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 benchmarks@unt.edu

Benchmarks Online

Campus Computing News

Everything You Need to Know About Computing Resources at the University of North Texas

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

The time has come, once again, to review the computing resources that are available to the UNT campus community. Many resources are available regardless of status - students, faculty or staff. Others are available only to a subset of those people, usually either students *or* faculty and staff. With that in mind, the articles and links below will lead you to all sorts of useful information.

Students

[What Every UNT Student Should Know About Computing Services](#) - This article covers a wide variety of computing services and resources available to students: E-mail, *my*unt, General Access Computer Labs, UNT Student Storage, ResNet, Eaglenet Wireless Network, free anti-virus software, CITC Helpdesk, various training opportunities, and Research and Statistical Support services.

[Detailed Map of General Access Computer Lab System Now Available](#) - to assist students in finding all of the general computing resources available to them on the Denton Campus and at the Research Park.

[Inexpensive Software Available to Students](#) - "the University Bookstore has a variety of software available for students at greatly discounted educational prices."

Faculty, Staff and Students

Accessibility - The ACS General Access [Lab](#), in ISB 110, has as the mission "to provide general services to the UNT community with an emphasis on the special features that Academic Computing Services has to offer including helpdesk support and research assistance. Additionally the ACS lab is the designated adaptive lab on campus providing state-of-the-art adaptive equipment for those who need it. For more information about adaptive services on the UNT campus visit the [Office of Disability Accommodation](#)." Recent developments with adaptive software at UNT are chronicled in this issue of *Benchmarks Online* (see the article index on the left of this page).

[CITC Helpdesk](#) - Need Help? This is the place to come for assistance. The website includes the handy [Quick Guide to UNT Computing Resources](#).

Eaglenet, the wireless network - this website includes a "Quick Start Guide," Eaglenet configuration requirements, Wireless Network FAQ's, the Network Connections Policy and many other useful bits of information.

Peer-to-Peer Software and You - the unauthorized or illegal use of peer-to-peer (P2P) software on state computer systems is prohibited, that includes ResNet.

Who Are You? *Computer User Identification at UNT* - This article answers questions about the number of ways to make ourselves known to the computers on campus, depending on the setting.

Gartner Core Research Services Now Available to the UNT Community - "Gartner Core Research contains a large base of knowledge regarding IT technologies, markets, and industries. It supplies easy access to data and analysis about the latest news, trends, products, and insights within the field of information technology. The Research for Higher Education section is designed to meet the specific needs of students, faculty and staff as well as technology professionals within the University. It offers unparalleled depth and breadth of research developed by analysts who have extensive backgrounds and it strives for objectivity and independence."

Why Strong Passwords? - discusses the rationale behind the strong password requirements here at UNT.

Computer Security - tips and resources to help you and the UNT community (pdf).

Copyright Laws - Copyright and file sharing: UNT policy and federal laws (pdf).

Research and Statistical Support - "The mission of the Research and Statistical Support (RSS) group at the University of North Texas (UNT) is to facilitate access to current research tools and statistical methodologies and to promote these methods to the research, instructional, and administrative communities at UNT; to encourage a collaborative research environment for researchers through the development and use of innovative computing technologies; to provide training and consultation in the appropriate use of statistical methodologies and computer software; and to facilitate access to data collection and data management technologies. "

Training

Computer-based training (CBT):

Welcome to Computer-Based Training at UNT for Students, Faculty, and Staff

SkillSoft Site Re-organized With New Course Offerings

SkillPort and Thomson NETg Offer Easy-to-use Browser Compatibility Testing for Online Learning

Using the Adobe Education Website - Revised November 2005

Short Courses:

Every semester Academic Computing Services (ACS) offers a series of short courses for the university community. Many of them are research-related.

Other training resources

Faculty and Staff

Microsoft Products Available to UNT Employees at Low Cost - "For a number of years, UNT has had an agreement with Microsoft that allows us to distribute various Microsoft products to employees of the University . . .This agreement does not cover students unless those students are also UNT employees, nor does it cover UNT Health Science Center employees."

What is UNT's policy with regard to GroupWise mail? - detailed discussion of the expectations and options for faculty and staff with regard to GroupWise mail.

Electronic Records: (Almost) Everything You Need to Know: Part I - this article begins the process of answering the question "Why is 'records management' important?"

Data Security and Identity Theft at UNT - all of us have to be increasingly vigilant about protecting our computing resources, this article details ways to accomplish that.

Faculty Evaluation Processing Tips - "some helpful tips on preparing your department's evaluations for processing by Data Management."

Enterprise Information Systems Update - "theEnterprise is a quarterly news update aimed at sharing information on current trends, project updates and upcoming training opportunities available to staff." Click here for the latest issue.

Faculty

The Center for Distributed Learning (CDL) - "a service to assist faculty with the development and delivery of distributed learning at UNT. The Center combines technology resources with expert consultation and personnel, in an effort to provide faculty with a "one-stop" guide to technology-based courses."

Using Turnitin to Prevent Plagiarism - "Instructors at the University of North Texas have access to Turnitin's plagiarism prevention system to deter plagiarism and promote academic integrity."

Benchmarks Online

Semester Break Hours

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

Classes are over for the summer and fall classes won't begin until August 28. Following are the hours for Computing and Information Technology Center-managed facilities during the break. The **Helpdesk** plans, at this point, to be open their normal hours through the rest of the summer.

- The **ACS General Access/Adaptive Lab** ([ISB 110]):

  Monday-Friday, August 14 - 18: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
  Saturday, August 19: **Closed**
  Sunday, August 20: **Closed**
  Monday-Friday, August 21 - 25: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
  Saturday, August 26: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
  Sunday, August 27: 1 p.m. - 9:45 p.m.

Hours for Other Campus Facilities[*]

General Access Labs

- [WILLIS]:

  Monday-Friday, August 14-18: Open 8 a.m.-5:50 p.m.
  Saturday & Sunday, August 19-20: **Closed**
  Monday-Thursday, August 21-24: Open 8 a.m.-5:50 p.m.
  Friday, August 25: Open 8 a.m.-11:50 a.m.
  Saturday, August 26: **Closed**
  Sunday, August 27: Open at 1 p.m. & return to 24hr schedule

- [SLIS]:

  Saturday, August 12 - Sunday, August 20: **Closed**
  Monday, August 21 - Saturday, August 26: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
  Sunday, August 27: **Closed**

- [MUSIC]:

  Closed for Semester Break: August 12 - 27

- [PACS Computing Center] (formerly SCS & SMHM):

  Closed for Semester Break: August 12 - 27

- [SOVA]:

Closed for Semester Break: August 12 - 27

- [COE](#):

  - **Closed for Semester Break: August 12 - 27**

- [COBA](#):

  Closed for Semester Break: August 12 - 25

- [CAS](#):

  GAB 330: Closed for Semester Break: August 12 - 27

  GAB 550: Closed for Semester Break: August 12 - 27

  Terrill 220: Closed for Semester Break: August 12 - 27

  Wooten 120: Closed for Semester Break: August 12 - 27

- **UNT [Dallas Campus](#) - 155A**

  Monday-Friday, August 14-18: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
  Saturday & Sunday, August 19,20: **Closed**
  Monday-Friday, August 21 - 25: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
  Saturday, August 26: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
  Sunday, August 27: **Closed**

- **[Engineering](#) General Access Lab (englab@unt.edu, Research Park, B129, 891-6733)**

  - **Closed for Semester Break: August 12 - 27**

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*Hours for additional areas and services are discussed in this recent *InHouse* article, ["Operating hours to change for many campus services prior to fall semester start "](#).

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Changes in PACS Lab Hours, Library Offerings

By Claudia Lynch, *Benchmarks Online* Editor

PACS Computing Center - Chilton Hall

Jackie Stanczyk has informed us that beginning Monday, August 28, 2006, the Chilton Hall general access computer lab will be open 24 hours during weekdays. Located in room 255 of Chilton Hall, the computer lab will open at noon on Sundays and remain open until 6 p.m. on Fridays. Saturday hours are 7 a.m. until 6 p.m.

> Fall Hours:
>
> Sunday Open at Noon
> Monday - Thursday Open 24 hours
> Friday Close at 6 p.m.
> Saturday 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

For more information, please visit the lab website at www.pacs.unt.edu/computing.html or call 940-565-3460.

New Login Process for Public Workstations in the UNT Libraries

Judy Hunter informs us that the libraries have a new login process for their public workstations. When a registered student uses a machine and logs in using their EUID and password they will be given access to applications that the University has a site license for. The applications currently available on the machines include:

- Office suite
- putty
- winscp
- IE
- firefox
- Adobe acrobat

- SPSS 14 *coming soon*
- Adobe Photoshop *coming soon*

This service is only for individuals who have a current and active EUID and password. If their account does not work they can sign in as a guest but will only have access to the web browsing, similar to the set up the library has always had. These machines are wiped on reboot so individuals should not plan on saving to the workstation. Also, printing costs 10

cents a page in the libraries proper, but remains free in the General Access Labs.

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JAWS 7.0 and MAGic 9.5 have arrived!

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

JAWS 7.0 has arrived and is now available for on-campus distribution. New features include a license-server-management system (no more authorization floppy disks!) and the ability to read PDF documents. Additionally, the Computing and Information Technology Center has also purchased **MAGic 9.5**, Freedom Scientific's screen reading answer to **Zoomtext**. MAGic has all of the features of Zoomtext but does not face the same software incompatibility hurdles that Zoomtext did on machines that also contain JAWS. (note: Zoomtext 8 is still available for campus use)

User instructions on how to work with JAWS are available at www.unt.edu/ACSGAL - the ACS/Adaptive General Access Lab website. The lab staff is in the process of adding a 'reading PDFs with JAWS' section to that tutorial. Additionally, the staff is developing a tutorial for MAGic use (but anyone who is familiar with how to use Zoomtext will not have any trouble getting around MAGic).

Network managers and computer support personnel can pick up cd-roms of JAWS and MAGic from the adaptive software license administrator, Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner, in ISB 129 (call first - x4808). Instructions on how to install JAWS and MAGic are below. Computer personnel need to note that they must also contact Hinkle-Turner for the DNS name of the license manager server.
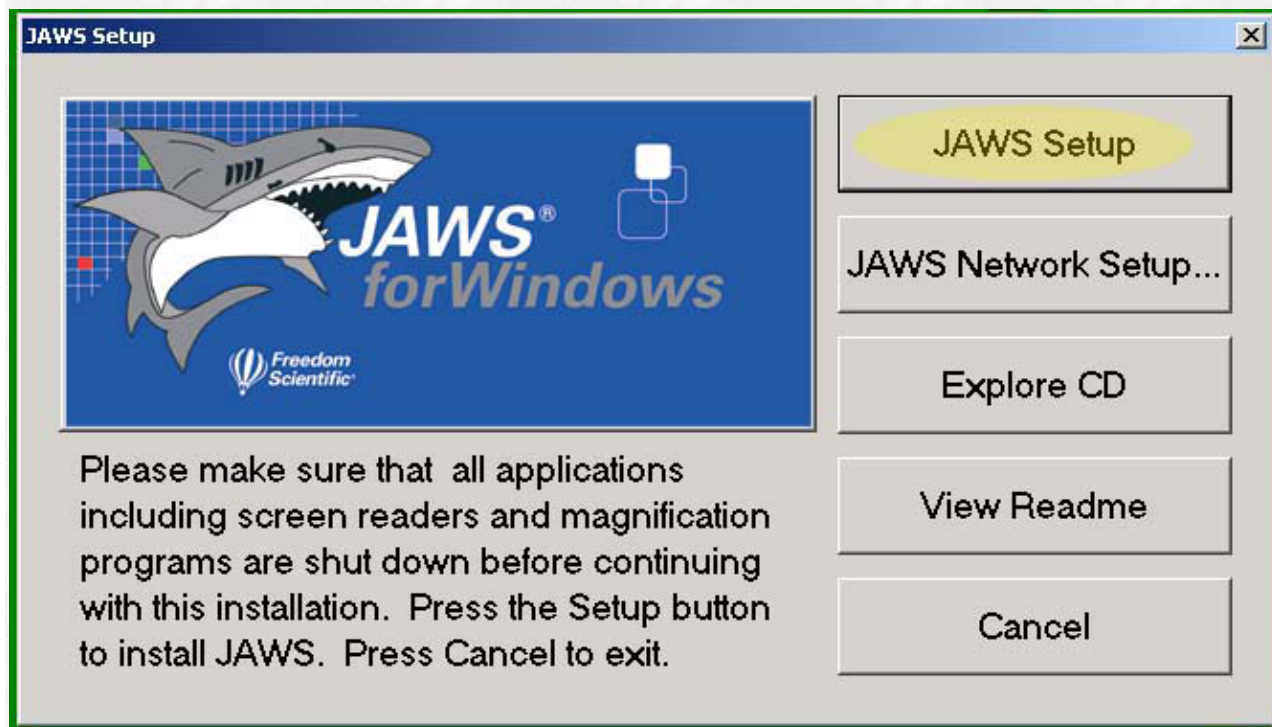
Freedom Scientific has just released the 10.0 version of MAGic but that is not yet available in the concurrent license format we use. As soon as it becomes available, we will receive our copies. Any further questions about JAWS, MAGic or other adaptive software and hardware on campus can be directed to Hinkle-Turner at the phone number listed above or the email address ehinkle@unt.edu.
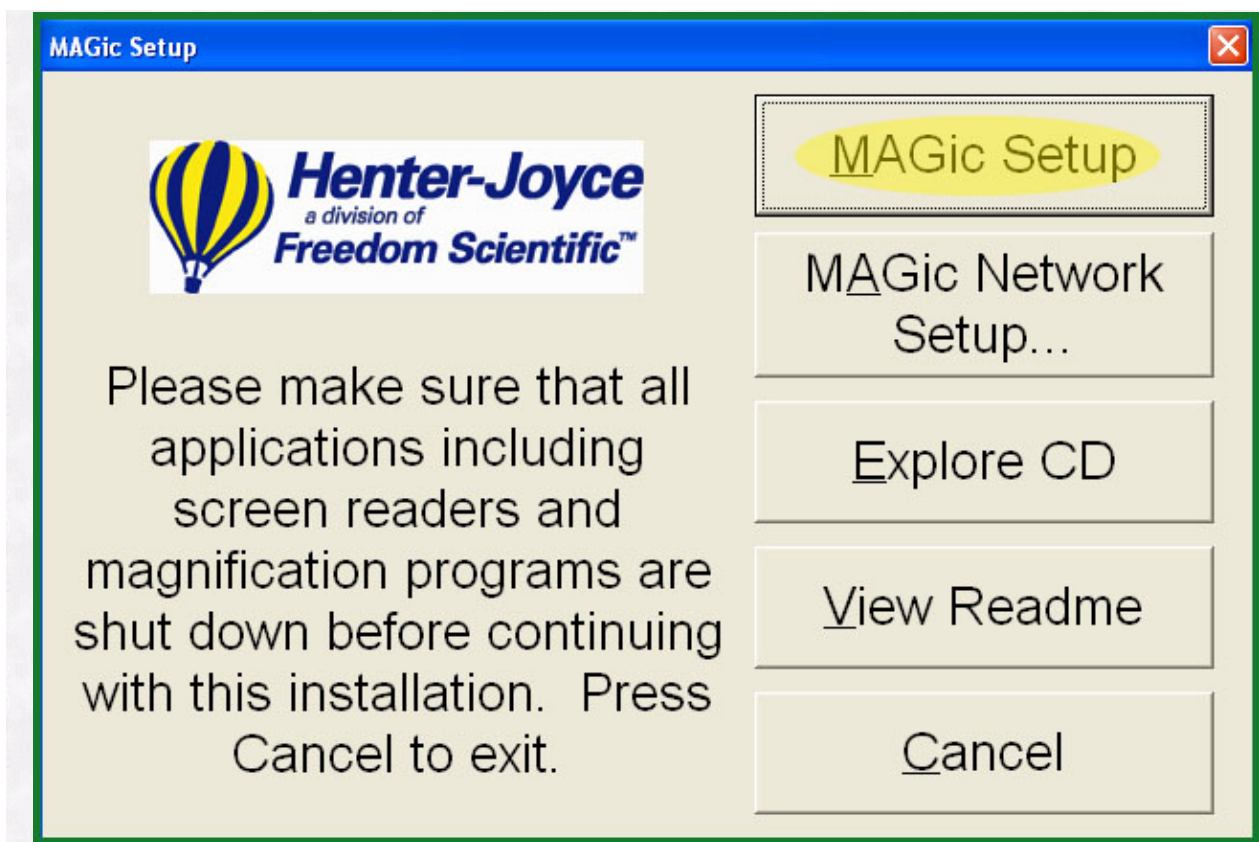
Instructions for Computing Support Personnel on installing JAWS and MAGic

1. Log in with admin rights to the Windows XP machine upon which you wish to install JAWS and/or MAGic (according to FS they do not work with Win2000 or NT).

2. You must first set up the workstation to look for the correct location for the license server **[note: you**

must contact the license server manager at ehinkle@unt.edu to get the name of the license server]: To force the workstation to look for the correct location for the JAWS (MAGIC) license, add the environment variable **LSFORCEHOST=*nameofserver*.acs.unt.edu** as a system variable. [How to do this: Right-click MY COMPUTER and then click PROPERTIES; click the ADVANCED tab; Click ENVIRONMENT VARIABLES; click NEW to add a new system variable name and value : **name=LSFORCEHOST and value=*nameoflicenseserver*.acs.unt.edu**]

3. Insert JAWS (or MAGic) application CD into the machine. Choose JAWS SETUP (NOT JAWS network setup!) from the menu:

JAWS 7.0 and MAGic 9.5 have arrived!

MAGic Setup

Henter-Joyce
a division of
Freedom Scientific™

Please make sure that all applications including screen readers and magnification programs are shut down before continuing with this installation. Press Cancel to exit.

- MAGic Setup
- MAGic Network Setup...
- Explore CD
- View Readme
- Cancel

4. Choose 'Continue without Speech' (no need to reboot)

5. To begin installation, press Enter

6. For most installations, choose 'Automatic' is appropriate (answer 'no' to any additional options or freebies it might ask you about – you just want the application)

7. JAWS or MAGic will be installed / you may be prompted to reboot (I wasn't)

8. Open up JAWS or MAGic on your machine and voilà! it starts and it works! :-)

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MAGic 9.5 - Basic Tutorial: Control Buttons

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

The following is a basic tutorial on how MAGic 9.5 (Freedom Scientific's "answer" to Zoomtext) works. MAGic 9.5 can be gotten for installation by the UNT network managers and tech support staff by coming by the ISB 129 office of Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner. Much of this tutorial is derived from the documentation that comes with MAGic. A complete instruction booklet for the application is also available from Hinkle-Turner.

MAGic is a software solution ideally suited for computer users with low vision, or anyone who spends extended periods of time in front of a computer screen. MAGic lets you magnify your computer screen from 1 to 16 times its usual size. You can choose from a number of different adjustable views that let you see both a magnified and unmagnified portion of the screen at the same time.

How to Use MAGic

MAGic is quite easy to use and the majority of the options are self-explanatory. Below are pictures of the MAGic interface with explanations of the most widely-used options. Please ask a lab consultant if you need further description or assistance with MAGic. Our lab consultants have been specially trained on this software.
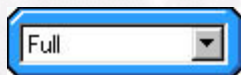
Magnification Button - Use the Magnification button to turn magnification on or off. **(Hot Key: CapsLock+Delete Key)**

Magnification Level Buttons - Increase or decrease magnification level with these buttons. **(Hot Keys: Increase Magnification: CTRL+EQUALS, Decrease Magnification: CTRL+DASH)**

Magnified Views List - You can select **Full**, **Lens**, **Dynamic Lens**, **Overlay**, or **Split** view.

Mouse Enhancements Button - Use the Mouse Enhancements button to enable/disable enhancements and modifications for your mouse pointer.

Cursor Enhancements Button - Use the Cursor Enhancements button to enable/disable enhancements for your cursor. To specify which enhancements you want to use, open the **Magnification** menu and   choose **Cursor Enhancements**.

Color Enhancements Button - Use the Color Enhancements button to enable/disable color enhancements. To specify your color enhancement settings, open the **Magnification** menu and choose **Color Enhancements**.

Resize View Button - When working in Split, Overlay, or

Lens, or Dynamic Lens views, use the **Resize View** button to resize or move the view.

Locator Button - Use the Locator button to activate the Locator, which you can use to find items on your screen. Change the properties of the Locator with the **Locator Properties** dialog box, which you can access from the **Magnification** menu.

Smoothing Button - Choose the Smoothing button to smooth the appearance of jagged letters in a magnified state.

Speech Button - Click this button to enable or disable speech. **(Hot Key: CapsLock+F3)**

Mouse Echo Button - Click this button to toggle the mouse echo. To set mouse echo to announce lines or words, right click the button and make your selection from the context menu.

Typing Echo Button - Click this button to toggle the typing echo on and off. To specify the typing echo to words or characters, you need to activate the **Typing Echo** dialog box from the **Speech** menu, or right-click and choose **Automatically Speak**.

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Skip Navigation Links

Reading and Accessing Adobe PDF's with JAWS

By **Mikal Hensarling**, ACS/Adaptive Tech Support

JAWS 7.0 (newly arrived on campus) gives one the ability to read Adobe PDF's with this screen-reading software. This is a major step forward in online accessibility and should be especially helpful to our UNT students with vision issues who are taking WebCT courses and also checking out other information and forms on the UNT website. Below is a tutorial - based on documentation by Freedom Scientific - about reading PDF's with JAWS 7.0 and also checking PDFs for disability compliance issues.

Document Presentation Mode

Document Presentation Mode allows you to read tables by row, just as they are presented on the screen. This mode is useful with HTML pages and PDFs alike. With this feature, you can change how JAWS structures HTML pages and other virtual documents (such as PDF documents) in the virtual buffer. If you select "Simple Layout," each cell in the table is displayed on a separate line. This is the default layout, and the behavior should be familiar to users of JAWS 6.20 and earlier. If you select "Screen Layout," pages are rendered in the virtual buffer in a way that is more similar to what a sighted user sees on the screen. All items in a single table row are displayed on the same line, and each column is separated by a vertical bar. This helps you better understand the overall table design as well as the relationship between table cells in each row.

To switch to Screen Layout mode temporarily, press INSERT+V. Alternatively, you can change this option for the current Web site by pressing INSERT+SHIFT+V. Select "Document Presentation" and press the SPACEBAR to choose "Screen Layout." You can permanently change this setting on the Misc tab of the HTML Options dialog in Configuration Manager.

This new feature is especially useful for copying and pasting table information from virtual documents. Because all text in the row appears on the same line,

you can easily select all the text in every cell in a row with SHIFT+DOWN ARROW. Alternatively, you can press F8 to select the entire table (if you are at the beginning). When you copy and paste the row(s) or table into another document, the text of each cell is separated by a vertical bar to preserve readability. You can even use the enhanced functionality of FSClipboard to copy non-contiguous rows or rows from different tables and then paste them all into another document.

The Accessibility Setup Assistant

When you first start Adobe Reader 7 and JAWS or MAGic are running, an Accessibility Setup Assistant dialog box opens and walks you through some simple steps to optimize Adobe Reader for your adaptive software. If you miss this dialog the first time you start Adobe Reader 7 you can open it from the Help menu.

> NOTE: All of the options found in the Accessibility Setup Assistant are also found individually in the Adobe Reader 7 Preferences dialog.

> You can access the Preferences dialog from the Edit menu or by pressing CTRL+K.

Accessibility Quick Check for PDF Files

To do a quick check of a document's accessibility, go to the Document menu and choose Accessibility Quick Check. A dialog box opens giving you a summary of how the document is set up.

> Accessibility Quick Check Examples

> This document appears to contain no text. It may be a scanned image.

> This document is not structured so the reading order may not be correct.

> Try different reading orders using the Reading Preferences panel

Forms Mode in PDF Documents with JAWS

JAWS uses the virtual cursor when reading PDF documents, just as it does when you are reading Web pages or HTML documents. When you encounter a PDF form, press the TAB key to move from field to field. Pressing ENTER while in an edit field turns on Forms Mode and you are able to type in information as needed. To get out of Forms Mode, press the NUM PAD PLUS key.

For more information visit Freedom Scientific at JAWS pdf training or JAWS 7.0

For more extensive documentation read the Guide to Adobe Reader for Users with Disabilities

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SPSS 14 and LISREL 8.7 are Now Available on the Markov Server

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

SPSS 14 and LISREL 8.7 are now available on the MARKOV statistics server. SPSS 14 features a new licensing server setup which is explained below. All technical questions about accessing SPSS and LISREL on the MARKOV server should be directed to Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner at ehinkle@unt.edu.

All other questions about the software including licensing arrangements and short course and training requests should be directed to the Research and Statistical Support Services personnel. The RSS website is located at www.unt.edu/rss.

Instructions for * *Computing Support Personnel* * for installing SPSS 14 in their areas:

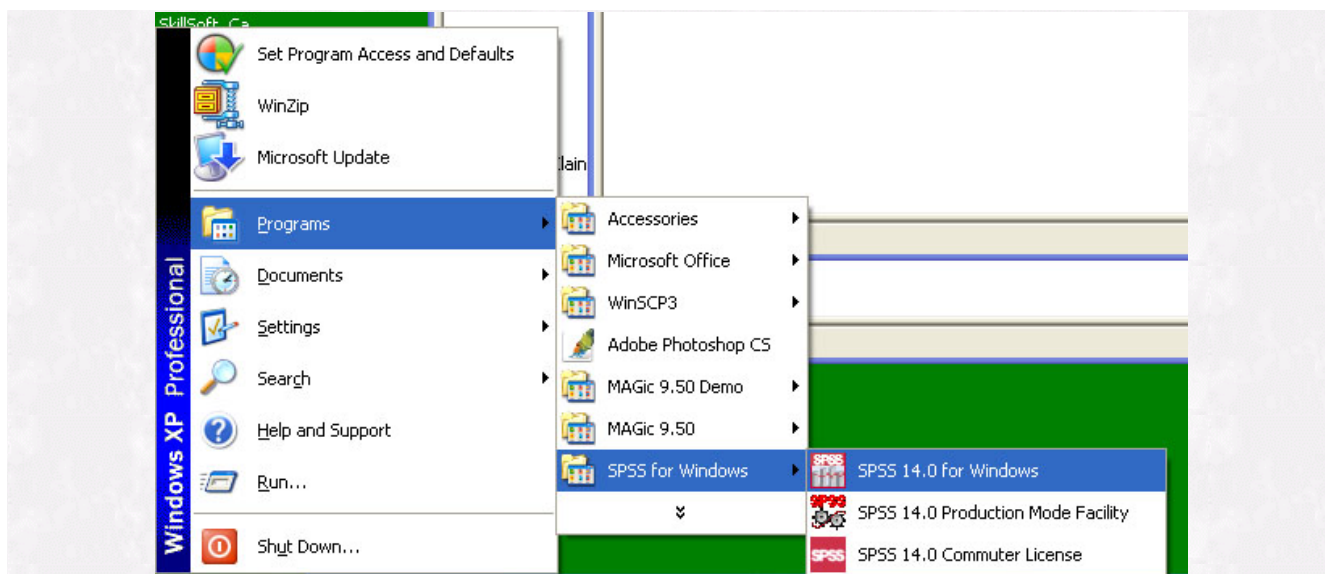1. Location of SPSS 14 for Windows on Markov:
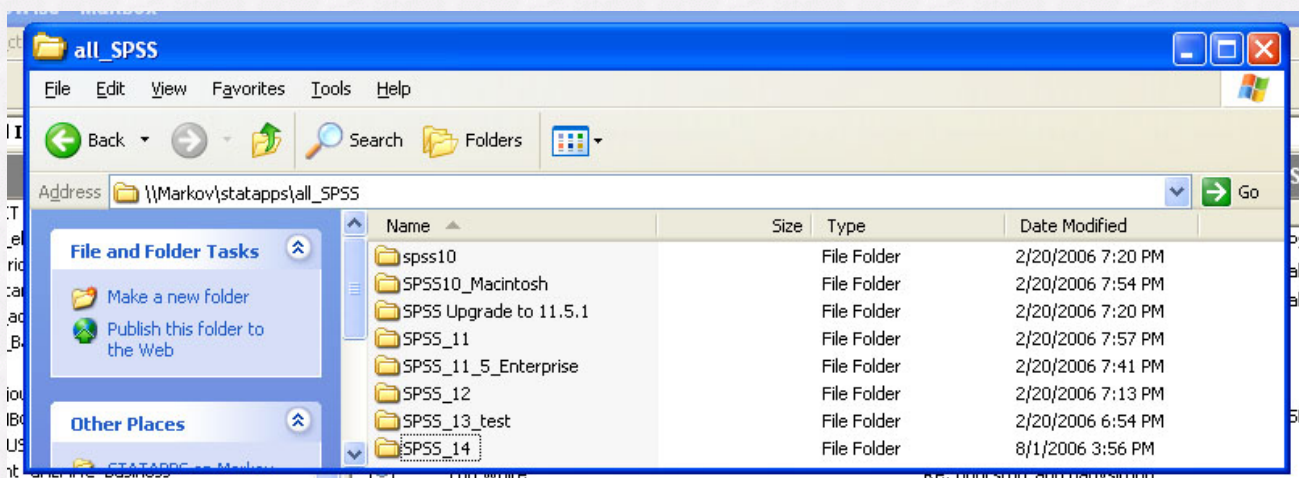
2. Choose Network license:
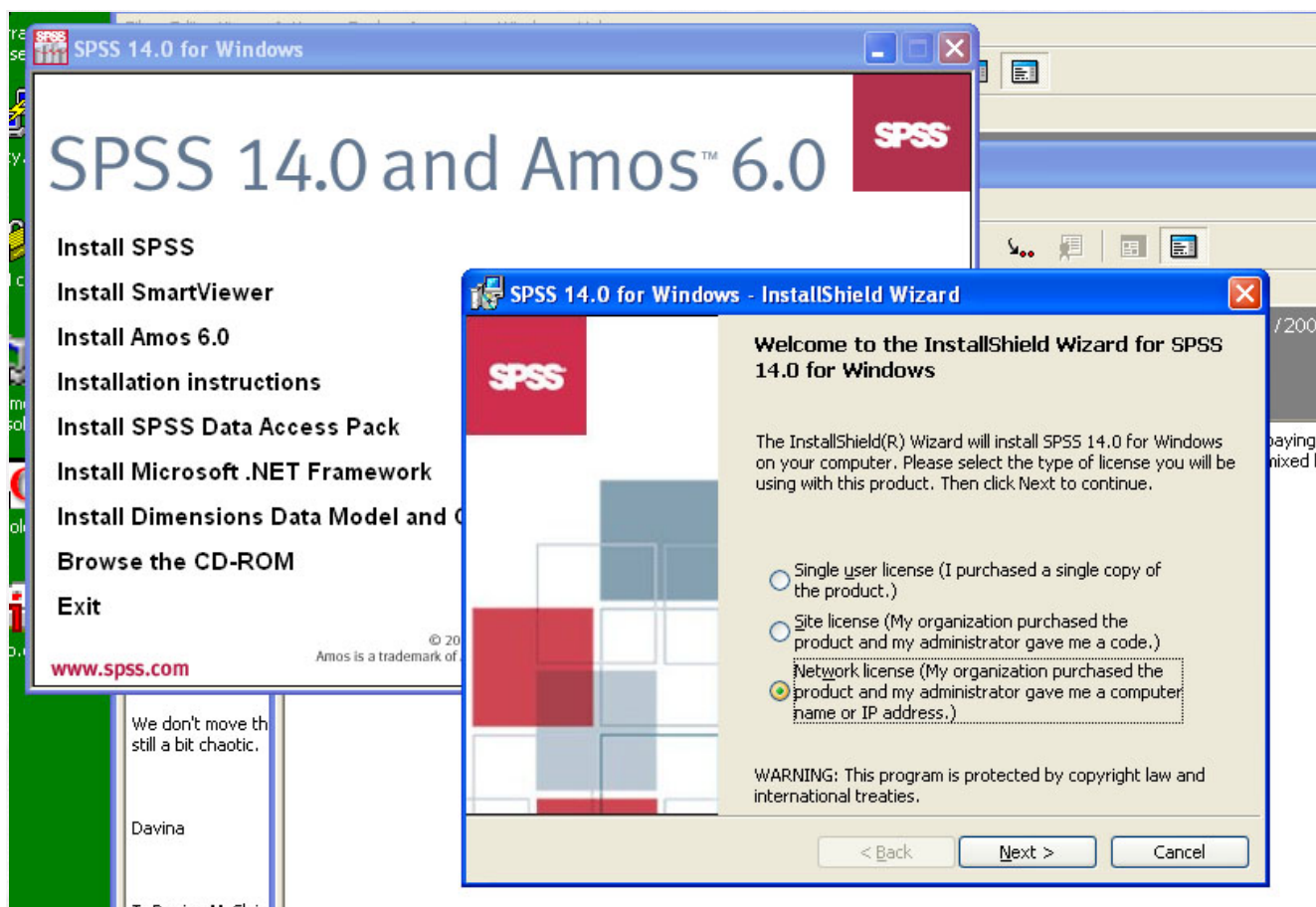
3. Type in name of Sentinel LM license server: **[note: you must contact Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner to get the DNS name for the license server]**

4. Choose SPSS 14.0 for Windows to start once it is installed:

SPSS 14 and LISREL 8.7 are Now Available on the Markov Server

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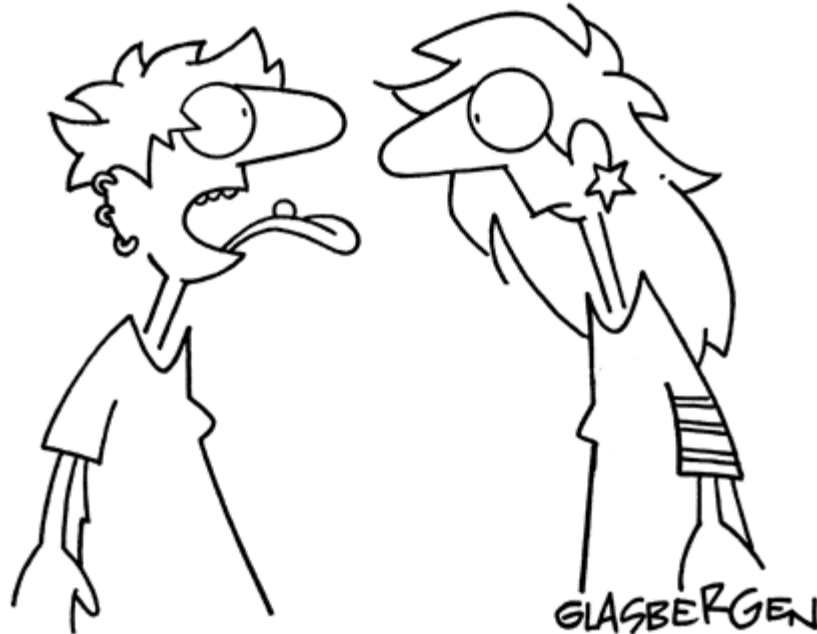
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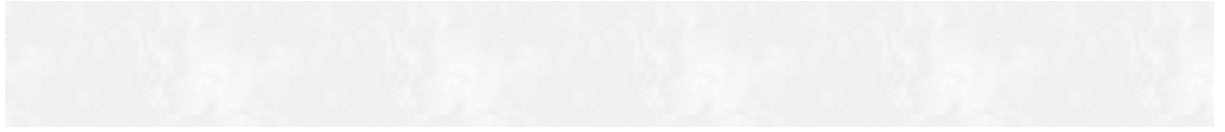
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www.glasbergen.com

"It's a tongue stud, digital camera, cell phone, MP3 player and portable Pilates ball!"

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Today's Cartoon

Benchmarks Online

Network Connection

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

I Learned it from Dr. Fun

Sometime in 1994, I ran across an Internet cartoon named Dr. Fun. It was some time after Al Gore had invented the Internet and I don't remember if I found the reference on a mailing list somewhere or if in the early days of surfing, I ran across the Dr. Fun page. But, once I found it, I was an instant fan. The Far Side was still being drawn by Gary Larson, a year before his retirement in 1995. Dr. Fun exhibited the slightly off-beat (sometimes more than slightly) sensibilities of The Far Side, but with a bit of Internet and computer geek humor thrown in as well. Since it didn't appear in newspapers, Dr. Fun's range of humor could sometimes include a bit of profanity or a lean to the scatological. But it could just as equally fall on the intellectual or esoteric side as well.

Dr. Fun first appeared on the Internet in 1993, and ran until recently, when David Farley, Dr. Fun's creator, ceased publishing the Internet-based comic. Up until then, Dr. Fun had appeared more-or-less regularly with five cartoons per week, published each working day. What was initially striking about Dr. Fun was that it combined colored black-pen drawings over digital photos or textures as the background. This was a unique style which wouldn't have been nearly as effective in a newspaper as it was on line. (Although, Dr. Fun was briefly syndicated by United Media and a collection of Dr. Fun cartoons is available as a book.)

Long-time readers of Dr. Fun will note Farley's preoccupation with chickens, marshmellow "Peeps", and disembodied heads in jars (kept alive, of course.) But, the subject matter was varied and often reflected pop cultural icons, current events, and computer geek culture in a different light. I think I was most impressed by the wide ranging references to various scientific or academic esoterica (at least esoterica to me sometimes). This could include astronomy, computer science, entomology, information technology, literature, microbology, music, paleontology, and even zoology.

I have to admit that before Dr. Fun, I didn't know what a nudibranch was, why multituberculates shouldn't have been smug, where solifugids live, or who the heck was cthulhu (OK, I just never read any H.P Lovecraft). So invariably, I'd find myself Googling (on Google, just to be clear) the Dr. Fun punch line every once in a while and after a bit of research, I always got the joke. One of the pleasures of Dr. Fun, was that you never quite knew what might come next.

Alas, as went The Far Side, so has gone Dr. Fun. David Farley writes on his Dr. Fun page, "In the past I've mentioned that it would end at 520 weeks. Was that the plan from the beginning? No, because there was no plan at the beginning other than to show people some neat cartoons in a whole new format. A couple years ago, after I came back from a long

break I decided that Doctor Fun needed an end date, and ten years looked like a fair deal for everybody." Counting when Farley was on hiatus from Dr. Fun, I guess the 10 years stretch from 1993 to 2006.

The Dr. Fun collection remains online "as long as ibiblio wants to keep hosting them." So, hundreds of Dr. Fun cartoons can still be enjoyed, assuming you understand the reference in the punch line. But I'll miss the new installments that were such a regular amusement. Dr. Fun really is an Internet original. If the Smithsonian were ever to open a museum of Internet culture, I think Dr. Fun would definitely have to be included.

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Page One

Campus Computing News

Semester Break Hours

Changes in PACS Lab Hours, Library Offerings

JAWS 7.0 and MAGic 9.5 have arrived!

MAGic 9.5 - Basic Tutorial: Control Buttons

Reading and Accessing Adobe PDF's with JAWS

SPSS 14 and LISREL 8.7 are Now Available on the Markov Server

Today's Cartoon

RSS Matters

The Network Connection

Link of the Month

WWW@UNT.EDU

Short Courses

IRC News

Staff Activities

Link of the Month

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

UNT's New President, Dr. Gretchen M. Bataille

The University has a new President! Read all about her here:

"Dr. Gretchen M. Bataille makes history as the first woman to serve as president of the University of North Texas"

Dr. Bataille will be greeting the faculty, staff and students at convocations in August and September. More information can be found at the Office of the President's website.

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Link of the Month

Benchmarks Online

IRC News

**Minutes provided by Sue Ellen Richey,
Recording Secretary***

July 18, 2006

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: MAURICE LEATHERBURY (for PHILIP TURNER), JUDITH ADKISON, PATRICK PLUSCHT, TIM CHRISTIAN, LOU ANN BRADLEY, JIM CURRY, ELIZABETH HINKLE-TURNER, UWE ROSSBACH, JON NELSON, DON GROSE, TOBYE RAE NELSON, CENGIZ CAPAN **NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT**: JAMES STRAWN, PHILIP BACZEWSKI, DON BUTLER (for JOHN HOOPER), SUE ELLEN RICHEY (Recording Secretary) **MEMBERS ABSENT**: MARGARET AMBUEHL, SARA WILSON MCKAY, BRUCE HUNTER, RAY BANKS, ROBERT NIMOCKS, JOHN PRICE, GUILLERMO OYARCE, ABRAHAM JOHN, DOUG MAINS, BOBBY CARTER, CHRISTY CRUTSINGER, RAMU MUTHIAH, CHUCK FULLER, JOE ADAMO

Distributed Computing Support Management Team**

Philip Baczewski reported that the DCSMT met on July 7, at which time, representatives from Apple Computer demonstrated Apple's new line of Intel processor-based Macintosh computers and provided an overview of Apple's software strategy and of Apple and third-party software that supports the new hardware. Also discussed at the July 7 meeting was a charge to DCSMT to investigate technical issues related to the use of Microsoft server, network, and e-mail products as replacements for the Novell software currently in use. A committee to examine this issue is being formed from DCSMT members and selected content experts from academic and administrative areas as well as the CITC.

Learning Enhancement Planning Group

Patrick Pluscht reported for the Learning Enhancement Planning Group that they are waiting for contracts from Legal before they can deploy iTunes and Voice Tools. They hope to find out something soon. Patrick also reported that there will be two pilot projects this fall, with faculty members using different clicker technologies. COBA will also be doing a pilot project using clickers.

Communications Planning Group

Lou Ann Bradley reported that the Communications Planning Group will not be meeting again until the Fall semester.

EIS Planning Group

Don Butler reported for the EIS Planning Group that they have upgraded to FirstLogic version 2.31c and went into production on June 20. This resolved the test score deletion

issue that had been experienced with the previous version. The Financial Aid group has made changes to the Mass Packaging chain and Loan processing. They are still in the process of upgrading the EIS Learning Solutions 8.0 to Campus Solutions 8.9, which includes HR/Payroll, Student Administration, and Contributor Relations; this means the production freeze will need to occur sometime between March & May 2007.

Don also stated that the Kronos timekeeping system went live 7/17/06 in select depts. The RFP to obtain professional help for the implementation of Constituent Relationship Management (CRM) is still in progress. The Fiscal Team is up to date on their Bundles and Patches project. This was the most successful effort of its kind in the Finance area. This effort is important because it catches up on over a year's worth of patches and fixes and gets the project back on a regular patch and fix schedule which improves the quality of support that can be received and also positions that area to move to an upgraded version of the financial system. Student Finance worked on changes to Campus ID Card - beginning 7/24/06 students and faculty/staff can sign up for a Wells Fargo debit card at a local Wells Fargo branch; a UNT card will be issued by the bank that will work as both a debit card and an ID card on campus. Student Records area upgraded to DARS version 3.5 and the Giving Club is in production for Contributor Relations.

Maurice Leatherbury added that Jean Bush is looking at a budgeting system to help with the budget process. They had tried to bring up the PeopleSoft budgeting system but could not get it to work. It was thought that a custom system could be built in-house, but they have now have begun to look at some commercially available systems. Uwe Rossbach asked if the new system could be used at the departmental level also. Maurice stated that the systems they have looked at have many capabilities, but he was not sure how many of those capabilities would be implemented at first.

Student Computing Planning Group

Elizabeth Hinkle Turner reported that the Student Computing Planning Group has not met since the last IRC meeting, but stated that they are half-way through the new student orientation schedule.

WebCT

Patrick Pluscht reported that WebCT has been stable, and that everything has been going smoothly.   Maintenance downtime has been scheduled for August 16 – 18 in order to apply service packs. A large group attended the WebCT National Impact Conference in Chicago last week.

The Role of the IRC?

Cengiz Capan commented that the IRC has changed over the years, in the way it works with administrative management, the charges of the reporting groups, the way it operates, etc. He said that lately he has seen task forces and other groups on campus working directly with the administration rather than working through the IRC. Cengiz stated that if the purpose of the IRC is to look at proposed changes for the university, in the area of technology, from a university-wide business perspective and then make recommendations to the administration, then he is concerned that the IRC is losing its influence with the administration, or it is becoming complacent. Maurice expressed his agreement with Cengiz' view and added that because UNT has a new President this may be a good time to look at the role of the IRC. Further discussion followed.

Contract Review

Maurice asked if IRC would like to have Nancy Footer meet with them to discuss the issues that have been raised regarding the lengthy process of contract review. Maurice stated that he had sent Nancy a message about the concerns that had been expressed in this committee and she responded that people need to contact her if the process is taking too long. Nancy volunteered to come and talk with the IRC if that is desired.   Following some discussion, it was agreed that members will collect issues and questions and send them to Maurice, who will, in turn, send them to Nancy Footer and ask for her comments. The IRC agreed that it should invite Nancy Footer to its next meeting to discuss issues regarding the contract approval process.

VPN access, firewall issues

Uwe Rossbach suggested that a technical initiative be kicked off to create a campus-wide VPN access to go along with the firewall on a priority project basis. There was some discussion about this and some issues regarding the firewall, and Lou Ann Bradley was asked to bring this issue to the Communications Planning Group, and was also requested to bring Datacom's plan for the firewall to the IRC for its information and review.

There will be no meeting of the IRC in August.

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* 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.

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Benchmarks Online

Research and Statistical Support
University of North Texas

RSS Matters

RSS FAQ

The following is taken from the recently updated "Frequently Asked Questions" portion of the RSS Website. Link to the last RSS article here: Open Source Technology in the Classroom, Part I - Ed.

What is RSS?

The research and statistical support group at the University of North Texas (RSS) is staffed by two full-time and two part-time staff employees. **Dr. Richard Herrington** has degrees in psychology, mathematics and education, and is proficient in R, S-Plus, SPSS, SAS, LISREL, Zope Web Server, and various other research oriented tools in Unix/Linux. **Patrick McLeod**, the other full-time member, is currently anticipating his master's thesis defense in the political science department. Patrick offers expertise in SAS, Stata, R, SPSS, Eviews, LaTeX and Unix/Linux based research tools. **Dr. Mike Clark** also has a Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology and offers part-time assistance teaching, consulting and software support. Mike has experience with SPSS, R, Splus and various other statistical software. **Jon Starkweather** is also a graduate student in experimental psychology working toward obtaining his Ph.D. Jon offers experience in social science methodology and software support in SPSS, R, S-Plus and various other research oriented software packages.

What kind of help is offered?

- **Software Support**: we support various software packages related to research endeavors such as SPSS, S-Plus, Stata, R, LaTex, Zope, QSurvey, SAS, LISREL, and Eviews.

- **Programming**: we can suggest strategies, show you example programs, or outline programs for you. *However, we cannot write the programs for you.*

- **Data analysis**: We can suggest the various analyses which can be performed on your data, along with the pros and cons of the analyses. *However we cannot make decisions about how you should analyze your data or perform the analysis for you.* That in the end is left to you and/or your committee. *We also cannot be expected to meet imminent deadlines.* Research problems often take weeks or even months to solve so come for help early *before* your deadline. We also do not provide help for coursework.

More on our policies can be found here.

How much do your services cost?

Our services our free to the UNT community.

How do I set up an appointment to meet with someone?

Appointments are made by filling out a request form here. Depending on your needs you may end up having to work with someone specifically, or anyone of us might be able to offer assistance.

How do I get a copy of SPSS, Splus, SAS etc.?

Students can obtain copies of some supported software at the UNT bookstore, and versions of varying degrees of functionality may be available for different prices depending on the program. Stata must be purchased directly through the RSS office. Full details of what is available and how available software is can be found here.

Full-time and/or benefits eligible staff and faculty may check out a copy of SPSS from the RSS office to be returned *immediately* upon installation. However, OUR LICENSE DOES NOT ALLOW THIS OPTION FOR STUDENTS, TFs, TAs, RAs etc., nor can we check out software to a student for a faculty member.

The short course I was interested in taking has already been given this semester, when are the next short courses going to be held?

If the dates are not posted they have not been decided upon yet. As soon as the dates are determined they are posted to the web.

What are your hours?

Although the schedules of the members of RSS are somewhat variable depending on individual workload, we strive to maintain coverage from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Special Announcements: RSS will be maintaining a blog devoted to research and statistics related news - *RSS-Blogs*; Additionally, RSS will be maintaining a Zope/Plone website devoted organizing communities and resources involved in survey research - *RSS-Surveys*.

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RSS Matters

Benchmarks Online

WWW@UNT.EDU

Central Web Support Staff Update
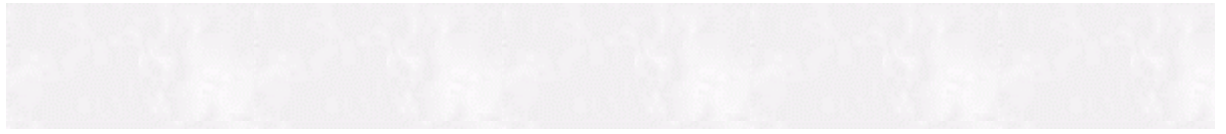
By **Charity Beck**– Central Web Support Manager

Following is the current "cast of characters" in the Central Web Support (CWS) area:

- Charity Beck– Central Web Support Manager.

- Shannon Peevey – System Administrator. Shannon is responsible for UNT's central web servers, services, and end-user support.

- JP Williams – System Administrator. JP is responsible for UNT's central web servers, services and end-user support.

- Mark Sonnabaum – Assistant System Administrator. Mark is responsible for UNT's web servers, services and end-user support.

- Sanden Cottongame – Portal Administrator. Sanden works with the EIS project on all things portal, including design implementation and application integration.

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WWW@UNT.EDU

Benchmarks Online

Short Courses

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

Short Courses are over for the summer. Surf over to the [Short Courses](#) page for a sample of the sorts of courses that will be offered this fall (starting, probably, in September).

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:

- Learning to Use EIS: http://www.unt.edu/eis/WebHelp/EIS_Training/Training_Start.htm

- EIS Timekeeper Training Schedule: http://www.unt.edu/hr/eis/timetrain.htm

- EIS ePro Training Calendar: http://www.unt.edu/pps/trainingcalendar.htm

- Ongoing training is available on WebCT at: http://web2.unt.edu/eis/Training/signup_form.php

GroupWise Training

Information about GroupWise training can be found at the GroupWise Support [site](#). A list of GroupWise 6.5 "Tutorial Topics" can be found here: http://ncs.unt.edu/gw/howto/index.htm A GroupWise 6.5 Training CD-ROM is

also available. See "Installing and Using GroupWise 6.5 CD-ROM Training from Thomson NETg" in the June issue of *Benchmarks Online* for more information.

GroupWise 6.5 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 at http://www.unt.edu/cdl/training_events/index.htm

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

Technical Training

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

UNT Mini-Courses

There are a variety of courses offered, for a fee, to UNT faculty, staff and students as well as the general public. For additional information surf over to http://www.unt.edu/minicourses/

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, two articles in the November issue of *Benchmarks Online*, "Using the Adobe Education Website - Revised November 2005" and "SkillPort and Thomson NETg Offer Easy-to-use Browser Compatibility Testing for Online Learning." The recently published article "Project Management Courses Added to the SkillPort CBT Website" may also be of interest.

The article Tracking Progress in New KnowledgeNet Courses in the January issue of *Benchmarks Online* gives instructions on how to set up tracking for

each course. The article [SkillSoft Site Re-organized With New Course Offerings](#) in the April issue of *Benchmarks Online* should also be noted. This information is also available on the [CBT website](#).

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Benchmarks Online

Staff Activities

Transitions

New Employees:

- **Sanden Cottongame,** Computer Systems Manager , Central Web Support.

- **Alex Wesley Schatz,** Computer Operator, Computer Operations.

- **Danielle Cottongame**, Helpdesk Consultant (part-time).

- **Jeremy Q. Adams**, Helpdesk Consultant (part-time).

- **William Ryan Mason,** Computer Equipment Operator, Computer Operations (part-time).

Change:

- **Mark Sonnabaum**, moved from Distributed Learning Support to Central Web Support where he is an Assistant System Administrator.

No longer working in the Computing and Information Technology Center:

- **Christopher Demont**, Telecom Specialist, Telecommunications.

- **Scott Simon**, Computer Systems Manager , Central Web Support.

- **Christina Cooper**, Administrative Services Student Assistant (part-time).

- **Matt Duncan**, Computer Systems Manager, Unix Support Services.

Awards, Recognition, Publications, etc.

Doug Fuller, Computer Systems Manager, Academic Computing and User Services, was profiled July 19 in *InHouse*. Read all about him!

Chris Strauss, Computer Systems Manager, Call Tracking Administration, successfully defended his dissertation recently and can now be addressed as "Doctor." His dissertation, in Library and Information Sciences, is titled *Computer support interactions: Verifying a process model of problem trajectory in an information technology support environment.* It should be available for viewing some time in the near future.

Soaring Eagles

The following people will be recognized at the President's Staff Lunch on October 24. Their names appeared in the August *Human Resources Newsletter*:

- **Lip Yew Sim**, Programmer, Student Finance Team, AIS.

- **David Wood**, Computer Systems Manager, Information Security.

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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, check out the RSS FAQ!**

- **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 lets you in on a secret when he says "I Learned it from Dr. Fun." Click on the Network Connection link above to find out what would cause him to say this.

- **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 read all about "UNT's New President, Dr. Gretchen M. Bataille."**

- **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 get up-to-date with the "Central Web Support Staff Update."**

- **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 are over for the summer, but there are links to other training from this page. 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 published this month are for July 18, 2006.**

Don't Forget Our Monthly Columns!

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

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