

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

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Mission

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

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E-Mail Migration Project Update

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

As reported in last month's *Benchmarks Online*, plans are progressing for moving the University faculty/staff e-mail services from Novell's GroupWise to Microsoft's Exchange server and Outlook client. On March 23, 2007, the Dell Professional Services consulting team delivered an assessment document resulting from the first phase of their consulting project. As a result of discussions in the preparation and review of that document by a University-representative migration steering committee, several decisions have been made regarding the configuration of the new Exchange mail system. One of these decisions is to use existing EUIDs and passwords to log into the Exchange e-mail service. This gets us closer to the goal of using one login ID and password for most information systems on

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campus.

Training has also been a topic of discussion amongst the steering committee. Instructor-led training is being planned and will be provided to areas as they migrate in a two to three week period prior to their e-mail conversion. Jason Gutierrez is compiling a number of online resources which can be found on the NCS migration website (see http://ncs.unt.edu/MSMigration/education/). More information areas are available at the project website, http://ncs.unt.edu/MSMigration/education/). More information areas are available at the project website, http://ncs.unt.edu/MSMigration/, including a blog where any news or notes regarding the migration will be posted. Even prior to training, a test system will be available to allow faculty and staff to use Outlook/Exchange 2007 and try some of the features offered. Any messages or appointments created on the test system will be transitory and the test system should not be used for any business communication.

Mailbox Quotas

One feature of the new system is that messages will no longer be automatically deleted after 180 days. E-mail users can keep messages as long as they need them (and existing GroupWise messages and archives will be migrated to Exchange,) but they will need to pay attention to the amount of storage space they are using on the new system. Because storage space is not infinite, the new system will need to have a mailbox quota in place for all users. After much discussion within the steering committee it was decided to implement a 400MB mailbox quota as a soft limit with 500 MB as a hard limit. If the soft limit is exceeded, then a warning will be issued. If the hard limit is exceeded, then no additional e-mail will be able to be sent or received. Exceptions to the hard limit may be made on a case-by-case basis if the requester can demonstrate a business need for more storage space.

Data collected from some of the larger area GroupWise e-mail post offices indicates this

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quota should accommodate over 90 percent of existing GroupWise mailboxes, even before any elimination of unneeded messages is done. It is recommended that GroupWise users "clean up" their GroupWise mailboxes and archives to eliminate as many unneeded messages as possible as a way to assist the efficiency of the migration process and allay any concerns about fitting within the quota on the new system.

Timelines

The initial timeline for E-mail migration calls for completion of the e-mail migration by the end of the Summer terms, however, some areas' migrations might extend into the fall semester. The sooner everyone is on the new Exchange system, the better it will be for seamless and efficient communication. However, during the migration, both e-mail systems will be able to coexist and exchange messages without any loss of communication services.

Support for your GroupWise mailbox is provided by your college or department's computing support team. Those same staff will be equally important in providing you with assistance on the new Exchange/Outlook e-mail system. If you have questions concerning your area's timetable for migration or need assistance with managing your existing GroupWise mailbox, please contact your area's computing support team.

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Whither Windows? Windows Vista and Office 2007 -What is a poor student to do?

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

Whither Windows? The reporters of *ENT News* sum things up quite nicely when they <u>comment</u> that the days of doing a simple Windows upgrade are long gone: there are now so many flavors of Windows and Office to choose from that knowing when and how to upgrade gets quite confusing. Since questions about what version of Windows (XP? Vista? What version of Vista?) to purchase and what version of Office (2003? 2007? What version of 2007?) to purchase comprise the majority of information that my colleagues and I in Academic Computing Services answer during the orientations in the summer, it is not too early to begin exploring these options for the UNT student community.

First of all, even though everyone knows who the father of Anna Nicole's baby is, no one - it seems - knows EXACTLY what version of Vista or Office to buy or where and when they will become available. However, I shall do my best based on communications I've had with our Microsoft representatives and articles from various websites and news services. I will review recommendations for students for Windows Vista and Office 2007 and then briefly describe hardware needs as well.

Windows Vista - Windows Vista comes in five varieties according to some articles and four varieties according to Microsoft so we shall simply go with Microsoft's versions: Vista Home Basic, Vista Home Premium, Vista Business, and Vista Ultimate. An easy rule-of-thumb ALWAYS is, do not buy anything with 'Home' in the title because your options for network connectivity are limited. Vista Business is recommended for UNT students because they will not have to be concerned as to whether or not they can use Eaglenet Wireless or ResNet with this version. Also Vista Business has significant backup and restore functions to save your data. As Vista is deployed on campus, Faculty and staff members will likely be using Vista Ultimate primarily because of its increased security functions such as file encryption. However, on-campus deployment will be done on a per-department basis as requirements dictate and resources allow. If you want to see all of the current features of each type of Vista. check Microsoft's official website, which has a handy chart summary.

Office 2007 - Office 2007 also comes in many varieties and it is not so easy to know which to buy. Much of that will depend on one's field and major. Microsoft's handy chart of features is <u>here</u>.

Many students may only *need* Office Home and Student or Office Standard, however, since one can *never* be sure what a professor might want, the best bet is to get Office Professional since it includes the versatile Publisher and also Access. Office Ultimate is a bit overkill for students since its additional features are geared more towards business users with applications for team collaboration, forms publishing, and high-level researching. It's best to **Staff Activities**

Subscribe to Benchmarks Online check with your major department to be sure which version of Office is required for your courses.

Where and how to purchase these products? The UNT bookstore will be receiving student and faculty/staff versions (for personal use) of Vista and Office 2007 in a matter of weeks. According to Jean Probst of the UNT Bookstore, recent documentation indicates that they will be carrying Vista Business Upgrade for students at an educational rate and Vista Ultimate for faculty and staff. Office 2007 Professional also seems to be what will be available. Since these fall in with the recommendations given above, UNT community members should be able to get the software they need right here on campus. Probst added that Office and Windows XP and 2003 products will also continue to be available.

What about Macintosh users? Bask in your superiority and go buy an iPhone....just kidding! Office 2008 for Macintosh is slated to be released within the next month (or the next quarter according to what article one happens to be reading on a certain day) and will also be available at the bookstore at educational rates. The latest Mac OS X upgrade has been pushed back by the company until the Fall. Oh, and you Linux folks....well, just go back to enjoying free computing the

way it ought to be - you have nothing to worry about! <u>OpenOffice</u> remains a viable option for the same functionality that Microsoft Office provides (and it's free.)"

A little about hardware requirements: the nice thing about buying a new Windows PC this year is that you really only need to be concerned about one thing if you are planning to upgrade to Windows Vista and that is **how much RAM you have.** While one can 'get away with' buying a new machine with only 1 gig of RAM, it is **strongly recommended** that one get 2 gigs of RAM for the best performance on a machine running Windows Vista Business, Office 2007 Pro and various and sundry multimedia and entertainment applications. In short, if you like multi-tasking, you need 2 gigs. Other things to look for include getting a dual-core processor (becoming increasing standard on consumer products), as large a hard drive as affordable and a DVD burner. Most computer manufacturers (Dell, Gateway, HP etc.) will bundle their hardware with basic Windows Vista and Office products preloaded but in most cases what they offer will be unsuitable for a UNT community member. However, when configuring a computer online for purchase, all of the manufacturer sites I researched allowed one to upgrade to the recommended Vista and Office 2007 versions for a nominal extra fee. Also, if you buy a laptop be sure to have both a standard network card and a wireless card for optimal connectivity on campus.

As an aside, I saw a demonstration of a cool product for laptop owners the other day: Computrace - described at <u>http://www.lojackforlaptops.com/</u>. Computrace is an application that reports the location of a stolen laptop via internet connection and has been found to help considerably in recovering stolen computers. It is certainly worth a look!

But my parents are sending me to UNT with grandma's old computer that has Windows XP and Office 2003 on it - how will I survive? You will survive just fine. Office 2007 is backwards compatible with older versions of Office (though you need to be careful about how you save your documents) and will open documents created on earlier versions. There is no problem switching between versions of the Windows OS and it looks like XP is going to be around and supported for quite awhile. The general access computer labs and the different colleges and schools on campus are taking a measured approach to upgrading Office and Windows software (meaning that they are taking it nice and slow....) and will have plenty of tools available to help students, faculty, and staff move smoothly between older versions of software that they might have at home or in the dorm, and newer versions that might be available in labs and classrooms.

Purchasing questions?

If you and thinking about upgrading your home computer and have purchasing questions about all these new varieties of software that Microsoft has thrown at us, I strongly encourage you to contact the UNT Helpdesk at 940-565-2324 or <u>helpdesk@unt.edu</u>. Additionally, contact the UNT Bookstore at 940-565-2592 or <u>unt@bkstr.com</u> to find out what they have in stock and at what price point. In short, don't sweat it - we are all just as confused as you are and you can be rest-assured that many upgrade options and prices will be available.

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You're Invited: UNT Microsoft Vista/Office 2007 Launch Event

By <u>Chang E. Koh</u>, Ph.D, Associate Professor, Department of Information Technology and Decision Sciences; Managing Director, Information Systems Research Center College of Business Administration

Please note that CISO is not affiliated with the Computing and Information Technology Center (CITC) or any distributed computing support organization at UNT. This "launch event" is for informational purposes. Colleges and departments within UNT will be adopting Microsoft Vista according to schedules that best suit their needs. Consult your college or department <u>network manager</u> to find out their specific plans for your area. - Ed.

The UNT Computer Information Systems Organization (CISO) and Microsoft invite you to the UNT Microsoft Vista/Office 2007 Launch event!

Come experience the "Wow" factor as representatives from Microsoft talk about how new technology effects education today and how technology is integrated into our daily lives. Also, a chance to check out all of the top new features of Windows Vista and Office 2007! This will be a very informative and fun event for students and teachers alike, so come on by ESSC 255 at 3:45 pm on April 24th and see why people everywhere are saying, "wow".

This is also a great way to introduce students at UNT to the Computer Information Systems Organization and all it has to offer. Programs will be offered as proof of attendance in case you would like to offer extra credit to those students in your class that attend.

Final note: Free pizza, drinks, software and prizes given to everyone that shows up! Some larger door prizes will also be given at the end of the event including: a Zune (1), Windows Vista Ultimate (5), Windows Office Ultimate (5), some awesome books, and a bunch of other cool stuff!

What: UNT CISO presents- Windows Vista/Office 2007 Launch Event

Where: Eagle Student Services Center Room 255

When: Tuesday, April 24th, 2007 @ 3:45 PM

How: Pre-register @ <u>www.clicktoattend.com/?id=117746</u> to be eligible for the big prize raffle

Click <u>here</u> to view the event flyer.

Subscribe to Benchmarks <u>Online</u>

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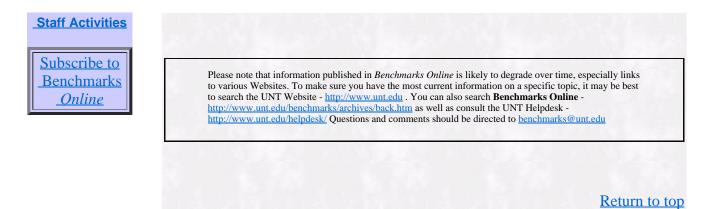
Learning Resources

By Claudia Lynch, Benchmarks Online Editor

J eff Stewart, UNT's Microsoft Higher Education account manager, has provided us with the following information for end-user training in Windows Vista:

On-demand webcasts

- Learn new Tips & Tricks for using Windows Vista Providing you with useful tools and helpful tips, this site will help you discover how Windows Vista enables you to be more efficient and productive in your daily tasks—and ultimately empowers you to drive success within your company. You'll also find great webcasts to attend and a helpful cheat sheet to download, so you can easily master new capabilities right now.
- Enterprise Learning Framework Tool The Enterprise Learning Framework (ELF) is a tool that helps organizations develop a training and communication plan for employees during Microsoft Windows Vista and the 2007 Microsoft Office system deployment.
- Windows Help and How-To
- <u>E-Learning from Microsoft</u>
- <u>Windows Vista Learning catalog</u> to find the training that works best for you, whether you are an IT professional, a developer, or a member of an enterprise organization.
- <u>Windows Vista Team Blog</u>
- TechNet Technical Library
- Microsoft Windows Vista Learning Portal for IT Professionals



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UNT Learning Management System Evaluation Project Update

By Jane Himmel, Associate Director, Center for Distributed Learning

As announced to campus last month, the University has begun an evaluation process to select the Learning Management System (LMS) that will replace Vista 3 in the future as the supported platform for UNT online courses.

During April and May, 2007, UNT will host product demonstrations for each of the systems currently under consideration. The following events are open to the UNT community:

Angel Learning ManagemeSystem

(http://www.angellearning.com) When: April 19, 2007, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Where: Chilton Hall, room 245 Presenters: Marc Bagley, Senior Account Manager and Karen Owens, ANGEL Application Consultant

Desire2Learn Learning nvironment and **eLearning Suite** (<u>http://www.desire2learn.com)</u> When: April 24, 2007, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Where: Chilton Hall, room 245

Presenter: Stephan Meyer, Regional Sales Manager

Sakai 2.3. (http://www.sakaiproject.org)

When: May 7, 2007, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Where: Chilton Hall, room 245 Presenter: Dr. Bill Moen, School of Library and Information Science, UNT

Blackboard Learning Vistaterprise System 4.x

(http://www.blackboard.com) When: May 9, 2007, 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Where: Chilton Hall, room 245 Presenters: Gary Wilson, Regional Sales Manager along with Vista product specialists from Blackboard

What is a Learning Management System?

A Learning Management System (or LMS) is software that enables instructors to deliver content and carry out classroom activities in an online environment. Learning Management Systems characteristically offer a suite of tools that enable basic functions such as communication (email, discussions or chat), quizzing, assignment submissions, and grading. Advanced features of recent versions of Learning Management Systems may include video, student portfolios, learning object repositories, built-in wikis or blogs, and desktop Staff Activities

sharing capabilities.

Subscribe to Benchmarks Online Instructors use the Learning Management System for online courses, but may also use it purely to provide handouts or other supplemental resources. Students must log in to a Learning Management System in order to access the content and activities for their courses.

The University of North Texas has used WebCT as its Learning Management System since 1998 and currently uses a version known as WebCT Vista.

Why Replace WebCT Vista 3?

During the fall 2006 semester, the UNT campus completed its migration of online and supplemental courses to WebCT Vista. Since UNT began its migration to Vista 3, two important events have occurred:

- February 28, 2006 WebCT, Inc. merged with Blackboard Inc. Shortly thereafter, Blackboard reported that it would be developing a merged version of its product and WebCT's Vista.
- July 11, 2006 Blackboard released Vista version 4.x, Application Pack.

With the release of a newer version of Vista -- and with Blackboard Inc. devoting resources to the support of multiple product lines as well as the development of a new merged product line – UNT will not be able to remain on Vista 3 for very long. By the end of 2006, Blackboard was already projecting fixes for bugs would not be fixed until version 4 or after and in early 2007, the company stated that only bugs that caused issues with stability would be addressed in version 3.

Because an upgrade to Vista 4 will require substantial retraining for faculty and students and because there are several competitors in the learning management system market, we believe it is a good time to begin evaluating Vista 4 alongside comparable learning management systems.

Who will make the Selection?

On March 13, 2007, the Information Resources Council <u>met</u> and unanimously approved a motion that stated that the Learning Enhancement Planning Group (LEPG) will:

... evaluate Learning Management System (LMS) options to replace WebCT Vista 3.0 and make a recommendation to the IRC by the end of 2007 with final approval of the selected LMS to be sought from the Office of the Provost.

The 40-member Learning Enhancement Planning Group, which includes representatives from each college/school, will coordinate the LMS selection process. This process will involve input from all stakeholders including faculty, students, support personnel, and administrators. The committee will also seek input from the representatives from the libraries, disability accommodation, the adaptive lab, network security, and the other constituencies impacted by the results of the final recommendation.

How You can Participate

Members of the university community are invited to participate in this process by attending demonstrations, responding to surveys and by participating in product testing or focus groups. Announcements of product demonstration, surveys, and other events will be sent via the UNT GroupWise mailing list and distributed to other appropriate mailing lists on campus. Project updates will be provided to the UNT Community at least monthly.

Questions, Comments, Suggestions?

If you have questions, comments, or suggestions regarding the Learning Management System Evaluation Process or timeline, please email Jane Himmel (jhimmel@unt.edu).

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InHouse Series on Information Security

By Claudia Lynch, Benchmarks Online Editor

Last month <u>we reported</u> that *InHouse*, UNT's faculty/staff online newsletter, has been running a series of articles on information security. The latest article is <u>Successful pilot Defensive Computing course may become mandatory training</u> for all employees. Additionally, *InHouse* is looking for data protection anecdotes. See Tell us how you protect data? for more information.

Previous articles in the series are:

- Everyone is responsible for preventing security breaches
- Three tips to help prevent internet attacks and data theft

Charlotte Russell, CITC Director of Administration and Compliance and Dr. Maurice Leatherbury, Associate Vice President for Computing and UNT's Chief Technology Officer, were interviewed for the articles. The Information Security <u>website</u> is listed as a valuable resource for keeping up-to-date on various information security issues and practices. Check <u>InHouse</u> frequently for more articles in this series.

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Voyage of the Enterprise

By <u>Claudia Lynch</u>, Benchmarks Online Editor

Last December *the Enterprise*, the quarterly web-based publication containing EIS-specific information, was <u>launched</u>. Issue 5 of *the Enterprise* was just published and there's lots of interesting and useful information therein including:

- THE CAPTAIN'S CHAIR What's Fusion anyway and do I have to go there already?
- News in the NEWS ROOM
- Successes chronicled in the SUCCESS GALLERY
- Technical fixes at the TECHNICAL CAFE

You can read all that and more here.

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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:

- **By the Numbers** Not really a column, but a new feature, giving you a glimpse behind the scenes of the volumes of data, spam, etc. processed, managed, and otherwise handled here at UNT.
- <u>RSS Matters</u> "RSS Matters" is the monthly column written by the Research and Statistical Support <u>Group</u> in Academic Computing Services. Their articles focus on topics of a statistical and/or research methods nature. This month, Rich Herrington asks a question and provides an answer in "Can Somebody Give Me Some Help Here? R: A Short Guide For The Uninitiated"
- <u>The Network Connection</u> "The Network Connection" may well be the longest running column in computer publishing history. Certainly in University of North Texas computer <u>publishing history</u>.

This month, Dr. Baczewski reflects on the reality of "Internet Politics as Usual." 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 "Denton Reads." Click on the link above and check it out.
- 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 Richard Sanzone talks about "Accessing GroupWise off-campus."
- <u>Short Courses</u> 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 are over for the semester. Other training opportunities still exist. 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 minutes for February 20, 2007 and March 13, 2007 are available this month.**

• <u>Staff Activities</u> - 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 - <u>http://www.unt.edu</u>. You can also search *Benchmarks Online* - <u>http://www.unt.edu/benchmarks/archives/back.htm</u> as well as consult the UNT Helpdesk - <u>http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/</u> Questions and comments should be directed to <u>benchmarks@unt.edu</u>.

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

Internet Politics as Usual

The Internet development never stops, but a number of recent developments seem to have definite implications for the Internet's future. We take for granted that new services like YouTube and MySpace will keep cropping up. We also see the continuous growth of access to the Internet, whether it be an increased availability of broadband services or access from cell phones. Less noticeable are some of the political developments affecting the direction and nature of the Internet.

At the political and operational center of the Internet is the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). The heart of ICANN's mission is to coordinate the numeric addresses and names which allow the easy access to information that we've become so used to. ICANN was created by the U.S. Department of Commerce. According to an ICANN <u>fact sheet</u>, the latest memorandum of understanding that governs ICANN's relationship with the U.S. Government sets goals which, if achieved, "will result in a fully independent ICANN organization." It seems, however, that the U.S. Government is having a hard time letting go of its creation.

It was <u>reported</u> that a recent ICANN public <u>meeting</u> held in Lisbon, Portugal, included a discussion of a proposal by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to hold the keys used to "<u>digitally sign</u>" the root <u>DNS</u> zone for the Internet. The idea of securing DNS is to ensure that servers needing to translate address names to numbers will be able to determine that they are communicating with the "real" root server. Technical issues aside, the U.S. DHC proposal indicates an unwillingness on the part of the U.S. government to give up control of the Internet and to let it become an independent and international operation.

This question of ICANN's current and future independence is not a new one. As reported in this column back in <u>December 2005</u>, the attempt to establish a ".xxx" domain to support sites of a sexually-oriented nature was apparently suppressed by the U. S. government. (The .xxx top-level domain application was again rejected at the recent ICANN meeting in Lisbon.) This latest apparent attempt, whether effective or <u>not</u>, by the U.S. government to exert control over the Internet is reviving questions as to whether ICANN can truly be independent.

In an apparent effort to consider its independence, at its December 2005 meeting ICANN established a <u>President's Strategy Committee</u>. The committee's final <u>report</u> was presented at the Lisbon meeting on March 26, 2007. The report encourages ICANN to explore " moving ICANN's legal identity to that of a private international organization based in the US." This would make it similar to organizations such as the <u>Red Cross</u> or the <u>International Olympic</u> <u>Committee</u>. This has led to <u>speculation</u> that ICANN might even move its headquarters to

Subscribe to Benchmarks Online Switzerland.

As it stands now, no single corporation can own the Internet, even if that was possible. A fully independent ICANN would mean that no single country could "own" the Internet. As the Internet continues to expand internationally, it would seem that international cooperation, uninfluenced by any particular political bloc would support the Internet's reach to a fully world-wide scope. But as Galileo and others have known all too well, nothing stifles science and technology better than politics.

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



Denton Reads, according to their <u>website</u>:

... is an organization whose goal is to unite the City of Denton by reading one book and promoting discussions of a common text. The book chosen for 2007 is <u>The Legacy of Luna: the Story of a Tree. a</u> <u>Woman, and the Struggle to Save the Redwoods</u> by Julia Butterfly Hill.

The author will be visiting Denton to speak about her book on Earth Day, April 22, 2007. Details will follow in the months to come.

Get the whole family involved! There are activities planned for all ages, as well as age-appropriate books featuring this year's environment-centered theme. Dr. Seuss's *The Lorax* has been selected for young children, and Carl Hiaasen's *HOOT* for intermediate readers.

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By Richard Sanzone, CITC Helpdesk Manager

Accessing GroupWise off-campus

If you are working on cleaning up your GroupWise mailbox in anticipation to our move to <u>Microsoft Outlook</u>, you might want to access your GroupWise mailbox when you are away from campus. All you need is a computer and an internet connection and you can check your GroupWise email from home. There are three different ways to access your GroupWise account:

- The GroupWise Client. This is the installed GroupWise program that you probably use on your UNT Workstation in your office. This program can be downloaded from the Network Computing Services website at <u>http://ncs.unt.edu/gw/download/index.html</u>\ The site includes installation tutorials to help you with the installation and configuration.
- 2. A third-party email client, such as Outlook Express, Netscape Messenger, Entourage, etc. Your computer will likely have at least one of these email clients installed. You can find email client configuration walkthroughs here : <u>http://ncs.unt.edu/gw/howto/internet/</u> If you store your password in the email program to have it automatically log into your account, be sure to update that stored password when you change your GroupWise account password.
- 3. GroupWise Web. You can access your GroupWise email through the web client by logging in at http://gww.unt.edu. This is the easiest way to access your GroupWise email from home because it does not require you to install any software. All you need is an internet connection and a supported internet browser. Supported browsers include IE 6.0+, Firefox, Safari 1.0+, and Epiphany (look here for the full supported browser list:)

Please contact the CITC Helpdesk at 940-565-2324 or <u>helpdesk@unt.edu</u> if you have any questions.

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Minutes provided by Sue Ellen Richey, Recording Secretary^{*}



February 20, 2007

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

The minutes of the January 16, 2007 meeting were approved with the following correction: Page 2, remove the word "that" from the sentence that reads: Tim Christian reported that the Standards & Policy Planning Group is still looking at the Computer Use Policy.

Horizon Wimba Live Classroom product demonstration

Patrick Pluscht presented a demonstration of the Horizon Wimba Live Classroom product. There was some discussion following the demo in which it was stated that Horizon Wimba is capable of hosting many classes at the same time, and that UNT has contracted for 1999 simultaneous users. A question was raised about the company's arrangements for back-up of their system, and their disaster recovery plan. It was pointed out that the product was purchased for use not only by faculty, but by researchers and administrators. It was recommended that for best results a headset or stand-up microphone should be used, rather than use the built-in microphone on a laptop. There was a question raised about whether or not classroom support would be required, and Patrick stated that he didn't think that would be involved in the use of this product, since professors will use it from their home or office. It was pointed out that there are tutorials available for learning how to use the product, but that for the most part it is quite intuitive. It was also noted that the Wimba product does not meet the University's internet delivered course delivery guidelines for providing access to deaf students. Patrick asked those who are interested in trying it out to send him their EUID and a password that would be used only for this product and he would set them up to try it out. Maurice Leatherbury reported that he used the product for a tele-conference meeting recently and it worked quite well. Patrick showed how to run through the "set-up" of the product in order to demonstrate the various security measures that are used by Horizon Wimba. In response to a question about ownership of the class content, Patrick replied that the content of any class belongs to the participant in the class, and the faculty presenter. There was a suggestion that a privacy statement be automatically added to each presentation.

Subscribe to Benchmarks <u>Online</u> Patrick announced that there will be another demo of Horizon Wimba Live Classroom on Thursday, Feb. 22, in Chilton Hall, Room 245, at Noon. A representative of Horizon Wimba will be there.

Distributed Computing Support Management Team ***

Philip Baczewski reported for the Distributed Computing Support Management Team that this committee met on February 2 and 16. On the 2nd, Steve Vocelka reported that electricity will be down for 12 hrs on 2/24/07 in GAB 5th floor for scheduled power maintenance. This will affect the CITC 5th floor machine room areas and the CAS server room. All Central IT services will be down with a few exceptions. The work is in preparation for installation of a backup power generator for Central IT resources. Also at that meeting, Chris Strauss and Don McClure, assisted by Richard Sanzone, provided an overview of the proposed organization of the new Remedy/ITSM 7 call tracking system and demonstrated ticket creation and routing under the proposed organizational scheme. Additionally, the group discussed plans for implementing Office 2007 and Windows Vista. Some areas indicated they might roll out Office 2007 as soon as the Fall 2007 semester. The Outlook 2007 client may also be required to support the migration to the Exchange 2007 mail system.

At the February 16 meeting of DCSMT, Jason Myre discussed the effect of the implementation of the earlier daylight savings time on GroupWise calendar appointments. After the time change, appointments may be off by an hour if they were created before the application of the patch supporting the new daylight savings schedule (last November). Charlotte Russell presented an overview of CITC pandemic planning, and the group received updates on the 2/24 scheduled power outage (including the fact that mail routing will be up during the outage), the Remedy upgrade project, Office 2007 and Windows Vista issues, and Horizon Wimba live classroom security issues. The next meeting of DCSMT is scheduled for March 2.

Maurice Leatherbury announced that he would be sending out a message to UNT staff about the new date for the start of Daylight Savings Time, and the possible ramifications of that change to computerized calendaring. He suggested that everyone watch their calendars and make sure they are correct after March 11th, and suggested that when people send appointments that they send a note along with it warning the recipient to check for the daylight savings time change.

Maurice also announced that on February 24th from 7pm to February 25th at 7am, all central computing systems will be taken down for the purpose of upgrades in the power supply for them. He noted that there is a *Benchmarks* article that gives all the details of this.

Learning Enhancement Group

Patrick Pluscht reported for the Learning Enhancement Group that they are concerned with how to go about selecting the path for UNT's learning systems beyond Vista 3, which is the version now being used. Everyone is very unhappy about WebCT not attending to problems that are brought to them. The committee has been looking at where they will be 18 months from now, and he estimates that to select a new product and migrate everyone to it will take at least that long. At the present time they are developing a plan for choosing the new product, and they have asked the Learning Enhancement steering group to assist; they also plan to include faculty, staff, students and administrators in this process. Patrick brought a proposed charge to his committee before the Council, as follows:

The Information Resources Council charges the Learning Enhancement Planning Group to evaluate Learning Management System (LMS) options to replace WebCT Vista 3.0 and make a recommendation to the IRC by the end of 2007 with final approval of the selected LMS to be sought from the Office of the Provost.

Patrick moved that the IRC grant this planning group the charge as stated above. Uwe Rossbach seconded the motion. There will be a vote on this motion at the March 13 IRC meeting. It was suggested that Patrick work with Purchasing from the very beginning of the acquisition of the new product, in order to make sure they are in compliance with Purchasing rules of procedure.

EIS Planning Group

John Hooper reported for the EIS Planning Group that they have had their kick-off meeting of staff from HSC and UNT who will be involved in the upgrade of EIS Learning Solutions, Oracle and Solaris, as well as a hardware refreshment. John assured everyone that there would not be a lot of dramatic changes to the system. They are continuing to work on the CRM module implementation. For status of the upgrade process, anyone can go to www.EIS.unt.edu and see timelines and information about the upgrades. There is also a calendar on that site that will show planned downtimes in the production environment.

Standards & Policy Planning Group

Tim Christian reported for the Standards & Policy Planning Group that they are revising the Computer Use Policy and plan to bring it to the IRC at its March 13th meeting.

Student Computing Planning Group

Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner reported for the Student Computing Planning Group that the planned Ruckus presentation to the SGA was cancelled when UNT was closed for inclement weather. To date, that presentation has not been rescheduled. Elizabeth reported that she attended the IT Peer Review meeting and noted that there were a lot of students present. She made notes of their comments and as a result, she has had some informal discussions in the General Access Labs and with Philip Baczewski.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

March 13, 2007

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

The minutes of the February 20, 2007 meeting were approved with a note that in the designation, Daylight Saving Time, there is no "s" on the word Saving.

Distributed Computing Support Management Team ***

Philip Baczewski reported for the Distributed Computing Support Management Team that at

their March 2 meeting, Tom Anderson and Keith Cullum of Dell, Inc. were in attendance to provide a current overview of Dell's printing products. Also discussed at that meeting were a review of the GAB power outage, GroupWise Daylight Saving Time issues, a GroupWise Instant Messenger bug, Course Management System issues, CBT software availability, and security incident reporting. Additionally, it was requested that DCSMT investigate deployment of MS Office 2007. A working group was appointed, with Uwe Rossbach as its chair, to identify issues involved with rolling out Office 2007, and develop one or more scenarios outlining how a rollout could be accomplished in a coordinated and efficient way. The next meeting is scheduled for March 16.

Learning Enhancement Planning Group

Patrick Pluscht presented the proposed charge to the Learning Enhancement Planning Group, which had its first reading at the February meeting, and called for discussion and vote. Discussion followed during which Patrick stated that he hopes to have a decision made on what product to use by July or early August and move forward with implementation as soon as the purchase has been negotiated. The current version of WebCT Vista that is being used is not the latest version, and WebCT is not willing to fix anything in this version. For users who do not move to their later version, support will diminish. Patrick stated that it is hoped that conversion to a new product or later version of Vista be accomplished by December of 2007. In answer to a question from Robert Nimocks, it was stated that the system that replaces WebCT Vista will be a real course management system. Patrick reported that a survey has been sent out to the planning group members asking them to weight the criteria to be used in deciding on a product; and a separate features survey will be sent out to faculty and students to see what features they would like to have in the new product. Robert Nimocks commented that the Health Science Center has not been able to get people interested in the current system. Patrick invited HSC to appoint a representative from their school to serve on the Learning Enhancement Planning Group. Dr. Turner noted that there are 50,000 enrollments on Vista this semester, and also added that they are trying to be very conservative about changing and are waiting until the latest possible time to do so. Following the discussion, the proposed new charge was approved.

Communications Planning Group

Lou Ann Bradley stated that the Communications Planning Group has not met, therefore, she had no report.

EIS Planning Group

Robert Jones reported for the EIS Planning Group that the teams have worked very hard to make the needed changes to the computer system to adapt to the early change to Daylight Saving Time. Projects the EIS group is currently working on are: 1) beginning the implementation of the Cognos performance and planning software that the Budget Office will primarily be using in order to streamline the budgeting process for the university. They anticipate that they will be working with consultants to kick-off that implementation during this budget year so that it will be ready for full use by the next budget year; 2) Learning Solutions upgrade is underway; the first week in April resources will be devoted to that implementation; and 3) CRM project, as it relates to Graduate Admissions is on track to begin at the end of April. In response to a question from Uwe Rossbach about EIS compatibility with IE7, Robert stated that PeopleSoft has certified IE7, and he has been using it to test it and has discovered no issues or problems with the new version. He said he would work on getting an official notification of this out to the campus. Patrick noted that WebCT has not yet certified IE7. Cengiz Capan asked if student advising tracking is

included in the CRM project. Robert stated that the initial implementation would be for applicant and prospect tracking in the Admissions office. Cengiz stressed that graduate student advising tracking is a huge need by academic departments and he urged the development of this in EIS.

Student Computing Planning Group

Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner reported for the Student Computing Planning Group that the SkillSoft CBT courseware has been loaded, and it is believed that it interfaces with PeopleSoft. Tim Christian reported for the Standards & Policy Planning Group that the Office of Internal Audit has made some recommendations for changes to the Computer Use Policy and his group is working on those revisions.

Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner expressed concern over the move to Office 2007 because of questions she will be asked at new student orientation sessions regarding what type of computer and software need to be purchased by parents for their students.

Some questions were raised about the Office 2007 product, and concerns expressed about its feature changes. Elizabeth said she would distribute a list of all the training courses that are available through SkillSoft for Office 2007. There will be training on Sharepoint, a new feature of Office 2007, in October of 2007.

Migration from GroupWise to Microsoft Exchange

Maurice Leatherbury reported that he and his staff had met with Dell regarding the planned migration from GroupWise to Microsoft Exchange, as well as a change from Novell Directory to Microsoft Active Directory. It is now clear that there is a need to accelerate the plan to tighten up the campus network by setting up the firewall so that the default is to deny everything instead of accepting everything. CITC will be asking the Communications Planning Group to help with establishing a different way of managing the access to UNT's network from off campus. The Intrusion Detection system will be used and network managers will be asked to identify what protocols they are using, so that plans can be made to allow that kind of use to go through the firewall. Long term, CITC wants to have a dmz (area outside of the firewall) which will allow anybody to put anything up; which will require a lot of extra planning. In addition, they will be putting up vpn to allow access into the campus for those protocols and ports that are known to need protection from outside. Maurice explained that there is a lot yet to be done.

Cengiz Capan expressed his concern over the rising cost of all of the technological improvements that have to be done.

Joe Adamo further explained that there have been recent problems with the firewall going down due to a software bug within the Juniper firewalls. Datacom is working with Juniper, at their highest technical level, to resolve the issues.

Staying within the law

Maurice further reported that CITC is testing a CopySense device that supports the blocks of the transmission of copyrighted materials from campus. There will be some changes to the network and it looks like the device could be turned on within the next month. The RIAA is stepping up pressure on college campuses and is sending out a new wave of subpoenas against students who use campus networks to distribute copyrighted materials. There are some policy issues to deal with in regard to enforcement methods. The device will be used

primarily in RESNET but could be used across campus later. The device will be able to discern the difference between legal and illegal downloads.

Joe Adamo added that Datacom is running a device that is actively detecting rogue wireless access points and will be sending out notices of shut-down through Housing. Rogue access is considered a security incident. Joe clarified that if a student in a dorm is using a laptop with a MAC airport and is wirelessly accessing the network it is considered rogue access. The computer must be attached to a wall outlet in the dorm room. Wireless access is, however, available in common areas of dorms.

It was noted that there is a new Cell phone Policy in effect, due to a significant amount of cell phone use abuse.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

^{*} For a list of IRC Regular and Ex-officio Members click <u>here</u>.

***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 <u>here</u>. All meetings of the IRC, its program groups, and other committees, are open to all faculty, staff, and students.

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You can link to the last RSS article here: <u>Statistical Software and Windows Vista</u> - Ed.

Can Somebody Give Me Some Help Here? *R*: A Short Guide For The Uninitiated

By Dr. Rich Herrington, Academic Computing and User Services, CITC

 \mathbf{R} is a collection of public domain software projects, most of which are licensed under the GNU license (see CRAN). Seasoned R users, in describing the R system to the uninitiated, usually DO NOT describe R as a "statistical package", but rather as a programming and development environment for statistical and graphical data analysis. This declaration can have a rather "off-putting" sound to it; however, to characterize the R project (and related projects, e.g. Omega Project) as merely a "stat" package is at best an understatement, and at worst a gross mischaracterization. R is NOT just an amazing collection of modern data analysis and statistical modeling tools - it is something more. The R project may have started as a <u>"stone soup</u>" collaborative, but it has in more than 10 years time grown in both size, and respectability within the communities of both academic and practicing statisticians and computational scientists. For example, a number of inter-disciplinary conferences have been organized to encourage the innovative use of R in training and research in the computational sciences and, in general, various scientific disciplines. Two notable conferences are the UseR! and DSC conferences. Perhaps, to underscore the importance of this initiative from the perspective of a wider audience, it is interesting to point out that the <u>UseR! 2006</u> was in part sponsored by such notable corporate entities as: American Airlines, Merck, Wiley, Springer, Taylor and Francis (among others), and (in my mind) most importantly the American Statistical Association. To quote the UseR! 2006 website: "....the program will focus on:

- R as the `lingua franca' of data analysis and statistical computing.
- providing a platform for R users to discuss and exchange ideas how R can be used to do statistical computations, data analysis, visualization and exciting applications in various fields.

Subscribe to Benchmarks Online • giving an overview of the new features of the rapidly evolving R project....."

Surely, part of the excitement regarding R, is that the development of R has NOT only focused on the theoretical and methodological aspects of data analysis and graphical visualization. In other words, R is NOT just a <u>"statistical package"</u>. R bears a strong resemblance to a scripting or programming language that allows for operating system level activities. For example, R could be thought of as having a strong resemblance in its capabilities to such indispensable operating system tools such as <u>Perl</u> or <u>Bash</u>. The <u>R</u> <u>development team</u> (and thousands of contributors worldwide) have reused much of the GNU utilities and applications to great advantage. Here is a listing of a few notable examples:

- The R system provides <u>connections to GNU databases</u> such as <u>MySQL</u> and <u>PostGreSQL</u> as well as commercial databases, e.g. <u>Oracle</u>.
- R allows for the capability of <u>"imbedding" Perl, Python</u> and Java within the R language (and vice-versa) that is, Perl, Python, and Java function calls from within an R script allow for an exchange of functionality and data between the foreign language environments and R (for Java see <u>SJava</u>).
- <u>APIs</u> exist for using <u>window widget constructors within R</u>, based on Java, <u>Tcl-Tk</u>, <u>Gtk</u> and others useful for building menu driven user environments.
- Many utilities exist within R for manipulating <u>HTML and XML</u> based documents. The package <u>"R2HTML"</u> converts R objects to HTML output.
- An R client session can use the operating system <u>TCP/IP</u> stack and act as a HTTP client in both writing and receiving information (e.g. <u>GET and POST</u>) on an TCP/IP information network R uses utilities such as <u>"wget"</u> and <u>"cURL"</u> (e.g. see R package <u>"Rcurl"</u>; for discussion and examples see the JSS paper submitted by Duncan Lang).
- <u>R can be utilized as a "CGI"</u> scripting language for populating web pages with dynamic content (also see <u>RApache</u> presentation; <u>RApache project page</u>).

This discussion of the versatility of R for system level activities might deemphasize the fact that the R system is primarily used for most researchers as a data analysis and statistical modeling tool. Although, in previous columns, I have emphasized the advantages in using R in an educational setting for teaching elementary and advanced statistics. There are far more user contributed packages available covering the statistical and graphical modeling of data (there are over a thousand user contributed packages available on the CRAN website). The "CRAN Task View" of the package content on CRAN gives a thematic view of the available packages and should help in locating information on packages that are of primary interest:

CRAN Task Views

Bayesian	Bayesian Inference	
Cluster	Cluster Analysis & Finite Mixture Models	
Econometrics	Computational Econometrics	
Environmetrics	Analysis of ecological and environmental data	
Finance	Empirical Finance	
Genetics	Statistical Genetics	
Graphics	Graphic Displays & Dynamic Graphics & Graphic Devices & Visualization	
MachineLearning Machine Learning & Statistical Learning		
Multivariate	Multivariate Statistics	
SocialSciences	Statistics for the Social Sciences	
Spatial	Analysis of Spatial Data	
gR	gRaphical models in R	

To automatically install these views, the ctv package needs to be installed, e.g., via install.packages("ctv") and then the views can be installed via install.views (after loading ctv), e.g., install.views("Econometrics")

Searching Web Forums For Help Using R

Q: What About R and Windows Vista?

R has a very well developed help system which includes both windows compiled help files (CHM) and browser based HTML help files. Additionally, many high quality manuals are provided. The user community contributes through active forums and user contributed documents and tutorials . A number of websites feature Google searching of the archives of the many available forum websites (e.g. Jonathon Baron's website). With so many packages, so much functionality, and so many websites devoted to R, how is one to find help and direction that one needs during an ongoing session? Here, we will demonstrate the use of a function within R that capitalizes on R's ability to function as a web client. In an active R session we search within the R help for the function "RSiteSearch":

R Console Ele Edit Misc Packages Help > help(RSiteSearch) Help for 'RSiteSearch' is shown in the browser > RSiteSearch("Windows Vista") A search query has been submitted to http://search.r-project.org The results page should open in your browser shortly >

First we use the help function to look for the details on the <u>"RsiteSearch" function</u>. Our question concerns any discussions that might be related to the use of <u>Windows Vista</u> with R. Searching on "Windows Vista" opens the default web browser and returns search results that are graded according to the degree of match with your query:

R Site Search

Note: more than two search terms may fail.	
Query: Windows Vista	Search! [How to search]
Display: 20 💌 Description: normal 💌 Sort:	: by score
Target:	
Functions	
Documents	
💌 R-help 2002-	
Rhelp 1997-2001	
R-devel	
Results:	

References:

- docs: [Windows: 16] [Vista: 2] [TOTAL: 2]
- functions: [Windows: 294] [Vista: 0] [TOTAL: 0]
- Rhelp02a: [Windows (Too many documents hit. Ignored)] [Vista: 95] [TOTAL: 95]

Total 97 documents matching your query.

 [R] Regarding Vista from christian.ritter at shell.com on 2007-03-28 (stdin) (score: 59) Author: christian.ritter at shell.com (christian.ritter)" /> <meta name="Subject" con content="2007-03-28" /> <style type="text/css
 Date: Sun, 01 Apr 2007 08:54:23 -0500 [R] Regarding Vista This message: [Message body] [More options] Related messages: Next message] [Alberto Monteiro: "[R] Help with http://finzi.psych.upenn.edu/R/Rhelp02a/archive/96296.html (11,700 bytes)

2. [R] Regarding Vista from Prof Brian Ripley on 2007-03-28 (stdin) (score: 57)

Author: Prof Brian Ripley (ripley)" /> <meta name="Subject" content="[R] Regard /> <style type="text/css Date: Sun, 01 Apr 2007 08:54:23 -0500

[R] Regarding **Vista** This message: [Message body] [More options] Related messages: Schwartz: "[R] Import of a workspace into R" Pr

http://finzi.psych.upenn.edu/R/Rhelp02a/archive/96293.html (10,926 bytes)

Lastly, I would like point out that my experience with the R user community has been very positive. Folks are quick to give tips and advice....but remember, as with most computer

oriented user forums <u>RTFM</u> is mandatory if you wish to <u>avoid being flamed</u>. Good luck in your forays into the world of R!.

Web References

- <u>R FAQ</u>
- CRAN website
- Introduction to R

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Helpdesk FYI

Short Courses

IRC News

Short Courses

By Claudia Lynch, Benchmarks Online Editor

Short courses are over for the semester. Surf over to the <u>Short Courses</u> page to register to see the sorts of courses that will probably be offered this summer.

Due to staff changes, courses offered in the past under the "Wide Area Network & Information Systems Courses" subheading such as "Getting Started with Dreamweaver" and "Moving from FrontPage to Dreamweaver" will not be taught – at this point – this spring. We hope to be able to offer courses like these soon. In the meantime, please consult the new computer based training website to see what offerings that are available: <u>http://www.unt.edu/cbt/</u>

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, <u>lynch@unt.edu</u>).

Especially for Faculty and Staff Members

In addition to the <u>ACS Short Courses</u>, which are available to students, faculty and staff, staff and faculty members can take courses offered through the <u>Human Resources</u> Department, and the <u>Center for Distributed Learning</u>. Additionally, the Center for Continuing Education and Conference Management offers a variety of <u>courses</u> 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

Moving from GroupWise to Microsoft Outlook Training

Staff Activities

Subscribe to Benchmarks <u>Online</u> The article "E-Mail Migration Project Update" in this issue discusses plans and **lists resources** for preparing the campus community for this transition.

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 <u>here</u>.

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 <u>Center for Distributed Learning</u> Website.

Center for Teaching, Learning, and Assessment

The <u>Center for Teaching</u>, <u>Learning and Assessment</u> 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."

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 <u>site</u> 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 <u>http://www.unt.edu/minicourses/</u>

Center for Media Production (CMP)

According to their website:

CMP Certified Software Training

Affordable software training is available at the Center for Media Production on the UNT-Denton campus. Upon completion, participants will receive a certificate as "CMP Certified" in that particular course. In addition, UNT students may record this activity on their Eagle Transcript (through the Student Activities office) and UNT Faculty and Staff can receive training credit on their HR training record.

All training classes provide 12 hours of instruction over 4 class meeting days and conclude with the certification exam. Training is hands-on, and class sizes are small.

E-mail inquiries to <u>cmptraining@unt.edu</u>

Recently, courses have been offered in Adobe Creative Suite (CS2) software, including InDesign and Illustrator (at both Introductory and Advanced levels). Dreamweaver introductory courses are also being offered.

Alternate Forms of Training

Many of the <u>General Access Labs</u> around campus have tutorials installed on their computers. The Library has a <u>Computer Training Resources</u> webpage with lots of resources listed. The <u>Training</u> 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 <u>website</u>. Note, also, the article in the March issue of *Benchmarks Online*, <u>"New SkillPort Training Site</u> <u>Loaded and Catalogued."</u>

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Transitions

New Employees:

• Kevin Blake Meyer, Data Communications Analyst, Data Communications.

No longer working in the Computing and Information Technology Center:

- Daniel Glass, Computer Systems Manager, Unix Support Services.
- Sharon McSherry, Programmer on the UNT Fiscal Data Systems Team.
- David Wood, Computer Systems Manager, Information Security.

Awards, Recognition, Publications, etc.

New Baby

Pablo Ozuna, Programmer, UNT/HSC Fiscal Systems, and his wife Karin are the proud parents of a son, Christopher Corbett Ozuna, born on February 13.

Publication

Scott Yockel, Computer Systems Manager, Academic Computing and User Services, is coauthor of a article *Photophysics and Bonding in Neutral Gold(I) Organometallic Complexes with an Extended Aurophilic Supramolecular Structure*, that was <u>released on the Web</u> March 31, 2007.

Award Nomination

Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner, Student Computing Services Manager, is a finalist for the 2007 Association for Recorded Sound Collections Awards for Excellence in Historical Recorded Sound Research (ARSC). The 2007 ARSC awards will be presented during ARSC's <u>annual</u> <u>conference</u> to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from May 2-5, 2007.

Soaring Eagles

Staff Activities

Subscribe to Benchmarks <u>Online</u> The following people were recognized at the President's Staff Lunch on May 8. Their names appeared in the April *Human Resources Newsletter*:

- Sanden Cottongame, Computer Systems Manager, Central Web Support.
- Marsha Parr, Data Entry Operator.
- Jon Starkweather, Research and Statistical Support Services Consultant, ACS.
- Steve Voncelka, Computer Operations Manager.

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