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Questions, comments and corrections for this site: lynch@unt.edu

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Campus Computing News

Winds of Change

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

Hurricane force winds blew across the Gulf Coast on August 29th and again on September 24th this year and changed the lives of many people forever. That included people at colleges and universities, as this month's *Network Connection* article, "[Weathering the Storm](#)," points out.

The IT community at UNT played a special part in helping ease the strain of the situation for evacuees of both storms who found themselves in Denton. CITC employees Scott Windham, Data Communications; Matt Duncan, Unix Support Services; J. P. Williams, Central Web Support; Tracy Hansen, Desktop Support; Brenda Kirk, Network Manager; Stormy Shippy, Desktop Support and Sandy Burke, Helpdesk Support Services were instrumental in setting up and managing a computer network at Camp Copass — a Baptist church camp on Lewisville Lake, east of the Denton city limits (click [here](#) to see some pictures from the Camp Copass facility).

Camp Copass housed more than 300 Katrina evacuees from September 2nd through September 23rd. The computers were set up to enable evacuees to fill out FEMA forms, search for loved ones, write resumes, and complete homework assignments. Many people from UNT and the Denton community volunteered in a variety of capacities at the Camp, and UNT Network Managers and others in computer related positions were especially helpful in guiding people through the process of using the computers. Many evacuees had never used a computer before and they needed one on one support. E-mail addresses had to be set up, passwords chosen so that they could be remembered, etc. It was a daunting task for the volunteers and the evacuees alike, but it was accomplished successfully, due in large part to the volunteers' patience and willingness to help.

When Rita blew through the Beaumont area, the UNT community was ready to help again. This time, UNT became a home away from home for evacuees when we opened up "Mean Green Village" on September 23rd. The American Red Cross was directly involved this time, running the evacuee center. Many of the same people involved with setting up and running the computer network at Camp Copass did it all over again at Mean Green Village, with Scott Windham and Sandy Burke taking leadership in the endeavor. Approximately 200 people were housed at "Mean Green Village" through October 4th. Amazingly, some of the people there had initially fled from New Orleans to Beaumont when Hurricane Katrina struck.

Besides hosting the evacuees, UNT also provided the North Texas Animal Rescue Alliance a facility near Mean Green Village so that they could care for evacuees' pets. President Pohl summed things up in the September [issue](#) of the UNT Alumni Newsletter, the *North Texas*

Insider:

UNT also worked with the North Texas Animal Rescue Alliance to open a pet evacuee center nearby. The pet center, which is being operated by nearly 100 volunteers from 21 rescue groups across North Texas, has housed nearly 40 pets, including a 12-foot boa constrictor, a bearded dragon lizard, a parrot and cats and dogs.

In addition, as a result of our response to Hurricane Katrina last month, we enrolled about 100 students who were displaced from New Orleans universities. UNT provided office space, as well as access to computers, e-mail and libraries, to four faculty members from affected areas so that they could continue their professional work. Our community also collected more than \$32,000 to help those affected.

I'm extremely proud of the students, faculty, staff and volunteers who worked around the clock to help those in need during this recovery period.

UNT System Response

For further information on the UNT System response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita see:

- [Katrina Relief Effort](#)
- [Response to Hurricane Katrina](#)
- [Help for \[international\] students displaced by Hurricane Katrina](#)
- [UNT Dallas Campus Hurricane Katrina Relief Effort](#)
- [UNT Health Science Center Medical Personnel Aid Hurricane Katrina Victims at Fort Worth Shelter](#)
- [UNT community responds to Hurricane Katrina](#)
- [Hurricane Rita](#)
- [UNT prepares to help with Hurricane Rita assistance efforts](#)
- [UNT prepares evacuation site](#)
- [Animal evacuees](#)
- [Shelter for Rita evacuees nearly full](#)
- [UNT Hurricane relief efforts](#)

From the students' perspective, via the [NT Daily](#):

- [NT helps with hurricane relief](#)
- [Displaced student feels welcomed](#)
- [Reunited after Katrina](#)
- [Students work with evacuees](#)
- [NT opens classes for evacuees](#)
- [Professor, puppies help Katrina victims cope](#)
- [Katrina evacuees speak up](#)
- [Playing jazz, New Orleans style](#)
- [Displaced artists find shelter in art building](#)
- [NT alumna sees Katrina aftermath firsthand](#)
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Burning the 'Past Midnight' Oil: Several General Access Labs Open Until 2 A.M.

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

Several of the General Access Labs have lengthened their hours to 2:00 A.M. This has been done in an effort to provide better computing service to students throughout the campus and to mitigate the long lines that suddenly appear at the Willis 24-hour lab at midnight. Not all of the General Access Labs can expand their nighttime hours; this expansion requires a location in a building where doors can be easily and safely left unlocked after midnight. Additionally, the University Police Department has stepped up its early morning patrols of these open areas to provide greater safety to students wishing to work very late in the labs.

The following labs now have expanded hours:

The Graduate Lab ([ISB 205C](#)):

- Monday - Thursday: Now open until 2:00 A.M.
- Sunday: Now open until midnight

The PACS/SMHM Lab ([Chilton 255](#)):

- Monday - Thursday: Now open until 2:00 A.M.
- Sunday: Now open until 2:00 A.M.

College of Arts and Sciences (the lab in [GAB 330](#) ONLY - all other CAS labs have unchanged hours)

- Monday - Thursday: GAB 330 is now open until 2:00 A.M.
- Sunday: GAB 330 is now open until 2:00 A.M.

The managers of these facilities are hopeful that students will take advantage of these later hours and plan to evaluate their decisions based on late-night usage statistics at the end of the semester.

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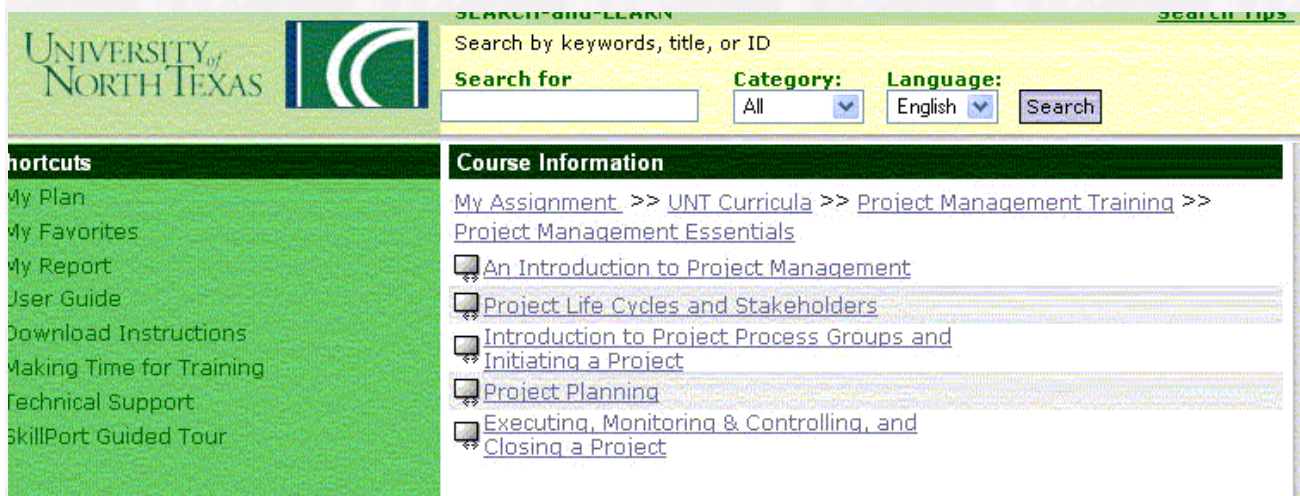
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THE E-LEARNING SOLUTIONS COMPANY

Project Management Courses Added to the SkillPort CBT Website

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

New Project Management Training has been added to the SkillPort CBT Learning Website for use by faculty, staff, and students though it is anticipated that this training will be of the most help to UNT staff. Begun as an initiative for the entire Computing and Information Technology Center, such training and project management awareness should prove beneficial to the entire UNT community as we set forth on implementing the goals of the strategic plan and providing for our increasing number of students and academic programs.



The screenshot shows the UNT SkillPort website interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "SEARCH FOR LEARN" and "SEARCH TIPS". Below the search bar, there are fields for "Search for", "Category:" (set to "All"), and "Language:" (set to "English"), along with a "Search" button. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column, titled "Shortcuts", lists various navigation options like "My Plan", "My Favorites", "My Report", "User Guide", "Download Instructions", "Making Time for Training", "Technical Support", and "SkillPort Guided Tour". The right column, titled "Course Information", displays a breadcrumb trail: "My Assignment >> UNT Curricula >> Project Management Training >> Project Management Essentials". Below this, a list of course titles is shown, each with a small icon: "An Introduction to Project Management", "Project Life Cycles and Stakeholders", "Introduction to Project Process Groups and Initiating a Project", "Project Planning", and "Executing, Monitoring & Controlling, and Closing a Project".

The new project management courses listed on the UNT SkillPort website

The courses are listed under Project Management Training/Project Management Essentials on the SkillPort website and a complete listing of the training is also on the [UNT CBT Contents webpage](#). Another more advanced suite of Project Management training will be added in January 2006. The SkillPort course description outlines some of the advantages of project planning and training:

Imagine trying to control the unexpected and unpredictable through processes in such a way that you meet the cost, quality, and time expectations of all invested parties in order to accomplish a temporary endeavor. This is the mission of project management. Challenging? Yes. Impossible? No. All industries employ project managers to implement processes as a way to control business. In fact, the field of project management is rapidly expanding, as more companies become project-based organizations....With standards and best practices to follow and the know-how to incorporate these, organizations can offer "world class" project management. In this course, learners will be given an overview of the project management discipline....This course provides a foundational knowledge base reflecting the most up-to-date project management information so learners can effectively put principles to work at their own organizations.

As always, information about all computer-based training at UNT can be found at www.unt.edu/cbt and UNT community members can log in to this training at <https://cvt.acs.unt.edu/logon.htm>. Department managers are encouraged to contact the UNT CBT Administrator at ehinkle@unt.edu if they wish for certain employees to be specifically assigned these courses on the SkillPort training website.

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TODAY'S CARTOON

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**"If identity theft is such a bad thing,
then how do you explain Halloween?"**

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Network Connection

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

Weathering the Storm

As communities in Louisiana and Texas recover from two devastating hurricanes, our attention is focused on how such events can affect not only cities and towns, but entire universities as well. A number of universities in New Orleans have been forced to close for their fall semester and have started a recovery process that will take years to fully complete.

Higher Education, just like commerce these days, is very dependant upon the Internet. Shortly after Katrina passed New Orleans, schools like Tulane and Loyola had web pages up providing students and employees updates on the status of their institution, even though the administrations of those universities were operating from locations remote from their home campuses.

This does bring up the question of how robust the Internet is in such a widespread catastrophe. The origins of the Internet lay in a much darker scenario of catastrophe. U.S. Defense Department researchers sought the goal of a data network that could survive if a nuclear attack destroyed a part of the network. This led to TCP/IP and the eventual "network of networks" that was the early Internet.

A testament to the Internet came with how much information was available while Katrina was hitting New Orleans. One employee of an Internet site hosting company in downtown New Orleans maintained a [blog](#) describing the passage of the storm and many of the developments that happened that city following the hurricane. This included accounts of keeping a generator running so that the data center could stay in operation. It was evident that lack of power, and in some cases lack of land communication lines, was the primary threat to Internet communication in the midst of the disaster and recovery.

The hurricane was on the mind of the Internet2 organization as well, possibly interrupting service if major connections were cut. According to an [article](#) in the [Chronicle of Higher Education](#), Internet2 officials "were worried that just such a problem might arise in their Abilene network, which serves more than 200 colleges, after Hurricane Katrina." In this case, most of the network was unaffected because traffic was rerouted over other parts of the network which were still in operation. But another major failure could isolate one part of Internet2 from another.

Internet2's response to Hurricane Katrina was to add additional redundancy in the network routing. However, the link affected by Katrina "was restored 10 days later, on September 8," according the Chronicle article. Even so, most Internet2 schools would still have the commercial Internet available in the case of an Internet2 failure, so while some projects that require Internet2's bandwidth would have been impacted, it's likely that no school would have been totally "off the air."

So, it seems that the Internet has passed a test. In the wake of the storm, Internet communication from New Orleans provided views of a city trying to deal with storm damage, flooding, and personal catastrophe. The Internet itself, however, was able to keep operating with little of its overall functionality impaired, and those of us in unaffected areas received the benefit of information provided over the Internet, plus the opportunity to use Internet resources to help aid in the recovery process. The idea formed over 30 years ago seems to be working out pretty well.

See the *Chronicle of Higher Education* (<http://chronicle.com>), Section: Information Technology, Volume 52, Issue 8, Page A32, for more information about hurricane Katrina's impact on Internet2.

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Link of the Month

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



***InHouse* goes weekly!**

On September 14, GroupWise mailboxes throughout the UNT community received the first issue of the new *InHouse* newsletter. You can read that debut issue here: <http://inhouse.unt.edu/index.cfm?commentID=25>

The lead article, "Welcome to your new InHouse" (Posted by: [Michelle Hale](#)) gives you the scoop:

Over the summer, the University Relations staff updated *InHouse* to keep you better informed about what matters at UNT. We hope you will be pleased with the changes we've made.

A weekly e-newsletter will be delivered to your GroupWise inbox once a week to keep you up to date on what's happening on campus, where UNT is headed and what that means for you.

In addition, you can keep in touch with campus news more regularly by visiting this web site (inhouse.unt.edu) for as-it-happens information. While you're here, you can add our RSS feeds to your news aggregator as another way to stay in touch.

We've made *InHouse* all about you, and we want it to benefit you.

...

Oh, and [LOGIN using your EUID](#) to read stories only available to UNT faculty and staff or to make comments on selected stories (current faculty and staff only).

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IRC News



Minutes provided by Sue Ellen Richey,
Recording Secretary*

September 20, 2005

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: PHILIP TURNER, ELIZABETH HINKLE-TURNER, JUDITH ADKISON, WIL CLARK (for JOHN PRICE), PATRICK PLUSCHT, LOU ANN BRADLEY, RAY BANKS, DON GROSE, ROBERT NIMOCKS, JIM CURRY, CENGIZ CAPAN, JENNIFER LAFLEUR (for GUILLERMO OYARCE), CHRISTY CRUTSINGER, TIM CHRISTIAN **NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:** MAURICE LEATHERBURY, PHILIP BACZEWSKI, SUE ELLEN RICHEY (Recording Secretary) **MEMBERS ABSENT:** JON NELSON, CHUCK FULLER, RAMU MUTHIAH, JONEEL HARRIS, JOE ADAMO, ABRAHAM JOHN, MAX KAZEMZADEH, BRUCE HUNTER., MARGARET AMBUEHL, TOBYE RAE NELSON, KENN MOFFITT, DOUG MAINS, BOBBY CARTER, JOHN HOOPER, DOUG MAINS, JAMES STRAWN **GUESTS:** NICK ZIERGIEBEL

This being the first meeting of the new academic year, members introduced themselves, for the benefit of the new members present.

Lou Ann Bradley moved for approval of the minutes of the July 19, 2005 meeting; Maurice Leatherbury seconded the motion and the minutes were approved as distributed.

IR Steering Committee

The Chair reported that the IR Steering Committee has not met since the last IRC meeting.

DCSMT

Philip Baczewski reported for the Distributed Computing Support Management Team that the committee has met three times since the last IRC meeting. The August 5 meeting featured a discussion on brute force password-guessing attacks against SQL databases on campus. In a seven-day period in August, 1,989,918 such attempts were recorded. The Security team recommendations included setting strong passwords which are changed frequently, employing a hardware firewall if possible, encrypting data, and applying patches as soon as possible. At this meeting it was also reported that the July edition of the CITC news journal, Benchmarks, included an article recommending encryption software to protect data stored on personal computers, including laptops, both personal and university owned.

The September 2 meeting included a discussion regarding blocking Microsoft SQL TCP/IP port traffic at the Richardson router. No objections were noted by those at the meeting. Yancey Yeargan reported that the account management system has a new feature which provides an email notification before an EUID password expires. These notices will be sent to the EUID-holder's preferred email address 15 and 5 days prior to expiration. Since there are many staff and faculty who do not have their preferred email set correctly, the decision

was made to set the default status for this feature to inactive. The feature can be activated by logging into the EUID Account Management page at ams.unt.edu .

At the September 16 meeting of DCSMT procedures were outlined for including cross reference data in Netware NDS user records to allow accurate synchronization of data with the ID Management LDAP directories. Network Managers will provide EmplID values for the employee accounts in the Netware directory areas they manage. The standard for newly-created Netware accounts is to include the EmplID in the NDS record. This cross reference with LDAP will allow automation of functions such as including a GroupWise address as a preferred e-mail address in the LDAP directory. Also discussed at this meeting was use of a program called EAZ-FIX for quick restoration of Windows PC images and UNT's pending membership in the IBM World Community Grid.

Learning Enhancement Planning Group

The Learning Enhancement Planning Group is currently looking into clicker technology for the classroom. A demonstration by GTCO CalComp is scheduled for Wednesday, September 21st at noon in Chilton 245. IRC members are welcome to attend the demo.

On Sept. 15 the Provost sent out a Request for Proposals for funds to support projects which will enhance learning; the proposals are due back Nov. 1 to the Provost. On September 30th, there will be a proposal writing workshop at noon in Chilton 245. \$130,000 has been set aside for the awards program with up to \$8,000 per course. Patrick distributed the Call for Proposals.

CDL had a program for recognizing outstanding online teachers and course designers, awards for which were presented at the Faculty Convocation.

In response to Hurricane Katrina, some online courses have been set up that refugee students can take and pay only in-state tuition. There are 13 enrollments for courses that started today. Shortly after this was put together, there was an announcement by the National Consortium called "SLOAN-C" that they would be leading an initiative called "SLOAN Semester" in which 400 or more courses would be offered nationally at no charge. As of today's meeting, 1100 courses are being made available. CDL will participate in that, as well, and is offering one course, ART 1300, Art Appreciation. This course begins October 10th.

Other Planning Groups

There were no reports from the Communications Planning Group, the EIS Planning Group, or the Research Planning Group.

Standards & Policy Planning Group

Maurice Leatherbury reported that the Standards & Policy Planning Group has not met in over a year and needs to be re-formed. A request was sent to Deans asking them to appoint someone to serve on this committee. There is a Security Policy and a Web Publishing Policy that need to be reviewed and brought before the IRC for approval, so there is an urgent need to make this committee active again.

Student Computing Planning Group

Elizabeth Hinkle Turner reported for the Student Computing Planning Group that the signs

they had ordered arrived, but had some production flaws. They have worked with the company making the signs and expect to receive the new signs soon. They will get the signs hung as soon as possible, including a map of the campus labs which will be displayed in Willis Library. CAS, COE, SCSPACS, and Graduate Labs are all open until 2:00 am now, to ease the pressure on the Willis Library Lab after Midnight, since Willis Lab is the only lab that is open 24 hours. Dr. Grose suggested that other labs consider remaining open 24 hours. Elizabeth asked that Dr. Grose consult with Philip Baczewski, since Philip is the Chair of GALC. Cengiz Capan raised the issue of security in buildings after Midnight, and asked for a statistical report of usage of the labs.

WebCT

The migration to Vista is set to be completed at the end of Maymester, so that all WebCT courses will be available in Vista for Summer of 2006. There is a migration team available to offer assistance to faculty to recreate their course in Vista or have it automatically migrated into Vista. There will be training available this year, for faculty wishing to use Vista. They are continuing to meet with WebCT/Vista technical team weekly, as well as an additional weekly meeting with the Sales & Policy side of WebCT. They have had some recent problems arise which they are working on.

Eagle Text

Ray Banks reported that the SGA has started something called Eagle Text through which students can swap books with other students on campus. There are programmers working on an online service to accomplish this and enable students to pay each other through a third party (like PayPal) if they just want to buy a book from another student. They are looking into all of the legal ramifications. SGA is also working on its own version of Pick a Prof, and is currently trying to obtain information about reviews and evaluation scores.

CDL Photo Project

The Chair added that the Center for Distributed Learning is working on a project whereby photos of students would be made available to faculty as well as other students. Cengiz Capan reported that COBA has been making students' photos available to faculty for quite some time, attached to their enrollment lists. Cengiz said he would share the information about their system to anyone who is interested.

October and November meeting times changed

Members were reminded that the October and November IRC meetings will start at 2:30. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

* 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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Research and Statistical Support University of North Texas

RSS Matters

Link to the last RSS article here: [Using Sparklines for Visual Representation, Part 2 - Ed.](#)

A Kinder, Gentler R - An Easier to Install Version of R for the Windows Platform

By [Dr. Rich Herrington](#), Research and Statistical Support Services Manager

Introduction

This month we provide a pre-installed, pre-configured version of R for the Windows platform in a compressed, self-extracting zip file. The following is an excerpt from the R website <http://www.r-project.org>:

R is a language and environment for statistical computing and graphics. It is a [GNU project](#) which is similar to the S language and environment which was developed at Bell Laboratories (formerly AT&T, now Lucent Technologies) by John Chambers and colleagues. R can be considered as a different implementation of S. There are some important differences, but much code written for S runs unaltered under R. R provides a wide variety of statistical (linear and nonlinear modeling, classical statistical tests, time-series analysis, classification, clustering, ...) and graphical techniques, and is highly extensible. The S language is often the vehicle of choice for research in statistical methodology, and R provides an Open Source route to participation in that activity. One of R's strengths is the ease with which well-designed publication-quality plots can be produced, including mathematical symbols and formulae where needed. Great care has been taken over the defaults for the minor design choices in graphics, but the user retains full control. R is available as Free Software under the terms of the [Free Software Foundation's GNU General Public License](#) in source code form. It compiles and runs out of the box on a wide variety of UNIX platforms and similar systems (including FreeBSD

and Linux). It also compiles and runs on Windows 9x/NT/2000 and MacOS (from Introduction).

R Installation for Windows Platform

R can be downloaded and installed from the [CRAN](#) website. However, some effort is needed to choose which packages to install; there are helper packages that provide GUI support; and there are some configuration steps that make using R more convenient. Rather than illustrate the installation procedure of downloading and installing packages and configuring the Rprofile and Rconsole files, we have provided a preinstalled/preconfigured image of R in a self-extracting ZIP file. You can download this file from the RSS server at the following location: http://www.unt.edu/rss/R_cd/R.exe . This file is approximately 700 megabytes, so you might want to have a DSL or Cable internet connection. If you don't have an internet connection with a large bandwidth, then you can pick up a CD free of charge at the UNT bookstore (tradebooks - where UNT software is sold).

The R.exe File

The R.exe file is a single file that installs a preconfigured version of R (2.1.1) onto your C: hard-drive in the directory "C:\R". This installation of R includes all of the packages on the CRAN website as of Sept. 2005. Additionally, the "[Tinn-R](#)" text editor and "[R Commander](#)" GUI are installed and R is preconfigured to start these whenever R is started. To start R, browse to the C:\R directory and click the shortcut icon which appears as a "blue R". Additionally, some other open source statistical software are installed and preconfigured in the R directory as well (e.g. Mx, LEM). In subsequent RSS Matters articles, I will introduce readers to these other open source statistical tools. In the near future, we will have a CD of training AVI training videos that instruct users on using R and other open source statistical software. As an example, a link is provided below that has an AVI video instructing users how to install the R CD.

Links

An [AVI](#) media file that introduces users to the installation of R for Windows.

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EUID Authentication Using a Web Form

By [J.P. Williams](#), Central Web Support

I have had several requests for help with authenticating a user with a web form using their EUID and password. The following is a library that I have written that does just that. As you can see from the example below it takes four fields using a POST method to <https://osprey.unt.edu/cwslib/authldap.php>. The euid field and password field is what the user will enter while the Succeed Redirect URL and Failed Redirect URL can be hidden fields. The way this works is as follows. Create a form using the following code:

```
< FORM ACTION= https://osprey.unt.edu/cwslib/authldap.php METHOD= POST>
< TABLE>
< TR> < TD>euid:</ TD>< TD>< INPUT TYPE= text NAME= uid></ TD></ TR>
< TR>< TD>Password:</ TD>< TD>< INPUT TYPE= password NAME= passwd></ TD></ TR>

< INPUT TYPE= HIDDEN NAME= SucceedRedirect>
< INPUT TYPE= HIDDEN NAME= FailedRedirect>
< TR>< TD>< INPUT TYPE= submit NAME= submit VALUE= "Login"></ TD>
< TD>< INPUT TYPE= reset NAME= reset VALUE= "Clear Form"></ TD> </ TR>
</ TABLE>
</ FORM>
```

What this does is require the user to enter his/her EUID and Password. The field SucceedRedirect is the URL that you want to automatically redirect the user to on a successful login. The field FailedRedirect is the URL that you want to automatically redirect the user to if the login failed. This script takes the supplied uid and password and tries to bind to the LDAP server. If you leave the SucceedRedirect and FailedRedirect fields blank you will get the following:

Bind failed (Not Logged In)

Username and Password did not match.

or

Bind succeeded (Logged In)

Depending on whether the login was successful or not. If you call <https://osprey.unt.edu/cwslib/authldap.php> without either uid or passwd fields you will get the following:

euid:

Password:

Succeed Redirect URL:

Failed Redirect URL:

If you have any questions or suggestions for other libraries that would be useful for other developers around campus just drop me an email at jpwilliams@unt.edu.

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Short Courses

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

The schedule for the fall Short Course schedule is complete and courses are already underway. Surf over to the [Short Courses](#) page to see the schedule. Courses remaining are: EViews Seminar, Getting Started with DreamWeaver, Workshop in R& S-Plus Programming II, Intermediate SPSS, and New Technologies for Survey Research.

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:

- EIS Training Event Calendar: <https://projectweb.cc.unt.edu/cm/Lists/Events/calendar.htm>
- EIS Timekeeper Training Schedule: http://www.unt.edu/eis/WebHelp/EIS_Glossary.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 you would like to have a Basic GroupWise seminar for your area, please contact Jason Gutierrez, Network Computing Services, jason.g@unt.edu.

Center for Distributed Learning

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

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

Technical Training

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

UNT Mini-Courses

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

Alternate Forms of Training

Many of the [General Access Labs](#) around campus have tutorials installed on their computers. The [Training](#) Web site has all sorts of information about alternate forms of training. Computer Based Training (CBT) is one of the alternatives offered.

For further information on CBT at UNT, see the CBT [website](#). The article "[Project Management Courses Added to the SkillPort CBT Website](#)" in this issue of *Benchmarks Online* may also be of interest.

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Staff Activities

Transitions

New Employees:

- **Kevin Treadwell**, Telecommunications Student Assistant (part-time).
- **Megan Kilgore**, Telecommunications Student Assistant (part-time).
- **Christina Cooper**, Administrative Services Student Assistant (part-time).
- **Paul Vercher**, Computer Systems Manager, Distributed Learning Support.

No longer working in the Computing and Information Technology Center:

- **Colin Carter**, Administrative Services Student Assistant (part-time).
- **Shannon Leach**, Production Control.

Changes:

- **Doug Alders** has moved from Computer Operations to EIS Technical Services where he is a Computer Support Specialist.

Awards, Recognition, Publications, etc.

Supaluk Joy Aswalap, Programmer/Analyst on the UNT/HSC Fiscal Systems Team and a doctoral candidate in the UNT School of Library and Information Sciences, recently had an article published in *First Monday* - a peer-reviewed journal on the Internet. The article, "'Information society' development in Thailand: Information workforce and information and communication technology perspectives," can be read here:

http://firstmonday.org/issues/issue10_10/aswalap/

Star Performers

All Starr Performers will be recognized at the President's Staff Sack Lunch on November 1.

- **Tracy Hansen**, Desktop Support, was recognized as a Star Performer in the September 2005 issue of the *Human Resources Newsletter*.

The following people were recognized as a Star Performers in the October 2005 issue of the *Human Resources Newsletter*:

- **Matthew Barnhart**, Distributed Learning Support..
- **Patricia Bell**, Inventory and Timekeeping Assistant.
- **JoAnn Luksich**, Data Management Coordinator.
- **Claudia Lynch**, ACS Documentation Services Manager.
- **J. P. Williams**, Central Web Support.

Soaring Eagles

The following people were recognized as a Soaring Eagles in the October 2005 issue of the *Human Resources Newsletter*:

- **Charity Beck**, UNT Central Web Support, "assisted the Biology Dept. Staff in 'decoding' and explaining DreamWeaver Software."
- **Philip Buhler**, Student Records Data Systems, was thanked for his "optimization of projects which migrated into production that used to take up to 6 hours to complete but now can run in under one minute!"
- **Tracy Hansen**, Desktop Support, "helped a fellow employee answer a question which helped to resolve a problem immediately."
- **Rhonda Holmes**, CITC Administrative Services, "did an outstanding job of helping a department process a purchase order that had a very short lead time."
- **JoAnn Luksich**, Data Management Coordinator, "was kind and helpful responding to a fellow employees urgent survey development requests."
- **Scott Windham**, Data Communications, was thanked for helping "a fellow co-worker when they really needed it."

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Don't Forget Our Monthly Columns!

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

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

- [RSS Matters](#) - "RSS Matters" is the monthly column written by the Research and Statistical Support [Group](#) in Academic Computing Services. Their articles focus on topics of a statistical and/or research methods nature. **As Dr. Herrington states in the introduction, "This month we provide a pre-installed, pre-configured version of R for the Windows platform in a compressed, self-extracting zip file." If this sounds good to you, make sure and read "A Kinder, Gentler R - An Easier to Install Version of R for the Windows Platform."**

- [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 talks about hurricanes and the Internet in "Weathering the Storm." 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 feature is "InHouse goes weekly!"**
- [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, J.P. Williams tells you all about "EUID Authentication Using a Web Form."**
- [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. The fall Short Course schedule is complete and courses are already underway. Courses remaining are: EViews Seminar, Getting Started with DreamWeaver, Workshop in R& S-Plus Programming II, Intermediate SPSS, and New Technologies for Survey Research.
- [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 September minutes were published this month.**

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

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