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Campus Computing News



CSS Classroom Technology & Service Refresh

By [Ashley Olsberg](#), Classroom Support Services (CSS) Manager

During the Summer 2014 term, [Classroom Support Services](#) (CSS), will be upgrading all of the projectors and computers installed in CSS-supported UNT classrooms.* CSS staff members have spent the past several months meeting with various groups to discuss the possibility of upgrading all 293 existing CSS classroom systems. I want to start off by thanking everyone who participated in these discussions.

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Electronic Account Security



By [Chris Stoermer](#), IT Manager, UIT-AITS

By now, I am sure everybody has heard about the web services vulnerability called, "Heartbleed." The vulnerability was found in certain versions of the Secure Socket Layer (SSL) protocol for web servers.

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The Heartbleed Bug and You



By [Dr. Philip Baczewski](#), Senior Director of Academic Computing and User Services and Deputy Chief Information Officer for University Information Technology

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By the Numbers

Down the Corridor of Years

2000

Benchmarks Online

[publications](#) from 2000 note:

- UNT implements a self-service web application for financial aid.
- UNT implements a residence hall data network named ResNet.
- SPSS for CMS is removed from the academic mainframe because it is not Y2K compliant.
- UNT upgrades its total Internet bandwidth from 9 Mbps to 90 Mbps.
- Plans to build an expansion to the Information Sciences Building are announced. The expansion and resulting additional space is planned to be shared between the Computing Center, the Microcomputer Maintenance Shop, and Classroom Support Services.
- After more than a year of development, UNT's "Bulk Student E-mail" system is in place and operational.
- Linux systems were added to some UNT General Access computer labs.
- The General Access Labs celebrate their [10th birthday](#).

Windows XP: Almost gone, not forgotten



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

Microsoft stopped supporting Windows XP on April 8, almost thirteen years since it was released. According to [CNET](#) nearly one-third of the world's PCs are still running XP, "an enduring popularity that's proved a double-edged sword for Microsoft, which has been forced to extend support for the elder statesman of OSes." Ironically, or maybe not, some of those PCs belong to the [Internal Revenue Service](#).

[Read more](#)  [BOOKMARK](#) 

New Horizons' SpecTECHular Open House



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

New Horizons is a [DIR](#) vendor that provides technology training across Texas and beyond. Every year they host a free SpecTECHular open house. This year's Open House is scheduled for May 8.

[Read more](#)  [BOOKMARK](#) 

TODAY'S CARTOON

Click on the link above for an information age laugh.



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By [Ashley Olsberg](#), Classroom Support Services (CSS) Manager

During the Summer 2014 term, [Classroom Support Services](#) (CSS), will be upgrading all of the projectors and computers installed in CSS-supported UNT classrooms.* CSS staff members have spent the past several months meeting with various groups to discuss the possibility of upgrading all 293 existing CSS classroom systems. I want to start off by thanking everyone who participated in these discussions.

Why change?

At this point you might be asking yourself, "Why change"? The Classroom Support Services team believes very strongly in the positive impact instructors can have on their students and that our role in that equation is to empower instructors with sustainable and well supported IT solutions. How does this change effect instructors? These changes are intended to have the following benefits:

- buying back precious class time by decreasing setup or startup time for media display;
- helping classroom media be better seen, though brighter images on the screen;
- providing more adaptable AV display formats,;
- increasing PC desktop versatility,;
- increasing equipment reliability ;
- strengthening our sustainable systems model by lowering power usage;
- improving customer service by finding new ways to proactively communicate with classroom media users.

In order for us to meet these goals, we had to decide which aspects of our system design and customer service elements could be changed to have the biggest overall impact. The system design in the classrooms includes more powerful computers, Dell Optiplex 7010 systems with hybrid drive, Intel Core i5 processor and 8GB of RAM. NEC PA500X and PA600X data projectors will provide an increased lumen count of 1,000 – 2,000 lumens from the existing models installed in classrooms.

Furthermore ...

Included in the increased customer support efforts, CSS will be utilizing the Qualtrics surveys to routinely gather feedback from our end users on a semesterly basis. We will also be upgrading our existing phone systems and creating new communications mediums so our end users can more readily communicate with us on an as-needed basis.

One example of a new communications method is the *CSS E-mailer app* that we plan to deploy to all CSS PC desktops. This application is being developed collaboratively with other areas in hopes that it provides the end user with a quick way to communicate a variety of classroom needs whether that be system hardware complications, software specific assistance, or simply that the room no longer has enough chairs for the students in the class. Our goal is to simplify and streamline communications so that classroom users can receive assistance more efficiently and effectively.

Time frame

CSS will complete the upgrade all existing CSS-supported classrooms by the end of the Summer 2014 semester. Installation of the new technology will be scheduled so that it has no impact on summer teaching schedules. These upgrades should not only improve classrooms as they are currently being used, but also put us in a good position to support further IT based teaching initiatives in the years to come. On behalf of the CSS team, I would like to send a sincere thanks to the faculty and staff members, as well as students, who helped us by providing valuable feedback. We look forward to continuing to serve this campus.

*CSS supports all [110 classrooms](#) as well as some 210 and a few other event spaces.

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Electronic Account Security

By [Chris Stoermer](#), IT Manager, UIT-AITS

By now, I am sure everybody has heard about the web services vulnerability called, "Heartbleed." The vulnerability was found in certain versions of the Secure Socket Layer (SSL) protocol for web servers.

If you open a web browser and look at google.com, for example, you will notice the address bar shows the address like this: [HTTP://www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

However, if you do online banking, or other types of "Secure" browsing, your address bar will start with HTTPS://... The "S" tells you that you are using an SSL protocol.

Many companies have already issued public statements that they were not vulnerable, or that they have patched their vulnerability.

Today's security reminders:

- If you have questions about your secure transactions, go to the source. Check the company website for a news release covering the Heartbleed vulnerability (it's probably on their home page).
- Never believe an email message which attempts to trick you into giving out your passwords. They are almost always "Phishing" attempts to compromise your electronic information.
- If your Office PC starts to behave oddly, or you believe you may have been the target of a phishing attempt, please contact your [Network Manager](#) as quickly as possible so we can help.

See "[The Heartbleed Bug and You](#)" in this month's issue of *Benchmarks Online* for further information on this topic.

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The Heartbleed Bug and You

By [Dr. Philip Baczewski](#), Senior Director of Academic Computing and User Services and Deputy Chief Information Officer for University Information Technology

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Background

The Heartbleed bug was announced on April 7, 2014, and is a specific flaw in a particular program used to secure web sites and some Internet devices. The program affected is [OpenSSL](#) and the bug was introduced when a new feature, named heartbeat, was added to OpenSSL that enables a remote program to keep Internet connection active when there is no active transmission of data between the a server and the remote client. There are a number of online sites that can provide more detailed [information](#) regarding the bug if you are interested and there is even a cartoon [illustration](#) of how the bug could be used to discover information on a vulnerable server.

While it has been [reported](#) that the bug could potentially affect 66% of Internet web servers, in reality, only servers that were running the latest major version (1.0.1) of OpenSSL were affected. The bug was fixed in a minor version release (1.0.1g) of OpenSSL that was made available on April 7 in conjunction with the general announcement of the vulnerability in previous releases. As soon as the bug was known, IT staff at all levels of UNT's organization assessed our servers and applied a software update if the server was running a vulnerable version of OpenSSL. In Academic Computing and User Services, we found that none of our eight potentially-affected servers were running a vulnerable version of OpenSSL. Also, most Microsoft Windows servers run a different version of SSL and are not affected.

There have been a number of [myths](#) circulated about the Heartbleed bug, and there's actually some positive news to report as more information becomes available. As discussed above, the bug has only affected a subset of web servers and there may be fewer affected servers than was originally reported. Likewise, it appears that most [bank servers](#) were not affected by the bug. Even though the bug has existed for about two years, the New York Times recently [reported](#) that some researchers have found no evidence that the bug was actually exploited before the news of the bug was released (although there has been at least one [report](#) that the bug has been exploited after it was announced and before sites could apply a fix.) However, a number of major services like Yahoo and Google were reported to be affected, so we can't breath that sigh of relief yet.

Should we be worried?

We now get to the part about how worried we should or should not be. As one of several billion Internet users, it's possible that statistics are in our favor. However, that doesn't mean that there won't be an impact over a longer term. Because the bug could be used to discover login and password information, one piece of advice given is to change your password on affected services once you are sure the bug has been fixed on that service. The site [mashable.com](#) has created an [extensive list](#) of Internet services with information on whether or not a site was affected by the Heartbleed bug. You should definitely consider changing your password on sites that have been affected and that you frequently use. If there was someone exploiting the bug, they would likely target the largest Internet services and you'd have a greater chance to be affected if you were a frequent user of a service. However, Google has [reportedly](#) stated that there's not a need to change your Google password, but it's not a bad idea to do so if you are worried about your account being compromised.

Steps that can help

Online security is an ongoing effort and there are a number of common-sense steps you can take to protect your identity and information:

- Use longer and more complex passwords -- avoid using plain words or names and instead use an acronym or a phrase with number or special character substitutions (example: 1Br@k34R@bb1ts);
- Don't use the same password for multiple services -- if you can't remember different passwords, use a complex base pattern with a variant for each different service (example: 1Br@k34R@bb1ts@Am@z0n);
- Don't share your passwords;
- Avoid situations where your online information might be compromised - for example, when using open WiFi networks in coffee shops or other businesses, be sure to use secure (https) connections;
- Change your password if you think it might have been discovered;
- Monitor your accounts (especially financial) on a regular basis for any suspicious activity.

By paying attention and doing a little management of your online activity, you can reduce the chance that your information will be compromised and you can be ready for vulnerabilities that will come up long after we've forgotten Heartbleed.

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Network Connection

By [Dr. Philip Baczewski](#), Senior Director of Academic Computing and User Services and Deputy Chief Information Officer for University Information Technology

Big Blue, Little Blue

Computing technology has matured to the point that significant anniversaries have become commonplace. April has brought us another couple of technologies to commemorate. At the risk of getting caught in a continual spiral of technology anniversaries, we'll explore two of them this month that had a significant influence on the technology landscape we see today as well as a significant influence on my career.

On April 7, 1964, International Business Machines (IBM) [announced](#) the availability of a new computer system with the model name "System/360". This new computing platform introduced a [computing architecture](#) that could be implemented independent of the hardware platform. This allowed the same program to run without modification on multiple models of the System/360 and enabled IBM to sell computers to many different market segments, and opening up computing technology to many industries.

The Mainframe

UNT [purchased](#) an IBM model 360/50 in 1970 and for ten years, it served as the processing platform for both academic and business computing, receiving a couple of updates along the way. As a student at UNT, I ran programs on the IBM "mainframe" as assignments for several classes I took (including programs to digitally synthesize music.) After the IBM 360/50 was [replaced](#) with an operationally compatible system produced by Hitachi, I eventually found myself working in the UNT Computing Center as one of the "operators" who tended to the functions of the mainframe computers. I later found a job in the Academic Computing department and find myself still there today.

Beyond its personal influence for me, IBM's System/360 was influential on the development of wide area network technology as the Internet was transforming from a research project to a world-wide infrastructure. [BITNET](#) was an academic communication network that used IBM System/360 software protocols to connect different mainframes over long distances. To connect to BITNET, institutions just needed to fund the cost of a modem and a telephone line to the next nearest BITNET member site. This made it an inexpensive way to set up electronic communication between campuses and supported the first e-mail, interactive chat, and file transfer systems used by many in academe. It also brought us services like the [Listserv](#) mailing list software that is still in use today on the Internet.

It's BASIC

Also on the anniversary radar this month is the 50th year of the [BASIC](#) programming language. BASIC ("Beginner's All-purpose Symbolic Instruction Code") was [developed](#) at Dartmouth University as a tool to introduce students to the task of writing computer programs. It was designed to run on multi-user computer systems that were less expensive and more accessible than IBM Mainframes. BASIC was an "interpreted" language that executed instructions in the program order rather than a "compiled" language that used a more complex methodology to create a complete set of instructions that would be loaded into a computer's random access memory for execution. BASIC's adaptable implementation and [simple keywords](#) allowed it to become a standard on many minicomputers of the 1970s and the microcomputers that were to follow in the 1980's.

One of the minicomputers that featured BASIC was the Hewlett-Packard (HP) model 2000 (also [owned](#) by UNT in the 1970's.) My first programming project was written in BASIC on an HP 2000 system accessible via a telephone modem connection from my middle school. As a math class project, I wrote a simple drill and practice program for memorizing multiplication problems. Much later at UNT, I maintained a music theory aural skills drill and practice system that was one of the first of its kind, with the supporting programs written in BASIC and running on the HP

2000.

If you were around and over the age of 10 in the 1980's - 1990's, chances are that you have had exposure to BASIC at one time or another. BASIC was a staple on most, if not all, of the early commercial microcomputers. When IBM was developing their own version of the microcomputer, named "Personal Computer" or just "PC", they went to a small company in Seattle in search of a version of BASIC to be included with it. That company, named [Microsoft](#) was able to supply the operating system (Disk Operating System) for use on all of IBM's PCs and MS-DOS (PC-DOS from IBM), not to mention Microsoft, was unleashed on the world.

BASIC served as a model for some of the more sophisticated programming languages that helped establish and are still in use for web-based applications on today's Internet. Languages like Perl, Python, and PHP, if not direct descendants of BASIC, owe a bit of their existence to BASIC's legacy. For one thing, many Internet program developers (including me) cut their teeth on BASIC long before anyone ever thought of web servers and [CGI](#) scripts.

Bravo!

So, hats off to System/360 and BASIC. I guess I should at least send them an anniversary card since they ended providing me, and many others, a career. I guess these days it would likely be an e-card. Bring on the next anniversary.

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Additional Services from MMS

Most people are aware of the general focus of UNT's Microcomputer Maintenance Shop (MMS) as stated on their homepage:

The Microcomputer Maintenance Shop (MMS) supports microcomputers for UNT faculty, and staff by providing expertise and services in order to maintain existing microcomputer equipment and assist with the selection and purchase of new computers and upgrade hardware.

But did you know that they also provide additional services? Among those services are:

- Battery Disposal
- Certifiable Hard Drive Disposal
- Microcomputer Upgrades

http://www.mms.unt.edu/Additional_Services.htm



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Helpdesk FYI

By [Jacob Flores](#), **UIT Support Services Manager**

Web-Based Printing in the Sage Hall Lobby

The conveniently located kiosks in the Sage Hall lobby have just become even more convenient! Next time you stop by the UIT Helpdesk, you'll find a large printer placed by the kiosks available for printing. This printer is piloting a new concept of web-based printing to service students' printing needs in public areas as an alternative to stopping by a computer lab to print.

To print on the first floor Sage Hall lobby printer, just do the following:

1. Go to <http://printing.unt.edu/>
2. Log in using your EUID and Password.
3. Select **"Web Print"** from the left menu.
4. Click the **"Submit a Job >>"** link and choose the printer: **"acslab-server\Sage-Hall-Lobby-Printer"**
5. Click **"Print Options & Account Selections"** to continue.
6. You may choose the number of copies (limit 3).
7. Click **"Upload Documents"** to continue.
8. Click **"Choose Files"** and choose the document you would like to print. (Make sure that the file format type is allowed).
9. Click **"Upload & Complete"** and wait for your document to finish processing.

If you have any questions about this service or need to report a problem with this printer, please contact the UIT Helpdesk in Sage 130, right behind the printer.

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The UNT logo features the letters "UNT" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within a circular emblem. The emblem has a green background with a grid of white lines, resembling a globe or a technical diagram.

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Research and Statistical Support University of North Texas

RSS's Top R Package and Software List

Link to the last RSS article here: [Fulfilling the Need for Speed: A brief introduction to parallel processing in the R environment](#). -- Ed.

By [Dr. Richard Herrington](#), Research and Statistical Support Consultant

There has been a trend in publishing "Top 10" lists of the most essential R packages. We would be remiss to not include our own "Top" list of essential R packages that we believe are critical for users who are beginning to use R. We include packages that are both data manipulation oriented and also modeling oriented. Most if not all of these packages can be found at:

http://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/available_packages_by_name.html

These distinctions are somewhat arbitrary; we list the packages that we have had the most experience with and have found useful.

Data Manipulation and Modeling

- Hmisc
- MASS
- car
- Zelig
- plyr
- stringr
- reshape2

Packages Oriented Toward Graphical Rendering and Report Generation

- gplots
- ggplot2
- lattice
- latticeExtra
- rgl

- igraph
- knitr

Packages Oriented Primarily Towards Modeling

Linear, nonlinear and random effects regression

- nlme
- lme4
- mgcv
- effects

Psychometric packages

- sem
- lavaan
- lava
- mirt
- aspect
- caTools
- mokken
- psych

Model selection and time series imputation

- rpart
- rrp
- forecast
- leaps
- relaimpo
- relimp
- MARSS
- strucchange
- mvtnorm

Supporting Software Installations

We would also include as essential the set of compilation tools - *Rtools*, found at: <http://cran.r-project.org/bin/windows/Rtools/>. Rtools is required if you are interesting in compiling an existing R packages or creating your own R package.

And lets not forget the wonderful R IDE Rstudio found at: <https://www.rstudio.com/ide/>

Until next time, this concludes our short, but essential list of R tools.

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Training

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

Do you need training on widely used computer programs including those used in statistical analysis? If so, this monthly *Benchmarks Online* column is for you.

Statistical Analysis

Instructor-led courses are offered only by special request. Please contact an [RSS member](#) or [Claudia Lynch](#) if you are interested in taking such a class or wish to have someone offer a class for your students. [SAS](#), [SPSS](#) and [Introduction to R](#) are offered online. Make sure and check out the **RSS Matters** article [Statistical Resources](#) in the July 2012 issue of *Benchmarks Online*.

Special classes can always be arranged with the RSS staff. Also, you can **always** contact the RSS staff for one-on-one [consultation](#). Please read the [FAQ](#) before requesting an appointment though.

Especially for Faculty and Staff Members

In addition to the online statistical courses, which are available to students, faculty and staff, staff and faculty members can take courses offered through the [Business Service Center](#) (they have a new comprehensive training curriculum), and the [Center for Learning Enhancement, Assessment, and Redesign](#) (CLEAR). Additionally, the [Center for Achievement and Lifelong Learning](#) (CALL) offers a variety of courses, usually for a small fee.

EIS training is available and expanding. Click [here](#) for more information.

Microsoft IT Academy

All **students, faculty and staff** within the UNT System now have access to online learning via the Microsoft IT Academy.

Microsoft Virtual Academy

[Who is eligible to participate in MVA?](#)

- Anybody interested in growing their career can be a part of MVA.
- MVA courses and events are free, but you need to identify yourself using a Microsoft account in order to sign up for MVA and create your MVA profile.
- To sign up for MVA, on the [MVA home page](#), MVA courses and events are free, but you need to identify yourself using a Microsoft account in order to sign up for MVA and create your MVA profile.
- There is no minimum level of technical expertise required.

Microsoft E-Learning

Microsoft E-Learning courses are available for **faculty and staff** via our UNT System Microsoft Campus Agreement.

See [the article](#) in the November 2013 issue of *Benchmarks Online* for more information. Also, UNTHSC offers a [Microsoft Word document](#) on accessing Microsoft E-Learning.

Central Web Support

Central Web Support [provides](#) "web hosting and support to appropriate campus entities free of charge." Visit their [website](#) for "How-Tos about Everything."

CLEAR

CLEAR offers courses especially for Faculty Members. *CLEAR training includes:*

- Blackboard
- Turnitin
- Turning Point
- Assessment
- Teaching Effectiveness
- Respondus

Please check out CLEAR's training and event calendar at <http://clear.unt.edu/calendar> for the latest information regarding Blackboard, CLEAR's initiatives, and on campus instructional events.

Further information can be found [here](#).

FREE SLOAN-C ONLINE WORKSHOPS

The University of North Texas is a premium member of Sloan-C College Pass. To request FREE ENROLLMENT in an online workshop by Sloan-C, please contact [Amber Bryant](#) with the name and date of the workshop selected.

- [Sloan-C 2014 Workshops](#)

Please click on the link above to see the available 2014 workshops.

Assessment Workshops

CLEAR offers 50 minute workshops presented by Dr. Ron Carriveau that provide everything needed to develop measurable student learning outcomes and outcome-based assessments. **Workshop #4 is offered on April 23 & 24.** For more information see: <http://clear.unt.edu/if-you-cant-measure-it-then-you-cant-fix-it>

Ed2go

Ed2go are courses that are offered, for a fee, to UNT faculty, staff and students as well as the general public. According to the CALL [website](#):

CALL has partnered up to provide online learning on a variety of topics. From standardized test preparation to database programming to training for libraries and their staff, there's a variety of areas from which to choose in online learning.

The online minicourses, provided in conjunction with Ed2go, are standardized 12-lesson modules released over a six week period. (Courses are active for eight weeks to provide some flexibility). Each module features a quiz. Lessons are instructor-led and course participants and instructor communicate through a course discussion board. Lessons can be downloaded and saved. At the end of the course there is a final quiz. A passing grade opens a window that allows students to print out a course completion certificate.

Most courses are \$89, and UNT faculty, staff and students may receive a \$10 discount. Visit the online courses page at <http://www.ed2go.com/unt/> or contact Tami Russell at 940.565.3353 for more information.

For additional information, visit the **Ed2go blog** [here](#). You can [subscribe to their newsletter](#) also.

Information Security Awareness

The ITSS Information Security team offers Information Security Awareness training to all UNT faculty and staff.

It is a policy requirement that ALL staff take an information security course at least once a year.

As the [ITSS Training page](#) states, you may access Information Security Awareness training at <https://upk.admin.unt.edu/KContent/3/data/toc.html?launchFromKpath=1>.

Business Service Center Training & Development

Provides training to UNT System institutions: <http://bsc.untsystem.edu/training-development>. There is also a link to [download Office 2010 training](#) (in PowerPoint 2010 format) on the BSC website. The March 2014 BSC Solution Source Newsletter has [instructions](#) for registering for their online courses.

UNT HR Training and Development

As noted on their [website](#):

Monthly emails are sent to all employees with a list of current classes, many available by webcast. (Note: Few, if any classes are offered during the winter break, spring break holiday periods for all UNT System campuses.)

Learn more about classes

here: https://untranet.unt.edu/untsystem/UNT%20System%20HR/talent_management/SitePages/Home.aspx

If you have questions or specific needs, contact talentmanagement@untsystem.edu or call 855-878-7650 to be directed to a Talent Management staff member.

Alternate Forms of Training

Many of the General Access Labs around campus have tutorials installed on their computers.

See <http://computerlabs.unt.edu/> for a list of labs and their locations. The 24 Center in Willis Library, for example, has a [list of Tutorials and Software Support](#). The Library Instructional Unit also offers workshops and training, including "tech skills" training. Visit their websites for more information: <http://www.library.unt.edu/library-instruction>.

Info~Tech, UNT's IT Research Partner

Info~Tech is UNT's IT research partner. UNT System, UNT, UNT Health Science Center and UNT Dallas employees have access to Info~Tech research at: www.infotech.unt.edu (click on the UNT System name to login). Your standard EUID and Password gains you access to the Info~Tech system. Please take a moment to read their terms and conditions by clicking through the agreement when you set up your profile the first time you log in.

State of Texas Department of Information Resources

Another possible source of training for staff and, perhaps, faculty members is the Texas Department of Information Resources. A look at their Education and Training [website](#) reveals some interesting possibilities.

New Horizons Computer Learning Centers

New Horizons is a DIR vendor, which means that state agencies, like UNT, get special pricing for their services negotiated at the State level (click [here](#) for more information about DIR vendors). [New Horizons](#) offers courses at their own facilities in Dallas and Fort Worth, but will arrange for onsite training as well. They have a "Tips and Tricks" [page](#) that has helpful information. You can also [join their mailing list](#) to receive their monthly newsletter, event invitations and specials.

Check out their [SpecTECHular Open House](#) coming up in May.

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Staff Activities

Staff activities for [UIT](#) are reported in this column. ITSS staff activities are handled by [ITSS Communications](#).

Changes, Awards, Recognition, Publications, etc.

- **Ashley Olsberg**, formerly a Media Technical Manager in Classroom Support Services (CSS), accepted the position of Classroom Support Services Manager and began work in that capacity on April 1. All CSS staff report directly or indirectly to Ashley and Ashley and CSS reports to Dr. Philip Baczewski in his capacity as Senior Director of Academic Computing and User Services. Micro Maintenance Services continue to report directly to Dr. Baczewski as an operation independent of CSS management. Ashley replaces Jim Curry who [retired](#) in September of 2013.

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Windows XP: Almost gone, not forgotten

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

Microsoft stopped supporting Windows XP on April 8, almost thirteen years since it was released. According to [CNET](#) nearly one-third of the world's PCs are still running XP, "an enduring popularity that's proved a double-edged sword for Microsoft, which has been forced to extend support for the elder statesman of OSes." Ironically, or maybe not, some of those PCs belong to the [Internal Revenue Service](#).

Locally, the UNT System has made progress in migrating off of XP. According to Glenn Thorpe, ITSS Assistant Director of Information Security, there are still about 500 machines running XP on the UNT network and about the same number on the HSC network. Plans are being made to make sure remaining machines are protected until their OS can be upgraded, or if that's not possible, keeping them locked down to UNT traffic only to help protect against web/client side attacks.

Need help in kicking the Windows XP habit? [Information Week](#) notes that Microsoft has released an arcade-style game in a lighthearted attempt to discourage use of the outdated operating system.

Feeling nostalgic? Take a look at CNET's tribute to Windows XP: [RIP Windows XP](#).

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New Horizons' SpecTECHular Open House

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

New Horizons is a [DIR](#) vendor that provides technology training across Texas and beyond. Every year they host a free SpecTECHular open house. This year's Open House is scheduled for May 8.

View their announcement below and go [here](#) to register for the event:



SPECTECHULAR HACKED

REGISTER

May 8th, 2014

Sessions include:

- Ethical Hacking
- Securing Documents
- Maintaining & Defending Your Network
- And much more...

Tweet along: #NHHacked

SpecTECHular HACKED 2014 MAY 8TH

Whatever your role, practice security control!

Your local New Horizons Computer Learning Centers campus is opening their doors for the annual technology Open House--SpecTECHular. This year, every breakout session is built around how the technology being discussed relates to security; and security affects us all.

The schedule for this year's event will have a few new additions, like a broadcast keynote, and a "Hack-tail Hour" to wrap up the day. Plus, as usual we will offer a complimentary lunch and lots of prizes.

[Reserve your seat at SpecTECHular Hacked](#)

New Horizons Computer Learning Centers

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Today's Cartoon

© Randy Glasbergen
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"I can't get on Facebook anymore. My computer unfriended me!"

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