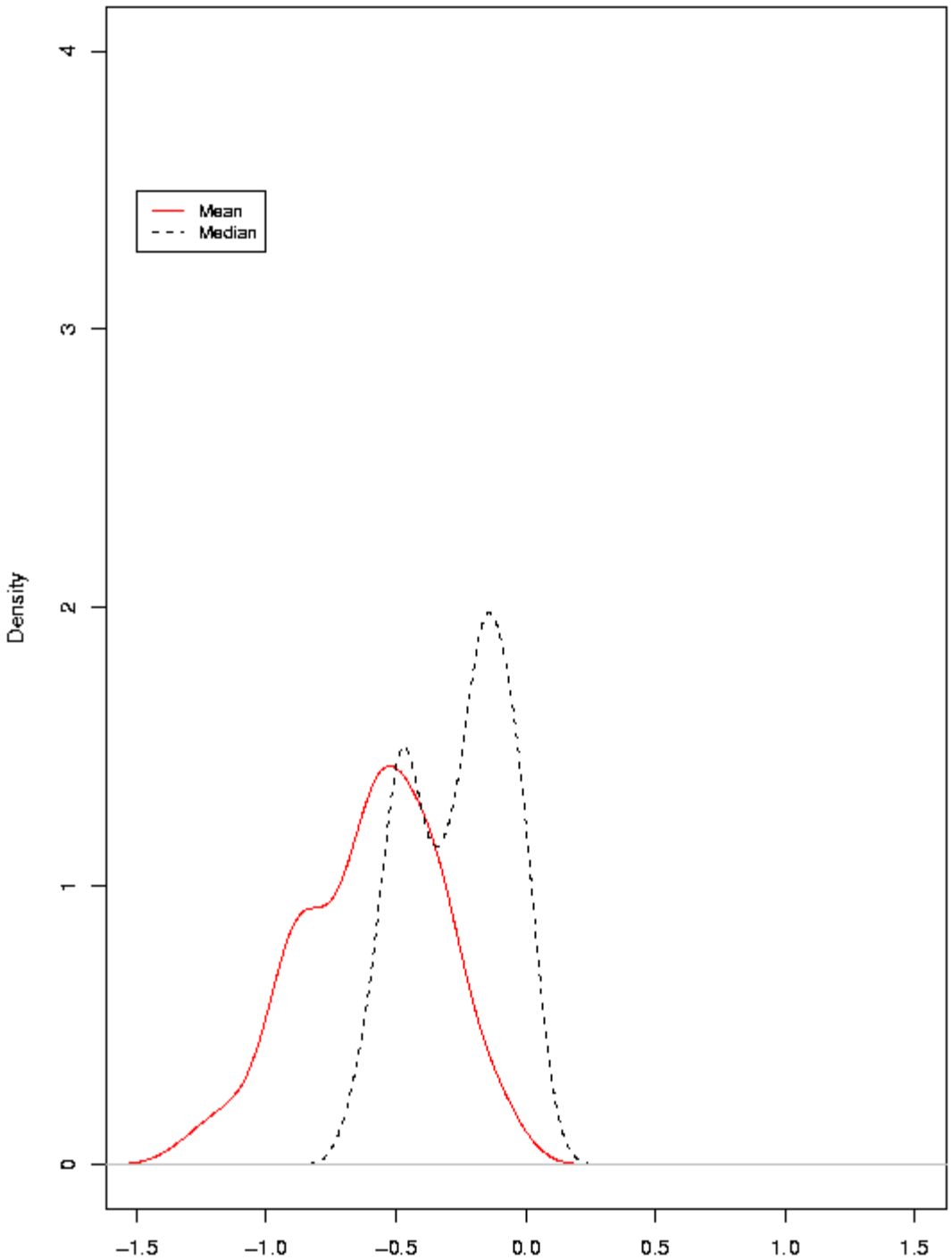
For example, Tukey (1960) showed that classical estimators are quite sensitive to distributions which have heavy tails. The approach Tukey took was to sample from a continuous distribution called the contaminated normal (CN). The contaminated normal is a mixture of two normal distributions, one of which has a large variance; the other distribution is standard normal. The contaminated normal has tails which are heavier, or thicker, than the normal distribution.This can be illustrated by the use of quantile-quantile plots. The empirical quantiles of a data set are graphed against the theoretical quantiles of a reference distribution (i.e. normal distribution). Deviations away from the straight line indicate deviations away from the reference distribution. In the figure below, the quantile-quantile plot illustrates a heavy-tailed distribution.



Quantile-Quantile Plot of the Contaminated Normal Distribution (CN)

Robust estimators are considered resistant if small changes in many of the observations or large changes in only a few data points have a small effect on its value. For example, the median is considered an example of a resistant measure of location, while the mean is not. In the figure below, the sampling distributions of the mean and median are plotted when

sampling from the contaminated normal distribution (CN). Sampling occurred from the CN distribution where there is a 90% probability of sampling from N(0, 1) and 10% probability of sampling from N(0, 10) and the population mean for the CN is zero. Notice that there is substantially more variability in our estimate of the population mean when using the sample mean to estimate the population mean, than when using the sample median to estimate the population mean. Also, the sample median is closer to the population mean of zero, than is the sample mean.



Plotting the Sampling Distributions of the Mean and Median when sampling from a CN

The Trimmed Mean

One problem with the median however is that its value is determined by only 1 or 2 values

in the data set information is lost.The trimmed mean represents a compromise between the mean and the median (Huber, 1981). The trimmed mean is computed by putting the observations in order. Next, trim the numbers by removing the *d* largest and *d* smallest observations, and then compute the average of the remaining numbers. *d* can be between 0 and n/2. Trimming enough data gives the sample median.Rules of thumb are that 20%-25% (*d*=.2*n) trimming works well in a wide range of settings(Wilcox, 1997).Another approach to selecting the trimming amount is to calculate the mean for 0, .10, .20 and then use the trimming value that corresponds to the smallest standard error (Leger and Romano, 1990).

M-Estimators

The trimmed mean is based on a preset amount of trimming. A different approach is to determine empirically the amount of trimming necessary. If the data come from a normal distribution, then light or no trimming is necessary. If the data come from a heavy tailed distribution, then a heavier amount of trimming is desired in both tails. If the distribution has a heavy right tail, then more trimming might be desired from the right tail; or if the distribution has a heavy left tail, more trimming from the left tail might be appropriate.Essentially, M-estimators accomplish this appropriate amount of trimming by meeting certain statistical criterion for what is considered a good estimator (i.e. maximum-likelihood principle). For the M-estimator, the degree of trimming is determined by a trimming constant, k.

Desirable Properties of a Robust Estimator

A good robust estimator is asymptotically consistent and unbiased (the estimator converges on the true population value as sample size increases). Additionally, a good robust estimator should be efficient when the underlying distribution is normal, but still be relatively efficient when the tails of the distribution deviate from normality. That is, the variance of the sampling distribution for the estimator should be small whether we are sampling from a normal or non-normal distribution.When sampling data from a normal distribution, the mean is a minimum variance estimator.That is, the mean is considered an optimal estimator because the variance of its sampling distribution is as small as possible assuming an underlying normal distribution. While the mean is an optimal estimator, it does not possess other characteristics which are associated with a good estimator. Whenever sampling from a non-normal distribution, the mean can lose many of the properties which make it an optimal estimator. Efficient estimators exist for situations where non-normality is present. These estimators are refereed to as robust estimators.

Comparing Estimators - Asymptotic Relative Efficiency

Efficiency refers to the variance of the sampling distribution for the estimator. High efficiency estimators have small variance in the sampling distribution for the estimator.Efficiency will affect the power of a test procedure in that less variance in the sampling distribution for the estimator being tested, will lead to higher power for the statistical test. here are two ways of viewing efficiency. Finite sample efficiency refers to the variance of the sampling distribution for the estimator as it is applied in small sample settings. Asymptotic efficiency refers to the way an estimator performs as the sample size gets larger. It is a common practice to compare estimators to one another using Asymptotic Relative Efficiency (ARE). For a fixed underlying distribution, we define the Relative Efficiency (RE) of one estimator to another estimator as the ratio of the two variances of the estimators, and ARE is the asymptotic value of RE as the sample size goes to infinity. For

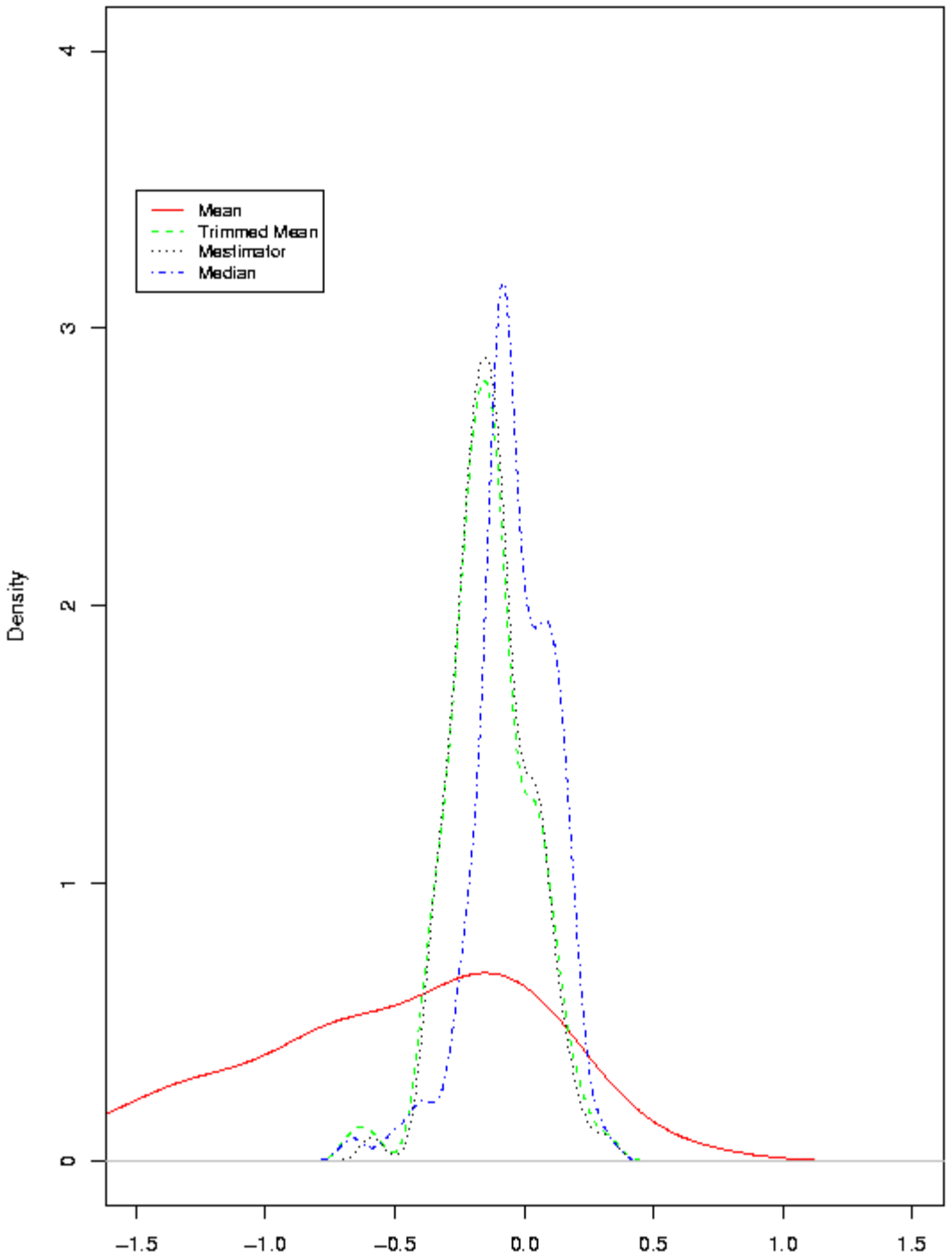
example, to compare the efficiencies of the mean and median, one would sample from a fixed underlying distribution and fixed sample size (i.e. normal distribution), then divide the variance of the median into the variance of the mean. As the sample size increases, this ratio will converge to the ARE of the two estimators. In this way, estimators can be compared with respect to the different types on non-normality that is found in data analysis settings.

Robustness Properties: High Breakdown and Resistance

High breakdown is the largest percentage of data points that can be arbitrarily changed and not unduly influence the estimator (e.g. location parameter). For example, the median has 50% breakdown.That is, for 100 rank ordered data points, the first 49 points can be changed arbitrarily such that the values are still less than the median, and the median will not change. The mean is not considered a robust estimator because changing one observation arbitrarily can greatly influence the mean. This implies that the mean has a breakdown of (1/n) x 100. As n increases, the breakdown of the mean linearly decreases in an unbounded fashion. In comparison, the median has a much higher breakdown than the mean, and as such, is considered a more robust estimate of location.

A Comparison of Four Robust Estimators of Location

The median has a breakdown of 50%. The trimmed mean has a breakdown that corresponds to the degree of trimming that is utilized. For example, a 20% trimmed mean has a breakdown of 20%. The mean has a breakdown of (1/n)x100, where n is the sample size. For Huber type estimators, the breakdown will depend on the trimming constant k. In the figure below, the sampling distributions of the sample mean, sample trimmed mean, sample M-estimator, and the sample median are plotted. Sampling occurred from the CN distribution where there is a 90% probability of sampling from N(0, 1) and 10% probability of sampling from N(0, 10) with a mean of zero. We see that the sample median, sample m-estimate and sample trimmed mean are all considerably closer to the population mean of zero. Additionally, there is less variability in these estimates, than the sample mean.



Comparison of Four Robust Estimators (Mean, Trimmed Mean, Mestimate, Median)

References

Hample, F.R. (1973). Robust estimation: A condensed partial survey. *Z. Wahrscheinlichkeitstheorie and Verw. Gebiete, 27,* 87-172.

Hampel, F. R., E. M. Ronchetti, P. J. Rousseuw and W. A. Stahel (1986). *Robust Statistics*. Wiley, New York.

Hoaglin, D. C., Mosteller, F., & Tukey, J.W. (1983). *Understanding robust and exploratory data analysis*. New York: Wiley.

Huber, P. J. (1981). *Robust statistics*, Wiley, New York.

Leger, C. & Romano, J.P. (1990). *Bootstrap adaptive estimation: the trimmed-mean example*. The Canadian Journal of Statistics, 18(4), 297-314.

Micceri, T. (1989). *The unicorn, the normal curve, and other improbable creatures*. Psychological Bulletin, 105(1), 156-166.

Rousseeuw, P.J. and Leroy, A.M. (1987), *Robust Regression and Outlier Detection*, John Wiley, New York.

Sawilowsky, S. S. & Blair, R. C. (1992). *A more realistic look at the robustness of Type II error properties of the t-test to departures from population normality*. Psychological Bulletin, 111, 352-360.

Stigler, S.M. (1977). *Do robust estimators work with real data?* Annals of Statistics, 5, 1055-1098.

Tukey, J. (1960). A Survey of Sampling From Contaminated Distributions. In: *Contributions to Probability and Statistics*. Olkin, I. (Ed). Standford University Press: Stanford, California.

Wilcox, Rand R. (2001). *Fundamentals of Modern Statistical Methods*. Springer-Verlag, New York.

Wilcox, Rand R. (1998). *How Many Discoveries have Been Lost by ignoring Modern Statistical Methods?* American Psychologist, Vol 53, No. 3, 300-314.

Return to top

WWW@UNT.EDU

Apache web farm configuration:

Simpler than mod_macro?

By Shannon Eric Peevey, UNT Central Web Support

Introduction

I have come up with a way to configure apache servers across a web farm, (using a single configuration), and without using mod_macro. All you need to do is to patch the /usr/sbin/apache2ctl shell script (on Debian) with the following diff:

```
--- apache2ctl.orig 2006-05-15 00:37:05.793938736 -0500
+++ apache2ctl 2006-05-03 11:53:01.000000000 -0500
@@ -77,11 +77,18 @@
case $ARGV in
 start|stop|restart|graceful)
- $HTTPD -k $ARGV
+ $HTTPD -f /etc/apache2.conf -k $ARGV
ERROR=$?
;;
 startssl|sslstart|start-SSL)
- $HTTPD -k start -DSSL
+
+ ### let's create our temp httpd.conf file (we'll call it apache2.conf for fun ;) )
+ LOCALIP=$(/sbin/ifconfig eth0 | awk '/inet/ { print $2 }' | awk -F ":" '{ print $2
 }')
+ cat /etc/apache2/apache2.conf > /etc/apache2.conf
+ cat /etc/apache2/sites-enabled/* >> /etc/apache2.conf
+ sed -i "s/IPADDRESS/${LOCALIP}/g" /etc/apache2.conf
+
```

```
+ $HTTPD -f /etc/apache2.conf -k start -DSSL

ERROR=$?

;;

configtest)
```

NOTES:

These changes to the /usr/sbin/apache2ctl shell script essentially generate a new apache httpd.conf file every time the web server starts or stops. Let me explain these changes and walk you through each line:

1. `LOCALIP=$(/sbin/ifconfig eth0 | awk '/inet/ { print $2 }' | awk -F ":" '{ print $2 }')`

- This line grabs the ip address for the local machine and put it into the LOCALIP variable. We are running all machines off of a single set of configuration files, so we need to grab the local machines ip address, and will use sed to replace the placeholder, "IPADDRESS", with the contents of $LOCALIP.

2. `cat /etc/apache2/apache2.conf > /etc/apache2.conf`

- Cat the contents of the /etc/apache2/apache2.conf file into a file named /etc/apache2.conf. (This file can be named and placed anywhere. We just put it in /etc because configuration files are often found there). In the Debian Apache2 package, the /etc/apache2/apache2.conf file contains the global variables for our Apache configuration. For our purposes, we only need to change the ip addresses throughout conf file, (and vhost files), so I removed the ports.conf include directive and moved the contents of the ports.conf and the NameVirtualHost directives from the vhost conf files into /etc/apache2/apache2.conf. All instances of ip addresses have been replaced with a placeholder, "IPADDRESS":

```
--- oldconf/apache2.conf 2006-01-11 06:23:27.000000000 -0600

+++ apache2.conf 2006-05-05 11:01:50.000000000 -0500

@@ -119,8 +120,13 @@

# Include all the user configurations:

 Include /etc/apache2/httpd.conf

+

# Include ports listing

 -Include /etc/apache2/ports.conf

+# Include /etc/apache2/ports.conf

 +Listen IPADDRESS:80

 +Listen IPADDRESS:443
```

```
 +Listen IPADDRESS:8080
+
# Include generic snippets of statements
 Include /etc/apache2/conf.d/[^.#]*
@@ -389,13 +397,32 @@
# Allow from .your_domain.com
 #</Location>
+NameVirtualHost IPADDRESS:80
+NameVirtualHost IPADDRESS:443
+NameVirtualHost IPADDRESS:8080
# Include the virtual host configurations:
 Include /etc/apache2/sites-enabled/[^.#]*
```

3. `cat /etc/apache2/sites-enabled/* >> /etc/apache2.conf`

- Next, we append all enabled vhost config files to the /etc/apache2.conf. This has the advantage of creating a monolithic Apache conf file, but allows us to manage the server configuration using the great a2ensite/a2dissite tools that come with the Debian Apache2 package.

4. `sed -i "s/IPADDRESS/${LOCALIP}/g" /etc/apache2.conf`

- Finally, we use sed to do a global search and replace on the /etc/apache2.conf file to replace each instance of "IPADDRESS" with the ip address of the local machine on which apache is starting.

5. It is important to note that we need to add the new configuration file to the "stop" case as well:

```
 start|stop|restart|graceful)
- $HTTPD -k $ARGV
+ $HTTPD -f /etc/apache2.conf -k $ARGV
ERROR=$?
;;
```

Or else apache will complain about syntax problems in the /etc/apache2/apache2.conf templates which are used to build the new /etc/apache2.conf configuration file.

Conclusion

Some of you may be surprised that I am replacing mod_macro with this new approach, but I find that this simple shell

scripting allows for greater flexibility in managing the Apache configuration within the confines of the default Debian Apache2 package, and is much less complex to maintain than mod_macro. As our configuration file was approaching 2,000-3,000 lines, we were getting lost within the file and began to make mistakes while making configuration changes to Apache. This new approach allows us to move from the monolithic conf file, which is needed by mod_macro, and to take advantage of the simplicity of a split apache conf file, helping us to ensure maximum uptime by limiting the possible confusion caused by an overly-large configuration file.

Have you registered your website yet?

Return to top

Short Courses

By Claudia Lynch, *Benchmarks Online* Editor

Surf over to the Short Courses page for a sample of the sorts of courses that will be offered for the spring semester (starting, probably, at the beginning of February). Additionally, we plan to offer some DreamWeaver courses this semester.

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

Questions or comments relating to EIS training should be sent to the EISTRN GroupWise account. Upcoming EIS training events may be found at the links below:

- Learning to Use EIS
- EIS Timekeeper Training Schedule:
- EIS ePro Training Calendar
- Ongoing training is available on WebCT

GroupWise Training

Information about GroupWise training can be found at the GroupWise Support site. A list of GroupWise 7.0 "Tutorial Topics" can be found here: http://ncs.unt.edu/gw/howto/index.htm See "What's New in GroupWise 7" here: http://ncs.unt.edu/gw/howto/info/whatsnew/index.htm also.

GroupWise 7.0 Seminars

If 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 here.

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.

Center for Teaching, Learning, and Assessment

The Center for Teaching, Learning and Assessment describes itself as offering "a range of services to faculty and Teaching Fellows and Assistants to facilitate teaching and the measurement of learning at the class, department, and college level." The are currently offering "PowerPoint Training for Use in the Classroom."

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.unt.edu/minicourses/

Center for Media Production (CMP)

According to their website:

> **CMP Certified Software Training**
>
> Software training is available for UNT students at the Center for Media Production on campus at affordable prices. Upon completion, students will receive a certificate from CMP that can be recorded in Eagle Transcripts through Student Activities at the request of the student. Training is hands-on and class sizes are small.
>
> **E-mail inquiries to cmptraining@unt.edu**

Recently, courses have been offered in Adobe Creative Suite (CS2) software, including InDesign and Illustrator (at both Introductory and Advanced levels). Although the training is designed for students who are required to show competency in these applications as part of their course of study, others in the UNT community may participate if space is available.

Alternate Forms of Training

Many of the General Access Labs around campus have tutorials installed on their computers. The Library has a Computer Training Resources webpage with lots of resources listed. The Training website also 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, see the CBT website. Note, also, the articles in last months issue of *Benchmarks Online*, "'One CBT to Rule Them All': SkillSoft Acquires Thomson NETg" and "No-Hassle CBT: Library Online Tech Book Resources".

Return to top

Benchmarks Online

Skip Navigation Links

Page One

Campus Computing News

Getting Direct Access to Gartner Researchers

Daylight Savings Time Zone Changes

Document Imaging and Retention Management (DIRM)

CCTV at the ACS GAL!

Sol.acs.unt.edu Decommissioned

Today's Cartoon

RSS Matters

The Network Connection

Link of the Month

Helpdesk FYI

WWW@UNT.EDU

Short Courses

IRC News

Staff Activities

Subscribe to Benchmarks *Online*

Staff Activities

Transitions

New Employees:

- **Rahul Parey**, ACS lab student assistant (part-time).
- **Brett Thompson**, Student Intern, Information Security (part-time).
- **Lisa Coleman**, Helpdesk Consultant (part-time).
- **Sailaja Bhagavatula**, ACS lab student assistant (part-time).
- **Varalakshmi Gattagoni**, ACS lab student assistant (part-time).

No longer working in the Computing and Information Technology Center:

- **Douglas Fuller**, Computer Systems Manager, Academic Computing and User Services.

Awards, Recognition, Publications, etc.

Douglas Fuller, recently departed Computer Systems Manager, Academic Computing and User Services, served on a technical program review committee for Supercomputing 2006, the international conference for high performance computing, networking, storage and analysis. The annual conference is hosted by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and the Association for Computing Machinery. The conference was Nov. 11-17 in Tampa, Fla. [as reported in *InHouse* December 5, 2006]

Return to top

Benchmarks Online

Skip Navigation Links

Page One

Campus Computing News

Getting Direct Access to Gartner Researchers

Daylight Savings Time Zone Changes

Document Imaging and Retention Management (DIRM)

CCTV at the ACS GAL!

Sol.acs.unt.edu Decommissioned

Today's Cartoon

RSS Matters

The Network Connection

Link of the Month

Helpdesk FYI

WWW@UNT.EDU

Short Courses

IRC News

Staff Activities

Subscribe to Benchmarks *Online*

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, Dr. Rich Herrington gives you "An Introduction to Robust Measures of Location using R." Also, information on *FREE* R DVDs.**

- **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 states "The Convergence Beat Goes On." Discussion of the implications of the latest announcement from Apple Inc. follows. Read all about it!

- **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's focus is on the "Green Pride Campaign." Click on the link above and find out about how you can win an iPod Shuffle**.

- **Helpdesk FYI** - A new monthly feature from the CITC Helpdesk. Each month they will tackle a topic that has been of particular interest to callers/visitors to the Helpdesk. **This month find out about "Eaglemail Filters: Using whitelists and blacklists."**

- **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 Shannon Peevey is back to talk about "Apache web farm configuration: Simpler than mod_macro?."**

- **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. **Short Courses won't start until February, but there are still other training**

opportunities. Check it out!

- **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. **The December 19, 2006 minutes are included this time.**

- **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.

Please note that information published in *Benchmarks Online* is likely to degrade over time, especially links to various Websites. To make sure you have the most current information on a specific topic, it may be best to search the UNT Website - http://www.unt.edu . You can also search ***Benchmarks Online*** - http://www.unt.edu/benchmarks/archives/back.htm as well as consult the UNT Helpdesk - http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/ Questions and comments should be directed to benchmarks@unt.edu

Return to top