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Campus Computing News

Copyright and Information Security*

By [Maurice Leatherbury](#), Ph.D.

Associate Vice President for Computing and Chief Technology Officer

As members of an academic institution, UNT's employees respect the rights of authors and artists to benefit from the fruits of their labors. Thus we do not tolerate plagiarism nor do we tolerate the taking of intellectual property of others without permission or without compensation to the owners of the property. U.S. copyright laws govern how intellectual property may be fairly used in an educational setting as well what penalties may be levied against persons or companies that violate copyright protections. Fines for the illegal distribution of copyrighted materials can go up to \$250,000, accompanied by five years in prison.

A major copyright problem in the U.S. now is the illegal sharing of music and films over the Internet. Academic institutions are being singled out by copyright owners for allowing illegal file sharing to occur on campuses. Here at UNT, we currently receive several notices per month from copyright owners asking us to take actions to prevent file sharing by persons on campus or in our dorms. We've put protections in place to block the known transmission of copyrighted files such as MP3 files of popular songs from our dorms, but those protections aren't foolproof nor do we have similar protections on the rest of UNT's network infrastructure.

While the vast majority of UNT's faculty, staff, and students abide by copyright laws, it's still necessary to remind everyone on campus of our responsibilities to refrain from sharing copyrighted materials without permission. It's also of note that such sharing is very likely to be detected by copyright holders and persons caught doing so can face costly fines. In short, do not share copyrighted materials without permission from the copyright holder.

Information Security

The campus is bombarded each day with attempts over the Internet to break into secure sites on campus, including our desktops, and by doing so to steal protected information. Here are three tips that will help you protect UNT as well as yourself from those attempts:

1. Don't store sensitive information such as Social Security Account Numbers or credit card numbers of students on your personal computer or office computer. If that information along with the names of the account holders are stolen, UNT must report the breach to the individuals whose information was divulged but more importantly such theft exposes the affected individuals to potential identity theft.
2. Email is a common way to spread viruses and worms and thus to steal information.

Don't click on links embedded in e-mail messages that you receive from persons whom you don't know and trust. Such links are the most common ways that thieves inject viruses into your computer.

3. If you're responsible for a Web site, make sure that you're not capturing and storing personal information such as SSAN's or credit card numbers on the site. If you really have to do that, be sure to contact your network manager or the [CITC's security team](#) to have them check on the security of your site before starting the collection of data.

Thanks for your cooperation in making UNT secure.

*October is "[National cyber security awareness month](#)." Visit the [Information Security website](#) and check out the information at the bottom of the page labeled "[Required reading for UNT Faculty, Staff, and Students \(Required reading for handlers of sensitive information \)](#)." Also, check out the [InHouse Series on Information Security](#) that ran this past spring. Finally, if you are a student, you need to be aware that "Instructors at the University of North Texas have access to Turnitin's plagiarism prevention system to deter plagiarism and promote academic integrity." Visit the [UNT Turnitin website](#) for more information.

Additional information about cyber security can be found at the EDUCAUSE Security Task Force [website](#). -- Ed.

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Free and Legal: Copyright Advice and Training Online

As mentioned in the "Copyright and Information Security" [article](#) in this issue, October is "National cyber security awareness month." In keeping with that theme, we decided to reprint this article from the [May 2007 issue](#) of Benchmarks Online. - Ed.

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

In my capacity of manager of computer-based training here at UNT, I do not only administer our SkillsSoft training but also seek out other online training resources for a variety of topics relevant to the UNT community which are not available through our SkillsSoft service. This article which features online offerings about copyright, is a continuation of my series on 'free CBT' which also includes past articles about Adobe Education Online ([here](#) and [here](#)) and [the many online titles available at the UNT Library](#).

Personally, I encounter and deal with copyright and 'fair use' issues nearly every day, not only in my job here at UNT but also in my 'other life' as an author and composer. One of the final things I did when completing my [book](#) was run it through [turnitin.com](#) to make absolutely sure that I had not unwittingly paraphrased content in my field without proper acknowledgement. I have also had to ask permission of record companies before in order to use samples from existing entertainment in my music and video work. A [recent story on National Public Radio about fair use](#) recommended the [Stanford Copyright and Fair Use Center](#) as an important resource about copyright issues.

The screenshot shows the Stanford University Libraries Copyright & Fair Use website. The page has a red header with the SU LAIR logo and navigation links. Below the header is a dark blue navigation bar with tabs for Copyright Overview, Primary Materials, Current Legislation, Web Guide, For Librarians, and Newsletter. A search bar is located below the navigation bar, with a 'powered by Google' logo. The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column is titled 'Primary Materials' and lists links to US Constitution, US Code & Statutes, Recent US Legislation, US Regulations, International Treaties & Conventions, and US Cases. The middle column is titled 'Copyright & Fair Use Guide' and lists links to Copyright Web Sites, Fair Use & Multimedia Web Sites, US Agencies, Associations & Organizations, Intellectual Property Law Blogs, Journals & Collections, Copyright & Fair Use Articles, and Mailing Lists and Communities. The right column is titled 'Key Copyright Sites' and lists links to Copyright Crash Course (U Texas), Copyright Management Center (Indiana University/Purdue), Creative Commons, LibraryLaw.com, and US Copyright Office. A right-hand column contains 'Commentary & Analysis' with several article titles and authors, including Peter B. Hirtle and Rob Kasunic. A 'Sign Up for Stanford's Fair Use Monthly Newsletter!' section is also present at the bottom right of the main content area.

I went to this website and found a wealth of materials providing background, training, commentary, and advice on copyright and fair use of copyrighted materials. The site provides valuable core documentation such as the U.S. Constitution and the full contents of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act and the Technology, Education, and Copyright Harmonization Act (TEACH) which should form the foundation of any research on copyright and fair use that a UNT community member is doing in connection with his or her work here at the university. Other helpful links from the home page include the [Copyright Crash Course](#) originating from the University of Texas which explains a lot of confusing copyright issues in 'plain English'.

So, next time you have questions about anything regarding copyrighted materials especially as they relate to 'fair use' in education, this is definitely the site to check out! Consider it an important part of your 'free CBT' resources!

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Writing in Water

As mentioned in the "Copyright and Information Security" [article](#) in this issue, October is "National cyber security awareness month." In keeping with that theme, we decided to reprint this article from the [July 2004 issue](#) of Benchmarks Online.

Although the article is several years old, the information is still accurate. The numbers listed in the "Archive Systems" section are dynamic and therefore generally representative of how things are in 2007. For a technical discussion of backing up data, see [this article](#) Mr. Gustavus recently wrote for another venue. -- Ed.

By [Duane Gustavus](#), Research Computing Support Manager

The promise of technology has always been double-edged. Implicit in the power to acquire and manipulate ever more information at the click of a mouse is the power to decimate a career's worth of data just as easily. In every computer-dominated discipline are tragic tales of the person who lost irreplaceable data, a freshly completed dissertation or critical spreadsheet due to "computer failure". Closer to home, most of us have lost a piece of E-mail or maybe a URL or address we now want. At times like these, the need for backups is not a bone of contention, but it is still often the case that a useful copy of the missing data is simply not available.

Given that situation, you might presume that a discussion of the value of backups is unnecessary; one must simply have them. While I agree, statements like this are rather like unfunded federal mandates; they assume the only relevant question is desirability, and thus avoid entirely the thorny issues of implementability which are, of course, at the root the problem. Let's pretend we're not the federal government, and are therefore willing to examine some of those icky implementation details.

When you assume . . .

Perhaps you feel that implementation issues are only for technical folks; that you may assume your backup requirements are already adequately addressed because you once heard the phrase "you are backed up". I certainly have no intention of questioning the competence of your support group, but would ask you to consider who values your data most highly? Who actually owns your data (we are a State institution remember)? Where will the inconvenience (or worse) fall if your data are irrecoverable? Is it possible that something you don't know about backups might bring grief, more specifically avoidable grief? Stick with me a few paragraphs and see if you don't at least come up with some useful questions concerning the persistence of your notoriously ephemeral digital data.

A backup Q&A

The first question to ask should be "Is my system being backed up?". If the answer to this question is no, then I hope you have no reason to consider the system "your" computer. This is not a question of property ownership, but rather the observation that any computer you can access should serve you equally well because there should be no hint of personalization on the system. When the current machine dies, you can conveniently move to another one. If, on the other hand, you do have some reason to prefer one computer over others, perhaps it is time to consider how you will recover what makes it uniquely valuable when it breaks. If you don't have access to a departmental backup service (or perhaps, as I will strongly hint later, even if you do), you might consider accepting the ultimate responsibility for your own data. Forgive me if this proposal sounds a bit radical.

If you answered in the affirmative to the first question, the next useful question would be "What is on the backups?". For instance, is that vital piece of E-mail you just read on backups? Possibly, but more probably the answer is "Not yet." Any backup policy has a window of exposure to loss of new data that is at least the period of time it takes to make the backup. In most cases, the exposure window is considerably longer than that because the facility must service several users in rotation. In addition, backups read virtually the entire disk, and so thrash the system quite a bit while they run, degrading interactive performance noticeably and possibly chewing up significant chunks of precious network bandwidth. For these reasons, at UNT most backups are made during the wee hours of the morning when users are few, and there is less contention for network bandwidth. In other words, that vital piece of E-mail is probably not on backups until the next day. If you accidentally remove it before then (through no fault of your own of course), it is probably gone.

Given these niggling details, however, my vital E-mail is on backups in the next day or so, right?" Perhaps, if the E-mail is stored in one of the areas on a system that is backed up. That's right; not all the disk space on every system is backed up. While you may not be aware of it, many systems are configured to have "scratch" areas on them which are intended for temporary storage of temporary data; other areas are assumed to be static where data never changes. It is quite common to avoid backing these areas up in order to reduce the burden on the backup systems. While you are probably not greatly concerned about burdening the backup hardware, the reality is that the folks who manage it have to be.

This is a recipe for real tragedy, but an example of those implementation details referred to above. There is no argument that an optimal backup strategy would store every bit of data the instant it appears in perpetuity, but that is rather like saying world peace can be achieved if everybody would stop shooting and just be nice to each other. These "solutions" ignore the axiomatic principal of competition for limited resources. This does not render them less desirable as goals, but serves to focus our attention on the compromises required by our current context.

What does "backup" mean, anyway?

To further roil already muddy waters, the term backup is subject to

interpretations which are rarely compared for commonality. To most users a backup system means if you lose a file, be it vital E-mail or the results of your latest three-month calculation, it can be restored to pristine condition rapidly and with a minimum of hassle. That is, after all, what backups are for isn't it? Well, kind of. To your system administrator, backups are what will be used to restore your system if there are problems. In other words, a snapshot of the disk drive which will be used to rebuild the entire system after catastrophic failures, which are generally rare occurrences. It may seem that while these goals are a little different, they both require restoring data from backups, so in reality the same solution fits both requirements equally well.

Consider that the files on your computer system will number in the thousands to tens of thousands, including files that are years old to the ones you made yesterday (the ones you made today will not be on backups remember). If your system is backed up nightly, there will have been hundreds of copies made of some of the files; if the file was static, all copies will be the same, but if you changed things, there might well be many versions of that file, all using the same name. To restore the single version you want, your support folks will have to know precisely where on the file system that file was located, exactly what it's name was and the last date (to the day) that it was on the system before it disappeared. Remember, you are probably asking them to wade through hundreds of thousands of files, quite possibly millions (you share the backup system with other users whose files are on the same backup). Given the size of the job, it will not seem unreasonable to them to expect you to know exactly what you want.

Certainly, not all file restores are this complicated, but the point is the required resolution of information to retrieve the file you need may exceed your knowledge of it. Contrast this with the system administrator's use of backups when they need to rebuild your system. They only need to know the name of the system, and will recover everything from the latest snapshot they have. These two modes of use are often differentiated as backup systems and archive systems. Backup systems are optimized for recovery at the system level. Archive systems are optimized for recovery at the file level. Why aren't all systems designed for archive purposes since entire systems could be recovered file at a time? As you might expect, archive systems are much more complicated and expensive (they must check the haystack straw at a time to find your needle, and it's a really big haystack). Therefore, archive systems generally require special purpose hardware, high density removable storage media and specially trained personnel.

Archive Systems

Take, for example, the CITC archive system. It is comprised of two tape silos which contain six tape drives each and robotic arms to move tape cartridges to and from the drives as needed. The library of tapes used in rotation for backups contains 300 volumes, and services 200 hosts nightly with an average data flow in the range of 5 terabytes weekly. If the required tape is in the library and a tape drive available (i.e. not busy doing backups), this system can access a specific file from it's backlog of two to three weeks worth of files in a matter of minutes to a few tens of minutes. The hardware and software costs for such a system (not including the costs of a machine room environment in which it can operate) will scare \$500,000 dollars.

Currently there are approximately 12,000 hosts on the UNT network (the number is quite dynamic). You won't need statistics help you realize that a similar archive system for that many hosts would be difficult to fund. The College of Arts and Sciences Computing Support Services group takes a different approach to backups. They provide a "network drive" (a convenient way of mapping disk space from another machine into a drive letter on your Windows machine) to which you copy files you want backed up. They then take care of making tape backups of the server system that actually contains your copied data. [Go to <http://www.cas.unt.edu/committees/cc/policies/backup/> to learn more about this implementation.]

Other areas no doubt have similar services optimized to their context. The vital point here is not which type of implementation is best, but rather that implementations differ, so *you must query your network manager to understand the specifics of the available services.*

What strategies can a single user deploy to "backup the backups"?

Given this volume of data, complexity of technology and division of labor between management domains, what strategies can a single user deploy to "backup the backups" and perhaps be able to sleep at night? In most cases, redundancy is your friend. When the library at Alexandria was burned to the ground by religious zealots, many important texts were irretrievably lost, now known only by their acknowledgement in texts that survived. The ones that survived were most often copies of the originals made painfully by amanuenses, a task even then unpalatable enough that it was generally accomplished only through an act of pious devotion. Copies are the thing.

If you are fortunate enough to have access to multiple networked computers, you could copy important files from one system to the other. This form of backup is especially useful for single files (that vital piece of E-mail). Your computer probably has (or certainly could have at moderate cost) a removable medium storage device. In olden times there was the floppy disk; you can amuse young people by descriptions of this precarious device, answering questions like "Why was it called a disc when it was square?" or "Why was it called a floppy when it was rigid?". Currently the writable CD-ROM is the backup medium of choice. You can store ~700 megabytes of data for up to a few years with reasonable success on these devices. The CD-R is cheap (currently about a quarter a piece in bulk quantities), ubiquitous, reasonably rugged and an international standard (ISO-9660) that can cross boundaries between operating systems and different vendor hardware.

Most operating environments have applications that make "burning" a CD simple enough for anyone concerned about their data to employ successfully. If you are unwilling to expend the effort to learn how to use such an application, perhaps you have an assistant who will not find the chore unapproachable (the use of an amanuensis historically led to errors creeping into the text unbeknownst to the author, but them's the breaks). Despite the RIAA's insistence that the public is not trustworthy enough to have access to technology that can easily and cheaply make perfect copies of digital information, you will rest much easier if you can take a CD copy home with you to store off-site in a

safe place. If the data is irreplaceable, make a few and spread them around in case the zealots storm your offices.

There are other media which can be used for backup purposes that may be better adapted to your situation. If a proprietary format is employed, provided by a limited number of suppliers, you should be aware of "bit rot". Large data management operations like NASA have rooms full of 6250 BPI round tapes full of data. If you don't know what one of these looks like, check out a 1960's vintage science fiction movie where an evil computer is the villain represented as panels of blinking lights and a row of drives the size of your average refrigerator on which tapes spin malevolently from time to time. Much of the data gathered from the early satellite programs is stored on this type of media. While we expended huge amounts of effort to collect this data, some of it will doubtless be lost because the tapes are reaching end-of-life, and the tape devices have become difficult to come by. I have a bookshelf on one wall of my home occupied by 33 1/3 rpm albums which I can no longer play; you can probably still buy a cassette tape drive somewhere, but your eight track tapes are information storage detritus.

Maintaining access to your data will sooner or later depend on the ability to copy it to a newer storage medium. If you cannot do this cheaply and easily, and the "content providers" are trying to convince Congress that only "pirates" require this ability, your data will be exposed to the ravages of technological decay. The best bet is the most open, common format available; at all costs avoid coolness, avoid cutting edge, avoid new and improved, avoid proprietary. You need to be able to make lots of copies of the fruits of your labor cheaply and easily, and propagate those copies to the extent you feel the probability of loss is overwhelmed by your favorite end-of-the world scenario.

Finally, I should mention that redundancy has a dark side. In point of fact, security and redundancy are at odds with each other. The more copies of anything to be secured, the bigger the job becomes. Often the increased security risk is considered acceptable to obtain the decreased probability of loss, but not always. You are the only one that can make this call. In addition, multiple copies of data which are not identical can lead to the problem of determining which is the "real" copy. Version control systems are beyond the scope of this discussion, but are of great importance if your methodology involves successive refinement (developing software or writing documents for instance).

Postscript: "What did he say? What did he say?"

My editorial review board opined that a succinct summary of this advice might be useful if not particularly engaging:

- 1) Information is perishable; digital information doubly so.
- 2) Accept ultimate responsibility for your own data.
- 3) Make copies of all critical data.
- 4) In most cases, the more copies the better.
- 5) The best copies are trivially portable between computers.

See "[Safeguarding Research Data](#)" in this issue of *Benchmarks Online* for further information on this topic.

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Safeguarding Research Data

As mentioned in the "Copyright and Information Security" [article](#) in this issue, October is "National cyber security awareness month." In keeping with that theme, we decided to reprint this article from the [July 2004 issue](#) of Benchmarks Online.

Although the article is several years old, the information is still accurate. See the article ["Writing in Water"](#) in this issue for further discussion on computer back ups. -- Ed.

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

A June 2004 [report](#) from the Texas State Auditor's Office (SAO) concluded that higher education institutions should do more to protect research data. The findings of their report included the following observation:

Security of research data at the institutions we audited was inconsistent and sometimes inadequate. Although we identified instances in which research data was very well protected, we identified inconsistent security measures at each of the three institutions we audited that expose other research data to the risk of loss or misuse. This could significantly impede researchers' progress or, ultimately, result in the loss of research funding.

The report goes on to detail data losses due to inadequate backup and disaster recovery, as well as productivity losses resulting from the introduction of a computer worm via a laptop computer attached to the campus network.

Hazards to research data

Hazards to research data fall into three categories: loss of data because of inadequate backup can impede completion of a research project and possibly result in a loss of intellectual property which could be patented and licensed for commercial development; unauthorized access to research data can result in the violation of research participants' privacy or in the theft of intellectual property; operational interference to computer systems (virus or worm outbreaks, or inadequate disaster recovery) can delay or prevent completion of funded projects or impede delivery of research related services.

The SAO audit report offers the following recommendations to safeguard research data.

Institutions should:

Establish and enforce a policy regarding sharing data stored on individual workstation hard drives. If users are permitted to share data on their hard drives, institutions should instruct them on how to share this data securely. Institutions should also consider conducting regular scans to identify instances in which users are sharing their hard drives to monitor compliance with established

policies.

Ensure that users are made aware of the importance of securing their workstations and servers by changing default accounts and ensuring that all accounts have passwords.

Where possible, ensure that password policies for research departments are strengthened to follow the Department of Information Resources' guidelines for length, complexity, reuse, and aging.

Ensure that server administrators review security logs.

Where possible and appropriate, ensure that workstations use password-protected screen savers when users are away from their workstations.

UNT has a number of policies which support the achievement of the standards recommended above. The "[University of North Texas Computer Use Policy](#)" defines standards for password management and system access security. The "[UNT Information Resources Security Policy](#)" provides guidelines for controlling access to information resources and preserving data integrity.

Policies on their own, however, will not secure systems or data, so it is necessary for both the central technical departments and the researcher to take actions to protect research data. Research systems managed by ACS are backed up for purposes of disaster recovery, with a three-week retention period on backed-up files. Backups happen once per day and are not intended as an archive. Data archiving remains the responsibility of the individual researcher (for more about backups, see "[Writing in Water](#)" in this issue of *Benchmarks Online*).

What is being done?

The Computing and Information Technology Center (CITC) Security Team does regular scans of the campus network to identify vulnerable systems which could compromise the security or operation of the campus network. It is particularly important that users of MS Windows workstations protect not only their UNT-owned systems, but their personally-owned systems as well, since data is often share between them both. The CITC provides access to current versions of virus protection software to campus as well as personal systems. More information can be found at the UNT Virus [Webpage](#).

Practices are being developed to enforce use of more secure password strings and password aging for central systems, especially those which use an EUID and enterprise password for login. Those practices will be phased in during the Fall 2004 semester, but in the mean time, it is important for researchers to use secure passwords which are not names or dictionary words. In addition the College of Arts and Sciences has begun using password-protected screen savers on their College-supported Windows systems.

If you are managing your own workstation, it is important to keep up with application of security updates. Windows, Mac OS, and most Linux distributions have methods for downloading and applying the latest updates. Unpatched systems have historically been most vulnerable to the compromise or loss of data.

While the CITC provides support and guidelines for safeguarding data, it is ultimately the responsibility of the individual researcher to safeguard their data. Research data should be backed up and archived at its primary storage location, which is usually the faculty research workstation. But backup of data is not the only responsibility of researchers. Being mindful

of password and operational security issues will promote a computing environment which safeguards data and ensures continuity of the research process.

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

Several more Office and Outlook 2007 courses have been added to our [UNT Computer-Based Training](#) from SkillSoft . The new courses are as follows:

- Data Security, Archiving and Working Offline in Outlook 2007
- Business Contact Manager with Outlook 2007
- Analyzing Data in Excel 2007
- Exchanging Data with Excel 2007
- Creating Custom Slide Shows in PowerPoint 2007
- Distributing Presentations in PowerPoint 2007
- Getting Started with Access 2007
- Basic Access 2007 Tables

All of these courses (with the exception of the Access beginner ones) discuss 'power user' features in Office and Outlook 2007.

Additionally, more Linux, Project Management, and Oracle training has been added and a new training category on Sun Solaris with several offerings has been posted. These particular courses were added by request from a UNT community member which brings me to.....

Our SkillSoft contract gives us access to literally thousands of courses. The courses currently posted are ones that have been specifically requested by different members, departments, and areas at UNT. All UNT members are strongly encouraged to check out the ENTIRE SkillSoft catalog if there is a particular subject area in which they are interested that does not currently appear on our site. After finding and identifying the training, just [email me](#) and let me know what courses you want (be sure to send me the course number associated with the training). The enormous SkillSoft catalog is found at: <http://skillsoft.com/catalog/> and is searchable:

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Catalog

SkillSoft has the most extensive e-learning catalog in the industry, ensuring the best possible learning experience. This catalog now includes available NETg courses.

Looking for an easy reference for SkillSoft courses? View our printer-friendly course [catalog](#). This PDF document is updated monthly. To view a sample of localized courses, please download the [EMEA version of the course catalog](#) in PDF format.

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IT Collections

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- INTERNET AND NETWORK TECHNOLOGIES
- ENTERPRISE DATABASE SYSTEMS
- ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING SYSTEMS
- WEB DESIGN
- IT BUSINESS
- PROJECT EFFECTIVENESS (INCLUDES PROJECT MANAGEMENT)
- ALL IT CURRICULUM

Business Collections

- BUSINESS STRATEGY AND OPERATIONS
- FINANCE, HUMAN RESOURCES AND ADMINISTRATION
- MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP
- PROFESSIONAL EFFECTIVENESS
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- SALES AND CUSTOMER FACING SKILLS
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Xerox Europe, Centica plc, Caggemini, BUPA, Siemens Communications, Lloyds TSB Bank, Hilton Hotels, and the Royal Berkshire and Battle Hospitals NHS Trust discuss their training challenge.

>>> **Client Spotlight**
ADP is in the process of rolling out a worldwide learning strategy that features many SkillSoft products, including Books24x7, courses and SkillPort.

The homepage of the enormous SkillSoft Course Catalog

The complete listing of the training contents currently posted for use by the UNT community is found at: http://www.unt.edu/cbt/final_new_cbt_training.pdf.

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EIS Upgrade Scheduled for Thanksgiving Break

By [Cathy Gonzalez](#), EIS Training, Communication, and Administration Manager, CITC

EIS is getting a face lift over the fall break that occurs to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday. The project consists of upgrading the modules in EIS known as Learning Solutions to Oracle/PeopleSoft's version 8.9 software that has been renamed Campus Solutions (CS).

First, it is helpful for you to have some perspective on the size of the project. From beginning to end the project spans 170 working days (the half-way point was reached on Friday, July 27, 2007). There are 108+ UNTS employees participating in the upgrade (47+ technical and 61+ functional staff).

Since April of this year, UNT and HSC developers have been burning up their keyboards retrofitting UNTS customizations into the Campus Solutions 8.9 version of the delivered PeopleSoft software. The functional areas have been just as busy -- testing, attending training, documenting changes, and designing/implementing the security changes (with support from the EIS Security Administration and EIS Training Administration teams). These are all basic things required to ensure the upgraded system meets UNTS functional needs.

The PeopleSoft Application Infrastructure Management team has taken project members thru several major milestones since April 2007. These include the upgrade initial pass, the first, second, and third test move to production upgrade cycles, and the three sets of patches/fixes applied to the new version.

The Oracle Database Administration team has been busy supporting the Oracle database backups/changes needed to support the implementation of this new version of the software. The CITC Infrastructure and Technical Services team has been installing and configuring the new hardware purchased to ensure our infrastructure remains up-to-date. The Data Warehouse and Reporting Infrastructure team is working on the ETL changes needed to build our Reporting Database from the new CS 8.9 data model.

From now until go-live in November, the project team needs to finalize retrofits, documentation, and security changes, perform a mock go-live cycle, conduct user training, and finalize testing that includes integration testing and load testing. And last but not least, perform the REAL go-live cycle over the Thanksgiving holiday this year.

To learn more about the 8.9 Upgrade Project, go to the [EIS website](#). News items will go out soon regarding user training for CS 8.9 as well as information about the improved self-service center for students in the MyUNT portal.

[Online](#)

Make sure and check out the latest issue of *the Enterprise*, a quarterly web-based publication containing EIS-specific information. Click on the graphic below to access the October issue:



THE ENTERPRISE
Enterprise Information Systems Status Update

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Today's Cartoon

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“My emotions are encrypted to protect the security of our personal relationship.”

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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.
- [RSS Matters](#) - "RSS Matters" is the monthly column written by the Research and Statistical Support [Group](#) in Academic Computing Services. Their articles focus on topics of a statistical and/or research methods nature. **This month, Dr. Mike Clark gives you an "Introduction to SPSS 16."**
- [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 has a few things to say about the RIAA and their approach to protecting "intellectual property rights worldwide and the First Amendment rights of artists." To find out what the fuss is all about, click on the Network Connection link above to read "Bullies Still."

- [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 link is the "UNT Feral Cat Rescue Group." 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 Jonathan "Mac" Edwards discusses "Staff and Faculty Resources on the Helpdesk Website." Read all about it!**
- [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.

Classes are now being offered in "Intermediate SPSS," "Intermediate SAS," "Introduction to Stata," "Intermediate Stata," "New Technologies for Survey Research," and/or "Introduction to R and S-Plus." If you have a group that needs a specific class, it may be possible to arrange a special class just for them. **Click on the Short Courses link above for more information.**

- [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 September 18, 2007 are available this month. Additionally, the list of IRC Members has been updated.**
- [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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Network Connection

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

Bullies Still

Things have changed since June of 2000, when the article below was first [published](#). It seems that the world is a safer place for bullies. The RIAA has certainly not changed its ways. Rather than attack technology, however, the RIAA prefers now to focus their energies on suing the consumers of their product and a recent "[win](#)" by the RIAA further cements their status as bullies. Perhaps if more bands like [Radiohead](#) were willing to stand up to the RIAA and release their music directly to their public, the RIAA could be rendered obsolete. In the mean time, read on and see if you think things have changed.

Bullies of the Internet

We've all experienced bullies. Whether it be on the schoolyard or in the board room, the experience is always the same. The bully holds the power, real or imagined, and wields that power to get their own way. Seldom do bullies actually follow through on their threats. Usually, the lunch money is forthcoming just at the threat of violence. There are times when an example is made, but most bullies are really cowards in disguise and back down when faced with any real opposition. Their power is in the imagined consequence. It is people's fear which provides bullies their power. As long as they keep the fear alive, they will remain powerful.

The RIAA and Napster in the Internet schoolyard

Because the Internet is a reflection of human society, it is not necessarily surprising that you'd find Internet bullies as well. There is no better example of this lately than the case of the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) and the Internet program named "Napster". The RIAA, along with its "muscle" in the form of "Metallica" and "Dr. Dre", have made an example of Napster and are successfully holding the bully power over the rest of the Internet. The club they wield is the threat of a [lawsuit](#).

The RIAA is such a successful bully that they have most of the Higher Education community in the United States fairly well covered. Napster traffic is complained about, rerouted, or blocked, in some cases in the name of Internet bandwidth. I hate to tell you, but if you give a young technology-savvy population uncontrolled access to bandwidth they will figure out a way to use it. If the bandwidth hog is not MP3 files, then it will eventually be video or any number of yet-imagined technologies. Napster isn't the only way to exchange MP3 files, yet it is the one currently targeted. In spite of the "legal implications" of Napster, the truth is that the technology is not the perpetrator. People violate intellectual property laws and they can use any number of technologies to do so, Internet or otherwise. Yet the RIAA currently

chooses Napster to rough up in the Internet schoolyard.

Whose lunch money is it anyway?

This won't be the only time we see an Internet bully pop up. It is interesting, however, to analyze this particular case, because it illustrates who holds the power and what is behind it. What's behind it is a whole lot of money. The [RIAA](#) represents "companies that comprise the ... national music industry..." and claims "...to protect intellectual property rights worldwide and the First Amendment rights of artists." If you look at their list of [members](#), you'll recognize a lot of names of record companies and distributors, that is, a lot of commercial and popular record companies.

I have to admit that as a creative artist myself (a composer of orchestral concert music) I have no sympathy for violators of intellectual property rights. I just can't believe any sincerity on the part of the RIAA in this regard. I'm sure they do protect property rights, but their interest is much more in the property which fills their pockets and not out of any altruistic principle. As an example, there is a television commercial for [Philips Electronics](#) which features someone recording their own "CD mix" from apparently commercial CD sources. I have yet to hear the RIAA decry Philips for airing a commercial "...aiding and abetting wide-scale piracy....", RIAA CEO Hilary Rosen's description of Napster.com's behavior. If you know anything about the electronics industry, you know that Philips is the inventor of CD technology, and licenses that technology extensively to Sony, which just happens to be a prominent name (several times over) amongst the RIAA membership list.

Money talks (or hires high-priced lawyers to do the talking). The question remaining is, amongst the landscape of MP3 technology and the myriad of software which supports the creation, distribution, and rendering of MP3 files, why Napster? The answer is simple. Fear. Like most bullies, what the RIAA fears most is a loss of their power. Napster represents what the RIAA and its members fear most. A loss of control over the production and distribution of commercial music.

Imagine...

Imagine for a moment that the phonograph record was never invented. Musicians would make their living as they once did: performing for audiences of people. Their income would depend upon how many people would be willing to pay to hear them play (by the way, this is still the case for the large majority of those who choose to make music performance their profession - the RIAA "artists" represent the minority). Enter the Internet and a program like Napster. Suddenly, musicians can distribute their music worldwide for just the cost of production (a minimal cost, considering that any garage band these days can and often does produce their own CD).

As we've seen time and time again, the power of the Internet is its ability to harness the intellect and energy of a worldwide community. On the Internet, the free flow of information puts power in the hands of the individual and makes useful information available to the whole community. Internet music distribution does not involve any cost for the production of media, any cost for the distribution and sale of media, any cost for marketing, etc. In our thought experiment, instead of putting control in the hands of those with the money to front the production, distribution, and marketing costs, musicians would keep control over their own music. Distribution of music would allow some popular musicians to increase their popularity and thus increase their income from additional and larger bookings. The "music industry", however, would not be a large money machine which disproportionately provides income to a small group of "artists" who place themselves under the control of that industry.

Facing the reality

It is no wonder that the RIAA is scared. Napster is something they can't control so they must squelch it. The same thing was unsuccessfully tried by the film industry when the VCR was first introduced (now the film industry makes a large chunk of money on the rental and sale of video tapes). Unfortunately, digital audio tape (DAT) technology was successfully torpedoed in the United States by requiring special copy protection features. This kept the price of DAT high and the utility low, especially for those like me who could have used such a technology in support of production of intellectual property which has more artistic than monetary value. The VCR proves, however, that technology can create a new market for making money. The problem for organizations like the RIAA is that it might not be their members making the money.

This is not meant as an endorsement of Napster. The fact that if you install it, you unwittingly provide access to your hard drive to the entire Internet is downright scary to me. There is, however, a need to recognize and confront bullies when we find them and the RIAA is certainly acting the role at the moment. There is no doubt who will win given any traditional course of events. The RIAA and its record company members have much more money for lawyers than does a bunch of talented startup technogeeks (and I mean that in the best sense) like Napster.com. Just don't be fooled about what motivates this confrontation. And remember, if you don't stand up to the bullies, they will end up running everything.

Comments, Questions? Send them to [Philip Baczewski](mailto:Philip.Baczewski).

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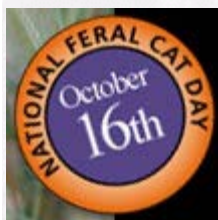
Link of the Month

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



This month we bring you the newly re-designed website of the UNT Feral Cat Rescue Group. Although the group's focus is cats, they help dogs also. Visit their website - <http://orgs.unt.edu/feralcat/> - to learn about their mission, find out about \$15 spay and neuter services, contribute through the State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC), use GoodSearch, shop with iGive, and more.

The UNT Feral Cat Rescue Group - "Benefiting the cats and people of the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas."



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Helpdesk FYI

By [Jonathan "Mac" Edwards](#), Assistant Manager of the CITC Helpdesk

Staff and Faculty Resources on the Helpdesk Website

With the fall 2007 semester in full swing I wanted to have this article take a quick look at our Helpdesk Faculty and Staff page. This page is a great resource for Faculty and Staff to find the information and help they need when it comes to UNT Computing and IT Services.

To access the Faculty & Staff page go to www.unt.edu/helpdesk and click on *Faculty & Staff*. The first thing may notice on this page is a random picture of one of our Helpdesk Staff members displayed in the upper right corner. These are the people putting in the long hours to make sure everyone gets the support they need.

In the center of the page you will find our support links broken down by category.

Departmental Computing Support

Here you can find who out who your Network Manager is, and how to contact them.

In addition we have information for contacting Classroom Support Services, and accessing Student Storage.

Email Support

GroupWise information, training, and support links. Also information on Bulk mail, and Eaglemail is found here.

EUID Centralized Support

Find tutorials on the Account Management System. This section contains a link to the Computer Based Training (CBT) site, which has an extensive list of available online training! Here you can also find information and help with Web Page publishing, WebCT Vista, and UNT eCampus.

EIS Portal

Information on My.unt.edu, EIS training, and Cypress can be found here. In addition a link to the Helpdesk Pop-up Blocker tester is located here.

CITC Resources

Here you can find all things CITC related. This area links to the main CITC site, and lists the CITC resources available to Faculty, Staff, and Students.

Training and Support

Information on Research and Statistical Support (RSS), Computer Training alternatives, Library Electronic Resources, Microcomputer Maintenance, and Adaptive Computing for Students.

Information Security

Here you find links to important information from the Information Security Group. It is always a good idea to practice safe computing, follow these links to be sure you are doing your part to help UNT maintain a safe computing environment.

Questions?

Finally if you ever have any questions our contact information is on the left hand side of the page. Our staff is always ready to help.

Have a Happy Halloween.



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IRC News



Minutes provided by Sue Ellen Richey,
Recording Secretary*

September 18, 2007

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: PHILIP TURNER, CHAIR, PATRICK PLUSCHT, TIM CHRISTIAN, ELIZABETH HINKLE-TURNER, JOHN HOOPER, LOU ANN BRADLEY, PAUL HONS (for JUDITH ADKISON), ROBERT NIMOCKS, JON NELSON, CENGIZ CAPAN, BRUCE HUNTER, DONNA KEENER, GARY MATTHEWS, YUNFEI DU, NOREEN GOGGIN, FRANCES MAY **NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:** JOE ADAMO, MAURICE LEATHERBURY, SUE ELLEN RICHEY (Recording Secretary) **MEMBERS ABSENT:** SCOTT WINDHAM, RAMU MUTHIAH, SEAN-MIKEL FLOWERS, DON GROSE, JOHN PRICE, ABRAHAM JOHN, UWE ROSSBACH, PHILIP BACZEWSKI **GUESTS PRESENT:** CHRISTY CRUTSINGER, CHARLOTTE RUSSELL, TROY JOHNSON, TOM MCELWEE

Distributed Computing Support Management Team**

Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner reported for the Distributed Computing Support Management Team that they met on August 17, 2007, at which time Maurice Leatherbury reported that the GroupWise to Exchange migration project is on indefinite hold while work is continuing to stabilize the hardware infrastructure and do extensive testing by the CITC Network Computing Services Staff. He related that the original three-month summer conversion schedule may have been too optimistic and that because they chose to adopt Outlook/Exchange 2007, the specific knowledge of that new version was not readily available. Plans remain to drop most Novell products by August of 2008, but no firm date will be provided for the GroupWise to Exchange migration until CITC staff are confident that a reliable Exchange system can be provided to campus.

Philip Baczewski reported that progress had been made to provide Office 2007 in CSS Classrooms along with Office 2003, with Office 2003 remaining the default application for opening documents. Jim Curry's CSS group has tested the configuration with the most commonly used classroom response systems and found no problems. DCSMT will reexamine this issue before the Spring semester to determine if it is still appropriate.

Steve Vocolka discussed the power outage that occurred on Sunday, 8/12/2007.

The GAB generator came on and supplied backup power, but shut itself down after a time because of over heating. UNT Facilities have developed plans to better exhaust the heat from the generator.

DCSMT next met on September 7. Mike Wright provided an overview of the new Adobe licensing plan and provided managers with a spreadsheet showing the contents and prices of various bundles. The spreadsheet illustrated how buying bundles may be less expensive in the long run than licensing individual products from Adobe.

Philip Baczewski briefly summarized some organizational changes within the CITC. Support for some infrastructure areas such as enterprise storage and enterprise backup will now be part of an EIS Infrastructure group within CITC Administrative Information Systems. Network Computing Services has been organized into an e-mail messaging group managed by Jason Myre and a directory and operating systems group managed by Craig Terrell. The organizational changes were made to better align services with CITC management responsibilities.

Craig Terrell provided a status report on the Microsoft Active Directory implementation for campus. Active Directory is ready for use and the plan is to delegate full control to distributed organizational units. One issue remaining to coordinate is the choice of software to control metering of software with concurrent execution limitations. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner agreed to convene a group to determine a strategy for serving central applications while accommodating distributed needs for software metering. The next DCSMT meeting is scheduled for September 21.

Learning Enhancement Planning Group

Patrick Pluscht reported for the Learning Enhancement Planning Group. He noted that in order to address ongoing stability problems with Vista 3.0, they will begin an upgrade to Blackboard (formerly WebCT) Vista 4.2 during the Fall semester 2007. All courses will be offered, as planned, on Vista 3.0 for Fall 2007 with the exception of a few courses that have been volunteered by instructors to pilot the upgraded system version. The upgrade to Vista 4.2 does not mean that the learning management system evaluation project which began last spring has been abandoned or that Vista will be used indefinitely. Rather they are taking immediate action to resolve an existing problem while the LEPG continues its work to evaluate a recommended system that will best fit the UNT community's needs in the future. Something else that happened this spring was that two of the other learning management systems they were looking at had new versions released, so more information had to be gathered on the new products. Early in Fall 2007 system administrators will copy the existing course database to the upgraded 4.2 server. Instructors will be given access to the upgraded server as soon as their course has been copied so they can prepare for the Spring 2008 semester. Although Vista 4.2 interface and tool functions are very similar to those in Vista 3.0, the Center is scheduling both on-line and face-to-face training for faculty this semester to assist with the transition. Patrick said that faculty volunteers are needed for testing scripts in the LMS products being evaluated and asked that Council members to let him know if they know of anyone who might be interested.

The Learning Enhancement Planning Group requests that they be given an extension from August 31, 2007 to April 30, 2008 to make a decision on either keeping Vista or switching to a new system. A vote on this request will be taken at the October IRC meeting. Cengiz Capan asked that if Vista 4.2 turns out to be a stable product, would the committee consider keeping it, rather than switching to a new system? Patrick replied that it is the hope of everyone involved that no switch would have to be made. It is believed that after using 4.2 for a semester, they will have a lot of answers about that.

Dr. Turner noted that there were more than 50,000 seats (duplicated user count) in Blackboard Vista this Fall semester.

EIS Planning Group

John Hooper reported for the EIS Planning Group that the upgrade of the Learning Solutions module to 8.9, which includes HR, Payroll, and Contributor Relations, has been going very

well. They will test the HR part with a complete semester's activities in October; they also plan to do load testing in late October, and expect to be ready to go live with the upgrade in November. John announced that CITC has done some reorganization of its staff to consolidate some resources and functions. Dorothy Flores will head up Finance and Administration; resources in CITC working on portal will be together so that they can go forward with portal development more quickly. The infrastructure team increased in size, and tools and applications staff were rearranged into one organization under Robert Jones. There are new organization charts on the CITC website for anyone interested in seeing the details of the reorganization. John announced that they are planning for an upgrade to the Financial system November 2008. In response to a question from Robert Nimocks, John said they have not scheduled an upgrade to Version 9.0 yet.

Cengiz Capan asked about the issue of security in using the DARS system for advising. Troy Johnson said that he would look into the issues Cengiz alluded to.

In further discussion about the upgrade of the Learning Solutions module, Troy Johnson stated that meetings have been held with groups in the testing phase and it was found that there are security issues to be expected (not security breaches – just access issues). He explained that it is difficult to check every access point of every person so he just asked that everyone warn staff about the possibilities. In addition, Troy stated that the search mechanism is a positive addition to the new system, and there will be some user-friendly attributes that will help. Training in the use of the upgraded system will be held in late October.

Patrick Pluscht asked if the upgraded system will provide students with course information and the fees associated with them. Troy said he would get the details on that for Patrick, and added that after the upgrade is completed, they will have the time to address some of the projects that have been on hold.

Standards & Policy Planning Group

Tim Christian reported for the Standards & Policy Planning Group by introducing a revised Computer Use Policy, which was previously reviewed by the IRC in May. The committee deleted many sections that are covered by other existing policies. Discussion will be held on this policy at the next IRC meeting. Tim also distributed a revised Email Usage & Retention Policy, explaining that the policy was initiated by Maurice Leatherbury in an attempt to deal with retention issues relating to email. IRC members were encouraged to send Tim any comments or suggestions regarding these two policies prior to the October meeting, at which time there will be a discussion and vote on both.

Student Computing Planning Group

Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner reported for the Student Computing Planning Group that she and several student representatives held over 50 student orientation events this summer, culminating in the Mean Green Fling that was held on the Sunday evening before school started. They are finishing up a pod cast based on presentations that were given and when it is final, she will share the url with IRC members. The Planning Group will continue to work on ways to get more information out to students effectively. In addition, Elizabeth has asked the Help Desk to track the types of questions and issues they get called about, to see if orientation sessions have a positive effect, and actually cut down on the number of calls to the Help Desk.

Migration to Microsoft Exchange and Active Directory

Maurice Leatherbury made a presentation regarding the Migration to Microsoft Exchange and Active Directory, and distributed notes from his Power Point presentation. Due to the complexity of the migration and the problems encountered, Maurice did not want to set a date for the completion of the migration. Discussion followed, which included questions about the life expectancy of the Compellent back-up system drives, labor costs, and other associated software projects. Cengiz Capan expressed his disappointment in the way the project was planned and carried out, stressing that the distributed areas should have been consulted, as well as used in the actual migration effort, rather than outside consultants. It was noted that additional training for network managers will be needed, closer to the actual time the migration is completed.

Maurice stated that CITC is trying to get an Imaging system funded from University reserves, to replace the current system which does not interface with PeopleSoft. The imaging system might provide access to files by faculty and students who travel to anyplace in the world and he solicited input from faculty members when the imaging systems under consideration are demonstrated on campus. Joe Adamo reported that they have had an RFP out for an emergency notification system, and are now moving forward to acquire the product that looks the best for enabling immediate communication to all types of media in an emergency situation.

* 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

You can link to the last RSS article here: [Statistics: a Clarification](#). -Ed.

Introduction to SPSS 16

By [Dr. Mike Clark](#), Research and Statistical Support Services Consultant

Well, it has been about a year so it's time for SPSS' (pre-patched) new version, version 16. For those with academic research needs, there is little need to upgrade from one version to the next every time one is released, and often you can go a couple versions without noticing much difference. It looks however that this may be one of the most significant upgrades for SPSS in a long time for one simple reason: It can access the code of a statistics package that, for us at RSS and, in our opinion, for many academic researchers, has a lot more to offer- [R](#). Version 16 is not in for another month, so we have no details regarding this implementation, but it could be a great thing for SPSS users as it has been sorely lacking in the utilization of more modern approaches in its base package such as resampling, robust methods etc. Academic users have had to look elsewhere for to execute efficiently, as well as basic functionality (e.g. sample size estimation, testing of various assumptions, missing values analysis) without costly add-ons. Of course, R is still free and if one is willing to use R there is no need for SPSS. However, while R has several GUI projects, those are nowhere near SPSS' interface yet in terms of user-friendliness (though R-commander and others actually have more functionality for a few things), and if this release allows people who otherwise would not have exposure to a package that can deal with real data issues without the requirement of several thousand dollars' ^[1] worth of add-ons, we're for it.

I also want to mention another thing I'm looking forward to: SPSS has finally provided resizable dialog boxes. That may not seem like much to some, but that's always been a source of frustration to me and probably anyone that deals with data on a regular basis. One might also notice the new graphics engine, and while it wouldn't take much to improve SPSS' graphics capabilities, I would be surprised if it is offering anything that R hasn't been able to perform for some time now, but which will still be clunky if one has to click their way to customize it. A final note. I found it very amusing that on the install [pdf](#) of the R plug-in feature SPSS states "SPSS is not making any statement about the quality of the R program". Actually, this R implementation is making a very loud statement that SPSS can't or simply refuses to implement the techniques and methods that R can do, and rather than

develop the tools themselves or make them affordable it has to rely on another statistical package that can offer many things advanced researchers have been requesting for years now.

Here are the notes from SPSS:

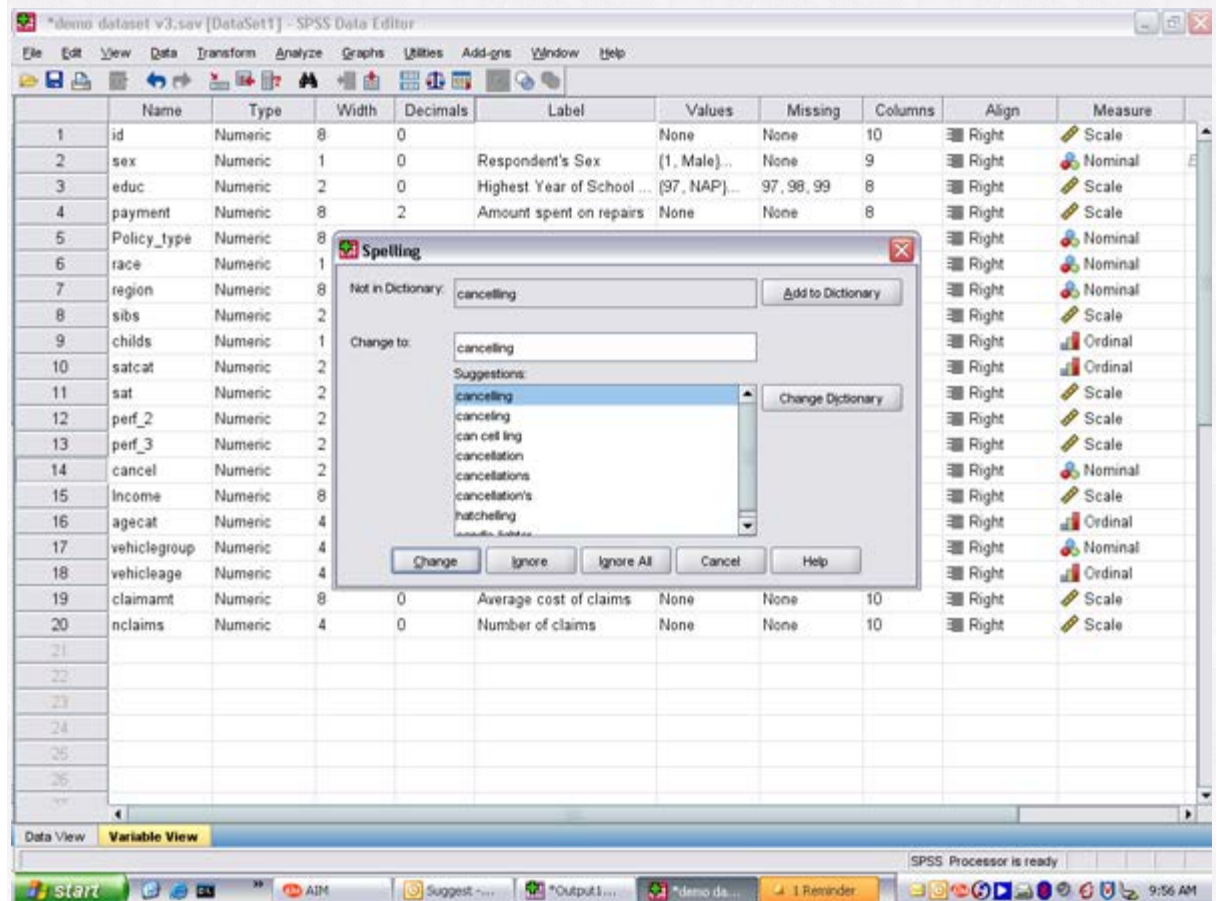
What's New in SPSS 16.0: SPSS Base

Highlights of new features and capabilities in SPSS Base are described below. Separately, read what's new in SPSS' [add-on modules](#) and SPSS' [enterprise-level offerings](#).

In addition to a new interface, SPSS 16.0 offers [expanded analytical capabilities and programmability enhancements](#), [enhanced data management and reporting capabilities](#), and [greater performance](#) through multithreaded algorithms.

A new, more flexible user interface

The new, Java™-based interface makes SPSS even easier to use. You can instantly resize dialog boxes to accommodate long variable names and lists, and quickly drag and drop variables from one pane to another to set up your analysis.



You can easily spell-check variable names and value labels in SPSS 16.0.

Click to view larger image

This interface also supports Unicode, so that you can work with data in multiple languages from a single application. You can treat text data according to Unicode properties for tasks like sorting and case conversion.

Expanded analytical capabilities

Also, through the SPSS Programmability Extension, an SPSS Integration Plug-In for R is available. This enables users to access the wealth of statistical routines created in R and use them within SPSS as part of SPSS syntax.

Additional programmability enhancements

An SPSS Programmability Integration Plug-in provides the crucial link and configuration instructions that enable an SPSS syntax job to take advantage of a specific external programming language or dynamic link library (DLL). Through the SPSS Programmability Extension, SPSS currently offers the following plug-ins:

- SPSS-Python Integration Plug-In
- SPSS-.NET Integration Plug-In
- SPSS-R Integration Plug-In

New plug-ins are being developed by SPSS Inc. and will be available for download at [SPSS Developer Central](#).

Also available for download at SPSS Developer Central is the new SPSS Programmability Extension SDK. This provides software developers with the information needed to develop an SPSS Programmability Integration Plug-In for a programming language's use with the SPSS Programmability Extension.

Enhanced data management and reporting capabilities

SPSS 16.0 includes many enhancements to data management that users have specifically requested. With SPSS 16.0, you can:

- Change the string length or the data type of an existing variable, using syntax
- Define missing values and labels for data strings of any length
- Choose either to round off or add decimal places to calculated dates when using the Date/Time Wizard
- Benefit from new capabilities in the Data Editor, including the ability to:
 - Find and replace information,
 - Spell check value and variable labels,
 - Configure the Variable View, such as the
 - Ability to sort by variable name, type, or format, etc.
 - The ability to show/hide dictionary attributes
- Find and replace text in syntax, using the Output Viewer, enabling you to detect warnings to identify problems in your output.
- Transfer data and SPSS output to and from Excel 2007
- Suppress the number of active datasets open on the desktop
- Set a permanent default working directory

Reporting enhancements include a new, more powerful visualization engine, which replaces the Interactive Graph Properties (IGRAPH) feature. This makes graph editing faster and easier. (Existing IGRAPH syntax will continue to work.) The enhanced Chart Editor delivers a similar level of functionality as the previous IGRAPH editor.

In addition, SPSS 16.0 introduces Python as the default front-end scripting language. Python supersedes SAX Basic as the scripting language for tasks such as automation of repetitive tasks and customization of output. (Existing SAX Basic scripts will continue to work in SPSS 16.0.)

Greater performance and scalability

In SPSS 16.0, several algorithms are multithreaded, which improves performance on machines containing multiple processors and multi-core processors.

The following algorithms in SPSS Base are multithreaded:

- Linear regression
- Correlation
- Partial correlation
- Factor analysis

[1] If you think I'm overstating this, SPSS charges \$1,000 for an add-on that does what [G*Power](#) (and R) do for free. *One-thousand dollars* to do one thing that is just as easily done by other packages for nothing.

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Short Courses

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

Surf over to the [Short Courses](#) page to register for "Intermediate SPSS," "Intermediate SAS," "Introduction to Stata," "Intermediate Stata," "New Technologies for Survey Research," and/or "Introduction to R and S-Plus." If you have a group that needs a specific class, it may be possible to arrange a special class just for them. See "Customized Short Courses" below for further information.

Due to staffing and organizational changes, instructor-led 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 this fall. According to the Central Web Support FAQ [page](#):

Microsoft FrontPage: As Microsoft is dropping support for FrontPage, CWS is no longer supporting the FrontPage application or server extensions. Please migrate your site to Adobe's Dreamweaver or contact Central Web Support at cws@unt.edu for more information.

Besides the FAQ page listed above, Central Web Support also hosts a [tutorials page](#). You can consult the new computer based training website to see what offerings are available there also: <http://www.unt.edu/cbt/>

Customized Short Courses

Faculty members can request customized short courses geared to their class needs from ACS. 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](#), and the [Center for Distributed Learning](#). Additionally, the [Center for Continuing Education and Conference Management](#) offers a variety of courses, usually for a small fee.

EIS training is [available](#). Questions or comments relating to EIS training should be sent to the EISTRN GroupWise account.

Moving from GroupWise to Microsoft Outlook Training

Although the project has been [delayed](#), a useful source for finding resources for preparing the campus community for this transition can be found [here](#).

Central Web Support

Consult Central Web Support for assistance in acquiring "Internet services and support." As described on their [website](#):

Services include allocating and assisting departments, campus organizations and faculty with web space and associated applications. Additionally, CWS assists web developers with databases and associated web applications, troubleshooting problems, support and service.

In addition the Central Web Support office provides training to faculty and staff for web development. Training courses that are offered include Dreamweaver, Fireworks, Integrating Dreamweaver and Fireworks, ColdFusion, Zope and SQL.

In an effort to provide the services that the UNT Web Development [requires] our staff will continually add additional courses to fit the needs of our faculty, staff and students.

Center for Distributed Learning

The Center for Distributed Learning offers courses especially for Faculty Members. A list of topics and further information can be found [here](#).

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

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. See <http://www.gal.unt.edu/> for a list of labs and their locations. The Willis Library, for example, has a [list of Tutorials and Software Support](#).

The [Training Website](#) has all sorts of information about alternate forms of training. Computer Based Training (CBT) and Web-based training are some of the alternatives offered.

For further information on CBT at UNT, see the CBT [website](#). Note, also, the articles in the July issue of *Benchmarks Online*, "[Get Revved Up for Office and Outlook 2007!](#)" and "[SkillPort Training Site Update](#)." See also, "[Free and Legal: Copyright Advice and Training Online](#)" and "[Office 2007 Training Available at the SkillPort CBT Website](#)." "[The Gift that Keeps on Giving: Even More Outlook and Office 2007 Training Posted on the CBT Website](#)" can be found in issue of *Benchmarks Online*.

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Staff Activities

Transitions

New Employees:

- **Cleatus Estes**, Programmer Analyst, Finance and Administration Systems (AIS).
- **Miriam (Jennifer) Wilie**, Student Assistant, Enterprise Systems Technical Services (part-time).
- **Stephen Eisenhower**, Student Assistant, EIS Training, Communications, and Administration (AIS) (part-time).
- **Terence Tol**, Computer Equipment Operator, Computer Operations (part-time).
- **Paul Faaborg**, Communications Manager, Data Communications.

No longer working in the Computing and Information Technology Center:

- **Blake Holmes**, Computer Equipment Operator, Computer Operations (part-time).
- **Mike Murdock**, Programmer Analyst, Oracle Database Administration (AIS).
- **Julia Sokolowska**, Student Assistant, Broadband Mobile Systems Technology, Communications Services (part-time).

Changes, Awards, Recognition, Publications, etc.

Award

Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner, Student Computing Services Manager, received an ASCAP Award (\$500 grant) for 2007. The awards are given for composer applicants based on their creative work for the year and their recent performance activities. Hinkle-Turner has been receiving ASCAP grants since 2000.

Congratulations to *InHouse* prize winners (Sep. 25, Oct. 08)

- **Rebecca Padia**, Computer Support Specialist, EIS Security Administration (AIS) won a Willis Library Albino Squirrel Calendar.

[Online](#)

- **Michelle Elliott**, Programmer Analyst, Student Records Systems (AIS) won a pair of tickets to a home football game.
- **Philip Buhler**, Programmer Analyst, Student Records Systems (AIS) won a UNT T-shirt gift pack.

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