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# REPORT

INFORMATION AND EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

October 2005 - January 2006

## **INFORMATION AND EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY REPORT**

October 2005-January 2006

This report is designed to provide UC Davis faculty, staff, and students with brief descriptions and updates on major projects and initiatives in which Information and Educational Technology (IET) has been involved since October 2005. IET's reports to the campus community are published three times each academic year (in September, February, and May), and each report covers a wide range of topics grouped into four major categories:

- Campuswide Technology Highlights
- Infrastructure Highlights
- Educational Technology Highlights
- Administrative Computing Highlights

To obtain a copy of this IET Report, go to [iet.ucdavis.edu/iet\\_reports.cfm](http://iet.ucdavis.edu/iet_reports.cfm), where current and previous editions are available for viewing or printing.

For ongoing campus technology and computing news, see TechNews ([technews.ucdavis.edu](http://technews.ucdavis.edu)). This site provides a convenient, focused, and regularly updated source of news ranging from IET announcements to stories about campus information technology initiatives, security alerts, newsletter articles about the application of technology in teaching and research, and more. To receive a weekly email abstract with links to the latest news, subscribe to TechNews at [technews.ucdavis.edu/subscribe.cfm](http://technews.ucdavis.edu/subscribe.cfm).

Feedback on this report is greatly encouraged. Please contact [ietpubs@ucdavis.edu](mailto:ietpubs@ucdavis.edu).



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## **CAMPUSWIDE TECHNOLOGY HIGHLIGHTS**

*This section focuses on the development and implementation of overarching campuswide computing and technology initiatives and policies. Some examples of these initiatives and policies include the development of an IT planning framework for UC Davis as well as major IT projects for the campus.*

### **VP-IET Recruitment Underway**

In September, the Office of the Chancellor launched the recruitment for a permanent Vice Provost for Information and Educational Technology (IET). This key senior position reports to the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor and has primary responsibility for providing leadership to assure effective, strategic, and secure deployment of information and educational technology for the Davis campus. The first two candidates have been selected and will meet in late January-early February with the IET management team, key campus management and IT advisory groups, IET staff and interested members of the campus community.

### **IET Contributes to Progress Report on Campus Strategies and Vision**

This fall, the UC Davis Strategic Plan entered its third year as a guiding document for planning, actions, and decisions throughout the campus. Assessing progress on a regular and ongoing basis continues to be a critically important part of the strategic plan. To meet this goal, the campus issued its "Year Two" Progress Report in November. This report captures major advances and outlines ongoing programs in support of campus strategies and priorities, and in some cases features a discussion of the metrics that are being used to measure progress in advancing the strategies. This year again, IET contributed a rich narrative summary of implementation efforts in support of "providing the physical facilities, information resources and technology infrastructure necessary to achieve national and international distinction and leadership in learning, discovery, and engagement" ([strategicplan.ucdavis.edu/2005\\_framework\\_4.html](http://strategicplan.ucdavis.edu/2005_framework_4.html)).

### **Survey Indicates Much Greater Future High-Performance Scientific Computing Needs**

In October-November 2005, IET conducted a survey among faculty to identify the existing demand for high performance computing and to determine the most reasonable and efficient way for the campus to accommodate increasing demand. The survey confirmed that, like many other institutions, UC Davis is facing a number of challenges introduced by the burgeoning appetite for high-performance computing resources, a demand that is outgrowing the existing Data Center and other associated space. There are approximately 1900 cluster nodes in place on campus or through collaborative use at remote facilities. This need is projected to increase by over 168% to approximately 5100 nodes by 2010. The increase in data storage requirements is projected to be even more staggering, from ~300 terabytes to 13 pedabytes (13,000 terabytes)--an increase of over 4,200%. In addition, many of the existing cluster spaces are inadequate in terms of square footage, security, air conditioning, and electrical perspectives and will require extensive renovations. To address these challenges, Interim Vice Provost Peter Yellowlees is proposing, in close collaboration with the Center for Computational Science and Engineering, the development of a High Performance Computer Data Center (HPCD). This proposal is being vetted with various campus groups.

### **Faculty Participate in New Learning Management System Pilot**

Working with the Schools of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, IET is coordinating a campus initiative to implement the UC Davis version of Sakai, a set of open source collaboration and learning management tools. These new tools will replace the course management modules (e.g., GradeBook, Quiz Builder, etc.) now available through the MyUCDavis portal. A pilot with selected courses was launched in Fall 2005 in the School of Medicine, and in early January the project team kicked off a campus pilot with faculty from various disciplines and schools. For this pilot, participants are focusing on testing various tools in support of teaching, and providing feedback to the project team in preparation for a broader campus roll-out in 2006-07. A second campus pilot with a larger group of faculty members, including some from the School of Veterinary Medicine, will occur during Spring 2006. By then, the system will have been modified to interface with the Banner Student Information System and the campus computing accounts system. For more information on the national Sakai consortium and project, see <http://www.sakaiproject.org>.



### **Several Milestones Met for Faculty Merit and Promotion Project**

The pilot with the Faculty Merit and Promotion System (that creates faculty digital portfolios that can be used in support of academic merit and promotion actions) reached several milestones during Fall 2005. Modifications to the MyInfoVault application and the transition from the Health System to campus servers at the Data Center were completed in September. Following this transition the extended 2005-06 pilot was launched. Current activities include capacity planning for continued growth, completing additional enhancements and code improvements, as well as developing a communication approach and project Web site ([myinfovault.ucdavis.edu](http://myinfovault.ucdavis.edu)). The primary goal for the 2005-2006 academic year is to test the system with the pilot departments through at least one merit and promotion cycle, and to finalize technical and functional enhancements to the application prior to campuswide deployment. In response to system-wide interest in the MyInfoVault application, a meeting is being scheduled in early March 2006 at UC San Diego with key UC Davis project members and other interested parties.

### **Implementation of Electronic Research Administration System Moving Forward**

The Office of Research, in conjunction with IET, is in the process of implementing the first phase of the Electronic Research Administration System. The Proposal Tracking module of this new system will replace the existing campus Contracts and Grants database maintained by the Sponsored Programs Office. Recently, the project team successfully completed the final configuration of the application, a second conversion of legacy data from the Contract & Grant database into the InfoEd system and a successful dual entry period. The next major milestone to achieve is the final conversion of legacy data and to rollout the Proposal Tracking module to the Sponsored Programs Office.

While the Sponsored Programs Office will be the group primarily impacted by this initial phase, it is the intent of this project to ensure that all schools/colleges are engaged in the planning, design and implementation process for the overall project. In support of this goal, an Oversight Committee has been formed that includes representation from both campus-wide faculty and administration. In addition, each school/college has representation within the project stakeholder groups. The Office of Research is also coordinating with those schools and colleges that have departmental contract and grant databases and providing them with the opportunity to replace their existing shadow systems with the InfoEd system.

The completion of the first phase is tentatively scheduled for April 2006. Implementation of the Proposal Development module is scheduled for the end of 2007. This module will enable lead faculty members to create and manage proposals online and route them electronically for approval. Implementation of the Project Management module is scheduled for 2008. This module has the unique capability of linking information stored in the InfoEd system to various campus systems (i.e., DaFIS, Faculty Merit & Promotion system, Cost-Sharing and Effort-Reporting systems). For more information, visit [research.ucdavis.edu/home.cfm?id=OVC.3.1156](http://research.ucdavis.edu/home.cfm?id=OVC.3.1156).

### **Temporary Employment Services' System Migrated to Centralized Server Location**

While future enhancements are being considered to meet the growing needs of the Temporary Employment Services (TES) department, significant efforts of late have been spent 'productionalizing' the current system. The system has been migrated from its original silo-environment to HRIS' centralized server location, where it is now supported by that department under their standard operating procedures.

### **Campus Email Service Improvements**

#### **Campus Initiates Plan to Improve Email Architecture**

A multi-phase, multi-component plan is underway to improve the UC Davis campus email architecture. The existing architecture, which was developed in the 1990s, is beginning to show signs of aging amid the changing needs of email users and the proliferation of viruses and spam. As a first step, in Spring 2005, IET released a Request for Information (RFI) to survey the email architecture and 'hygiene' (virus and spam) solutions marketplace. Based on findings from the RFI process and consultation with the Gartner group, two requests for proposals are in development. The first RFP is for a commercial anti-spam/anti-virus system. The second is for a commercial email storage and access system (including Web email). Shortly after the RFI process was completed, Microsoft introduced the MSN College and



University Program, a new program that provides Web-based email (Windows Live Mail) and virus/spam filtering services for students. The RFP process is pending investigation of this new option, and its implications for the development of a campus email architecture strategy.

As part of the overall improvements, Information and Educational Technology (IET) plans to centralize Exchange services for faculty and staff. Campus Events and the Office of Administration are the first departments to migrate to Exchange, which should be complete by June 2006. Additional information will be posted on [email.ucdavis.edu](http://email.ucdavis.edu) as it becomes available.

### **Centralized Active Directory and Exchange Services Consolidation Continues**

IET continues to collaborate with the Office of Administration (OOA) to consolidate their existing decentralized Microsoft Exchange servers into a centralized calendaring and email service provided through the campus Data Center (see [windows.ucdavis.edu](http://windows.ucdavis.edu)). This partnership provided a perfect opportunity for IET and OOA to join and supplement each other's resources and expertise for the benefit of both units as well as other campus units that have expressed interest in following suit. A total of approximately 1,400 staff members, representing eight departments, are involved in this transition. It is anticipated that most OOA departments will have migrated by the end of April 2006. In the next few months, IET will be migrating to the centralized Exchange services hosted by the Data Center.

### **Email Forwarding for Life Rolled Out**

This fall, IET rolled out the Email Forwarding for Life Service, a Web-based application that allows graduates, retirees and others to have their email forwarded, upon leaving the university, to another address of their choosing. A Web site was developed ([emailforwarding.ucdavis.edu](http://emailforwarding.ucdavis.edu)) that provides an overview of the service, as well as answers to frequently-asked questions, and instructions for registering or updating a forwarding address. In addition, all qualified individuals receive an email notification describing the status of their email accounts and encouraging them to learn more about the service and register for it. A policy workgroup, involving representatives from IET and University Relations, has been formed to identify and address policy issues (e.g., email usage and retention, and electronic communications issues).

### **UC Davis Electronic Communications Policy Revision Underway**

The UC Davis Electronic Communications Policy is being updated to ensure this campus policy is consistent with changes recently made to the University of California Electronic Communications Policy and to several UC Davis policies. An additional goal is to make the policy more clear and succinct for campus users.

The UC Davis ECP workgroup proposes to split the existing campus policy into two separate policy sections. One section would focus on privacy and access to electronic communication records, and the other section would focus on the allowable use of electronic communication resources. Information regarding records management and system administrators would be moved to other UC Davis policies as appropriate. Contact Robert Ono, IT Security Coordinator, at [raono@ucdavis.edu](mailto:raono@ucdavis.edu) for more information.

### **New Bulk Email Application to Allow Campus to Automate Requests Via the Web**

A new Bulk Email application that will allow campus members to automate their requests for bulk email services will roll out in March 2006. The Bulk Email application will provide a requester with a Web-based interface for entering the email message and the targeted population (via manual entry or a file upload). The application has built-in work-flow, starting with the departmental requester to one or more designated approvers, and then to the Postmaster for final submission. As part of the work-flow process, the requester and approvers are notified at the appropriate steps and given an opportunity for editing and approving of the exact message prior to final submission. Once the approvals are completed, the Campus Postmaster sends the message to the targeted population and the message is retained after final submission for future reference. These levels of approval should greatly reduce errors in the message content and targeted populations. For more information about bulk email and to access the UC Davis Mass Electronic Messaging Policy, see [email.ucdavis.edu/email/bulkinfo.html](http://email.ucdavis.edu/email/bulkinfo.html).



### **Temporary Affiliate Form in Final Testing**

IET continues to make progress on a new application that will allow visiting scholars and other temporary affiliates to apply online for a UCD login and other permission to use computing and library resources. This application is undergoing QAQC testing and is expected to roll out during Winter 2006. To view the current paper-based form, see [email.ucdavis.edu/forms/forms.html](mailto:ucdavis.edu/forms/forms.html).



## INFRASTRUCTURE HIGHLIGHTS

*This section discusses the extensive infrastructure technology services and support that IET provides to the campus. These cover quite a wide range, including middleware projects; campus network security; software and technology support; telecommunications and wireless networking; video and photography services; and publications and news.*

### COMPUTING AND NETWORK SECURITY

#### **New Look for the Computer and Network Security Web Site**

The revised and redesigned Computer and Network Security Web site ([security.ucdavis.edu](http://security.ucdavis.edu)) made its debut on November 15, 2005. Key improvements to the site include:

- Streamlined site navigation; information about all major security projects and services is available from the home page
- Quick access to Cyber-Safety information for technical and non-technical visitors
- Featured topics presented on home page using attractive visuals
- Ability to scroll through featured topics
- Use of official campus color palette.
- Cleaner presentation of news and announcements.

Questions and comments about the Security site may be sent to [itsecurity@ucdavis.edu](mailto:itsecurity@ucdavis.edu).

#### **Cyber-Safety Reports: Preliminary Results are In**

The first annual Cyber-Safety IT Security reports were due on October 1, 2005. Results from these reports have been compiled and reviewed by campus leadership. Overall, the reports demonstrated a satisfactory level of security across campus departments, with nine departments reporting compliance in high-risk areas at 90–100%, four at 80–89% and five at less than 80%.

Data reported by departments suggested that administrative units consistently have a higher rate of compliance than academic departments. Several reasons for this disparity were cited, including uneven hardware/software budget distribution within the school or college, and low technical staff to faculty/staff ratio. As a result of these findings, the following recommendations were made:

- Form a campus workgroup to improve core IT services, improve IT cost-effectiveness and IT strategy implementation
- Develop and publish a simple risk-based assessment methodology and program for reviewing report accuracy
- Continue outreach efforts with Academic Senate
- Continue Cyber-safety reporting process

July 1, 2006 is the deadline for the next round of reports. For additional information about the UC Davis Cyber-Safety Program, visit [security.ucdavis.edu/cybersafety.cfm](http://security.ucdavis.edu/cybersafety.cfm).

#### **Virtual Private Networks (VPN) Workgroup Formed**

In November 2005, a campus workgroup was formed to research and make recommendations on whether a campus VPN service should be established. The workgroup is investigating policy and protocol issues, as well as the extent to which VPN services can address security, remote access connectivity, and other requirements. The workgroup's report, including an estimate of the financial, program and personnel resources required to implement and support any recommended campus VPN service, is expected in late February 2006. For more information, visit [security.ucdavis.edu/vpn.cfm](http://security.ucdavis.edu/vpn.cfm).

#### **Campus Signs GeoTrust Contract for SSL Certificates**

In addition to Thawte certificates, UC Davis is now deploying SSL certificates from GeoTrust. The GeoTrust service offers a competitively priced one year SSL certificate, a two year SSL certificate and an improved user order interface. For more information, see [security.ucdavis.edu/thawte.cfm](http://security.ucdavis.edu/thawte.cfm).



### **Forensics Contract with Guidance Software Facilitates Incident Handling**

UC Davis has entered into an agreement with Guidance Software concerning forensic and enterprise consulting services. Through this contract, UC Davis may authorize Guidance software to provide computer forensic investigation, electronic discovery, consulting and/or data recovery and retrieval services. The contract ensures any delay between an incident and requesting external investigatory assistance will be limited. This contract will augment UC Davis computer forensics staff, for incidents in which external handling is appropriate. Contact Robert Ono, IT Security Coordinator, at [raono@ucdavis.edu](mailto:raono@ucdavis.edu) for more information.

### **IET Hosts Business Continuity Planning Workshop**

Since early December 2005, selected campus units have been participating in the Business Continuity Planning Workshop, a program that focuses on post-emergency business recovery. Conducted by the Disaster Survival Planning Network (DSPN), the workshop specifically targets campus units responsible for HIPAA electronic personal health information and those handling sensitive and/or critical university electronic information. Over the course of the training—15 hours for each of the 10 participants, including substantial one-to-one time with the consultant—workshop participants develop business recovery plans specific to their unit. Following review, the final plans are tested during a simulated desktop drill. All participants are expected to exit training with a usable recovery plan. Training ends February 2, 2006. Contact Robert Ono, IT Security Coordinator, at [raono@ucdavis.edu](mailto:raono@ucdavis.edu) for more info.

### **UC One Step Closer to Encryption Solution**

The system-wide file encryption services workgroup formed to assist the university in defining the functions and requirements for a file and disk encryption that can support the academic, research and administrative needs on campus has recently identified two finalists in the bidding process. Only one of the finalists, Pointsec Mobile Technologies, meets the UC Davis requirement of whole-device encryption. In December 2005 and January 2006, the committee sought information from each campus concerning likely purchases this fiscal year and in the future. Final pricing is strongly affected by up-front purchasing commitments. Additional information is available at [security.ucdavis.edu/encryption.cfm](http://security.ucdavis.edu/encryption.cfm).

## **USER ACCESS AND SUPPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

### **IET Provides On-Site Tech Support during Dorm Move-In**

On September 24-25, as in past years, over two dozen IET employees from six units provided live tech support to freshmen during Dorm Move-In Weekend. IET staff were stationed at five campus locations: IT Express in Shields Library, and the four Learning Resource Centers (LRCs) at the Segundo, Tercero, Emerson, and Castilian dorms. The staff had two objectives: assist students in connecting to ResNet, and distribute the 2005-06 Internet Tools CD, which is now available free to all students. Participants doled out over 1,000 CDs, and aided countless students across campus. More information about the Internet Tools CD can be found at [itexpress.ucdavis.edu/online/](http://itexpress.ucdavis.edu/online/).

### **ET Partners Program Expands, Develops New Demos**

The Educational Technology (ET) Partners program was expanded during Fall 2005 to provide additional services beyond traditional walk-in and phone support. Six additional student partners were hired and trained to provide technology consultation services on-site at faculty offices. Student partners also developed close to 50 technical tips that are available in PDF and Word format, and as step-by-step flash demonstrations. To access these tips and for more info about ET Partners, visit [etpartners.ucdavis.edu](http://etpartners.ucdavis.edu).

### **Faculty Mentoring Faculty Program Builds Momentum**

The newly-created Faculty Mentoring Faculty Program (FMFP) was quite busy during Fall 2005, as it helped introduce the upcoming course management tools to faculty, and researched, selected and recruited pilot participants for the Winter 2006 pilot program. The goals and procedures of this program were developed, and a Faculty Training Coordinator was hired. In addition, planning for the 2006 Summer Institute on Technology and Teaching is now underway. For more information about the Faculty Mentoring Faculty Program, contact Andy Jones at [aojones@ucdavis.edu](mailto:aojones@ucdavis.edu).



## TELECOMMUNICATIONS & NETWORKING

### **White Pages Project to Provide Electronic Review, Updating of Employee Listings**

In early January 2006, a team of IET, Health System and University Communications representatives kicked off a project to replace the current paper-based and error-prone process used for updating the UC Davis and UC Davis Health System print and online directories. The "White Pages" Project will provide a new Web-based mechanism for departments to review and edit all employee listings electronically. By developing an application that centrally manages and functions as the system of record for directory information, this project will also allow for the print and online publishing of additional directory information (i.e., multiple appointments, multiple email addresses and telephone numbers). Focus groups will be held in March and April, and a communication plan is under development. The new service is scheduled for roll out in June 2006.

### **Recent Firewall Services Upgrades Enhance Security of ResNet Traffic**

Through its agreement with Netscreen, the campus provides a range of firewall solutions to campus departments, from a complete turnkey solution and an equipment sparing service to customized support and services. In addition, a Netscreen 5200 firewall has been installed between ResNet and the campus network to enhance security screening of traffic entering and exiting the residential network. Two vendor-supplied training sessions were held in September and January, with over 40 campus network administrators and other technical staff in attendance. Curriculum for Netscreen firewall installation and management training sessions is under development (see [security.ucdavis.edu/firewalls.cfm](http://security.ucdavis.edu/firewalls.cfm)).

### **Inventory Consignment System Pilot Underway**

For the past five months, IET-Communications Resources (CR) has partnered with Anixter to conduct a six-month pilot of their inventory consignment program. This pilot has involved using Anixter's Rapid Fire Inventory Tracking System as a means of purchasing materials and supplies for communication projects and services. With the Rapid Fire system, Anixter's inventory can be stocked in the department's storehouse and items can be purchased from Anixter on an "as needed basis." As items are used, the system automatically reorders the item and the replacements are shipped within 24 hours. E-Anixter, the Web-based inventory warehouse for the Rapid Fire system, enables technicians and engineers to establish material quotes for campus projects that reflect accurate department inventory and pricing. The benefits of Rapid Fire also include the reduction of inventory obsolescence risk, and freeing up nearly \$50,000 that was previously tied to inventory items. At the conclusion of the six-month pilot in February, CR will make a decision to either revert to the old system or continue with Anixter for a one-year contract.

### **Wireless Guest Access Now Available for Campus Visitors**

IET completed another phase of its wireless network improvement plan by introducing wireless guest access to the campus on January 9, 2006. A UC Davis staff or faculty member can now sponsor a visiting guest by creating an account that grants wireless access to the Internet for up to 30 days, renewable in 7-day increments. Users access a Web site to create a temporary Kerberos password. Sponsors can monitor their guest accounts by logging into the sponsor Web site, which displays all guest accounts and the upcoming expiration dates. Guest accounts will be particularly beneficial to campus departments who organize conferences and other events during which visiting guests will require uninterrupted access to their mail and other Web-based services. IET's next wireless enhancement project is an implementation of the 802.1x encryption and network authentication standard (see [wireless.ucdavis.edu](http://wireless.ucdavis.edu)).

### **UC Davis Receives Many Site Proposals to Expand Cellular Coverage**

UC Davis has received cell site proposals from nearly every nationwide cellular carrier (Verizon Wireless, T-Mobile, Sprint/Nextel, and Cingular Wireless). These proposals are part of an effort to expand coverage of the voice and data wireless network throughout campus using multiple vendors. Site license agreements have been issued to each cellular carrier for review in preparation for negotiation. Cellular carriers are preparing detailed site plans for power, telecommunications, and structural requirements. Final approval of carrier sites and plans is slated for March 2006. For more information, contact Zack O'Donnell at [zmodonnell@ucdavis.edu](mailto:zmodonnell@ucdavis.edu).



### **Improved In-Building Cellular Coverage Under Discussion**

During Fall 2005, IET-Communications Resources received several departmental requests for improved in-building cellular coverage. Though the campus is moving forward with improved cellular coverage by allowing cellular carriers to build cell sites on the main campus, this will not resolve all coverage issues for all carriers in all campus buildings. Enhancing the cellular coverage of a particular carrier in a particular building, while determining a financial and management model of such systems, is only one of many issues surrounding these requests. Policy issues relating to equal access by all carriers in a university building, responsibility for management of the coverage, ownership of the equipment, and the broader issue of whether the campus believes ubiquitous cellular coverage is an operational necessity are all issues that must be explored. For more information, contact Zack O'Donnell at [zmodonnell@ucdavis.edu](mailto:zmodonnell@ucdavis.edu).

## **VIDEO AND PHOTOGRAPHY SERVICES**

### **Videoconferencing Supports Distance Learning, Provides Travel Alternative**

The Videoconferencing Center (VCC) supported two Distance Learning Courses during Fall 2005, including Animal Science with Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and an International Programs class with a Japanese university. The Videoconferencing Center held 17 separate videoconferencing meeting events in the two Olson Hall facilities, including: the Chancellor's Office, Plant Sciences, Mechanical & Aeronautical Engineering, UCD Athletics, Anthropology, UCD Washington Center, and University Extension.

The Videoconferencing Center was also recently presented to faculty and department heads as an alternative to time- and resource-intensive travel. The Videoconferencing Center and distance education rooms are available and free of charge when used for academic purposes. They may be used to bring in a guest expert speaker from anywhere in the world, conduct screening interviews, or present a UCD speaker to a remote audience. In addition to the equipped rooms, a portable system may also be moved to many places on and off campus. Contact CTS Help Desk for more information at 752-3553.

### **Photography Group Improves Digital Scanning Abilities**

The Photography Group of IET-Mediaworks recently began using BetterLight digital scanning back technology to photograph and digitize high-resolution images for campus faculty. The scanning back, along with a 4X5 camera, digitizes images up to 137 MB for improved resolution and clarity. Interfaced with a microscope, the BetterLight creates large detailed pictures of cancer cells, lung tissues and insects less than 1 mm in size. For information about photography services, see [mediaworks.ucdavis.edu/main/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=blogcategory&id=68&Itemid=102](http://mediaworks.ucdavis.edu/main/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=68&Itemid=102).

## **COMMUNICATION NEWS**

*IET produces a number of publications and news items designed to keep the campus community informed about services available to them as well as recent or upcoming on-campus technology developments. Recent communication highlights follow.*

### **Back-to-School Edition of IT Times Available**

The Back-to-School and Winter 2006 editions of the *IT Times* are now available in print and on the Web. *IT Times* is one of IET's quarterly newsletters, providing practical and timely information, primarily for UC Davis faculty and staff, about technology issues facing the campus, current and upcoming IET services, and technology-related campus projects and initiatives. Both editions are available on the Web at [itimes.ucdavis.edu](http://itimes.ucdavis.edu).

Featured in the *IT Times* Fall 2005 edition are stories on the 4-H's Computer Corps and the UC Davis Medical Center's Virtual Patients. Also included are tips and information about your options if you forget a Kerberos password, how to go wireless on campus, why you should use a firewall, and how to keep your identity safe.



The Winter 2006 edition includes features on the Viticulture and Enology Department's Hilgard Project, Marine Ecologist Drew Talley, and a pilot project that is digitizing recorded lectures. Also find tips for backing up data and how to get an ET partner for one-on-one technological assistance.

### ***Hypertext* Student Newsletter Offers Up-to-Date Wireless, Lab Map**

The Fall 2005 and Winter 2006 editions of *Hypertext*, IET's quarterly newsletter designed to keep students informed about the latest campus computing news, is now available on campus and on the Web. Included in each of these editions are updated maps of campus wireless coverage and the computer rooms.

Featured in the Fall 2005 edition are articles about free music-making programs and the ever-expanding student-created Davis Wiki. Also included are important safety tips to help maintain access to vital UC Davis Web-services, along with the dos and don'ts for creating effective passwords—and remembering them, info on the latest campus technology upgrades, and how to use campus wireless.

The Winter 2006 edition features information about the new practice of culture jamming, and how IET and UC Davis instructors are working together to upload recorded lectures as MP3 audio files on the Internet. Also included are options and tips for keeping saved data out of harm's way, and instructions for putting the campus spam filtering system to good use.

A downloadable PDF of the latest *Hypertext* is available on the Student Computing Guide Web site ([scg.ucdavis.edu/hypertext.cfm](http://scg.ucdavis.edu/hypertext.cfm)); it can also be picked up at IT Express (182 Shields Library) or at any of the IET computer rooms on campus (see [clm.ucdavis.edu/rooms/](http://clm.ucdavis.edu/rooms/) for computer room hours and locations).

### **Informational Packets Distributed to New Faculty**

This Fall, IET distributed informational folders to over 250 new faculty on campus and at the UC Davis Medical Center. These folders provide an overview of the many available computing and technology services available to instructors. Inside each packet was a directory of faculty technology resources, a series of faculty technology FAQs, essential cyber-security basics, an IET Classroom Technology Services Special Event Support brochure, a list of equipment available from CTS, as well as videoconferencing information. To access this information online, visit [ftg.ucdavis.edu/newandreturning.cfm](http://ftg.ucdavis.edu/newandreturning.cfm).

### **IET Publication Wins 2<sup>nd</sup> Place at SIGUCCS Awards**

An IET publication won 2<sup>nd</sup> place at this year's Special Interest Group for University and College Computing Services (SIGUCCS) Communications Awards. Each year, SIGUCCS sponsors a competition to recognize outstanding Web sites, publications and promotional materials produced by university and college computing centers. These awards recognize excellence in developing useful, appealing materials that enhance user services, while giving attendees the chance to get new ideas for their own projects. This year, IET won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the "Printed How-to Guides" category for its "Submitting Final Grades Online" publication.

As a winner of many SIGUCCS awards in the last few years (for both print and Web publications), IET—Information and Events was also invited to design the award certificate for this year's national conference. A list of past winners can be seen on the ACM SIGUCCS Web site. ([www.siguccs.org/competit.htm](http://www.siguccs.org/competit.htm)).



## EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY HIGHLIGHTS

*This section outlines some of IET's projects and service enhancements in support of UC Davis educational technology. Often found within this section is the latest news on services available to instructors for both classes and research, and information about campus computer rooms.*

### COMPUTER LABS & CLASSROOMS

#### **Digital Lecture Recording and Distribution System Pilot Proves Popular**

In an effort to improve recording and distributing lectures, Computer Lab Management, along with other IET units, piloted a digital lecture recording and distribution system during Fall 2005. The primary goal for the pilot was to find a digital recording and distribution solution that was as easy for faculty to use as the existing cassette system. The pilot began with four classes: two recorded digitally for the entire quarter and the others recorded one or two class review sessions. One class's lectures were also simultaneously recorded to cassette as a comparison to help gauge student preference for digital files versus cassettes.

Digitally recorded lectures were distributed via the MyUCDavis portal. Additionally, one course's lectures were also distributed via a podcast site, which supported both subscription and downloadable files. Based on usage as well as student and faculty feedback, this pilot underscored students' preference for digital files over traditional cassettes as well as their propensity to use these files as a learning aid. The pilot will continue during Winter 2006 with the addition of two large classes that have used the cassette-based recording system extensively in previous quarters. Classroom Technology Services and Mediaworks continue to collaborate to improve the digital recording and distribution workflow, and promote this new service to the campus community. For more information, contact (530) 752-3553.

#### **Upgrades in Non-General Assignment Classrooms**

Several media installation projects in non-general assignment classrooms and meeting rooms were undertaken or completed for various departments as a recharge service. A total of 10 projects were completed, with four rooms being upgraded with media packages and eight equipment installations. Rooms upgraded with a media package included the Art Department, Bio Sciences, Vet Med Teaching Hospital and Molecular and Cellular Biology. Equipment installations included stereo audio capability for the Hart and Meyer media labs; microphones for Engineering Distance Education classrooms; and work performed for the Language Learning Lab and English Department.

Other projects in various stages of planning, equipment ordering and preliminary installation stages are media projects for Material Management; McClellan Nuclear Research Center; Music, Psychology, Physics, Plant Sciences and Art Departments; MediaWorks; Fire Department; and University Club. For more information media installation services, visit [cts.ucdavis.edu/services/ctt.html](http://cts.ucdavis.edu/services/ctt.html).

### MULTIMEDIA SERVICES

#### **Breeze Software Used to Develop Interactive Case Studies, Virtual Office Hours**

IET-Mediaworks continued to develop and produce several new instructional and outreach programs during Fall 2005. Utilizing the Maya and Macromedia Breeze applications, the Animation Group developed a series of online interactive case studies with Dr. Vijaya Kumari from the School of Medicine. The new program permitted students to augment lectures with Internet cranial nerve and eye muscle animation. By combining the two methods of learning, students were able to evaluate and diagnose patients with complex cranial nerve issues. Following the exercise, students participated in an online quiz to evaluate their knowledge of the topic. Students then evaluated the new learning tool, and all felt the program was satisfactory or better.

IET-Mediaworks also began using Macromedia Breeze to provide virtual office hours for faculty and students. Mediaworks staff worked with Professors Robert Blake and Martin Wilson to incorporate virtual office hours into their teaching, using the communication tools in Breeze Meeting. Students were able to log into Breeze Meeting from home, then communicate and share content in a collaborative learning environment. For more information about Breeze use on campus, email [mediaworks@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mediaworks@ucdavis.edu).



### **Podcasting Arrives on Campus**

IET-Mediaworks recently partnered with IET-Classroom Technology Services to pilot a new program to record and podcast classroom lectures and special campus events. A Web interface was developed, allowing students automatic and easy access to recorded events. Podcasting service will be expanded during winter and spring quarters. For more information, visit [podcast.ucdavis.edu](http://podcast.ucdavis.edu).



## **ADMINISTRATIVE COMPUTING HIGHLIGHTS**

*Frequently included in this section is information on campus administrative upgrades to major campus computing systems (e.g., Banner, PPS) as well as partnerships and projects IET is engaged in with other campus departments to improve administrative computing at UC Davis.*

### **Payroll Personnel System (PPS)**

#### **PPS Password Management Soon Available Online**

Password resets and new passwords for accessing PPS will soon be available online. Rather than waiting for the temporary password via phone or email, PPS users will receive an automated email message pointing them to the Web-based system where they can retrieve their new temporary PPS password as soon as it is available. This system should be in place early February 2006.

### **Campus Data Warehouse**

#### **Campus Data Warehouse Improvement Simplify Course List Creation**

Two new views of the course data within the Campus Data Warehouse have been created that will simplify departments' efforts in generating course lists. The key software tool, Genio, which extracts data from the campus source systems, has also been successfully upgraded. Questions about these views and other recent enhancements can be directed to [data-warehouse@ucdavis.edu](mailto:data-warehouse@ucdavis.edu).

### **Decision Support Systems**

#### **Data Access Improvements in PPS Decision Support**

Several enhancements have been completed in support of other campus units. Maintenance screens have been established for Office of Research to update lists of Principal Investigators and eligible job titles. Departments will be able to check lists of their eligible PIs via a Decision Support report. Other recent PPS Decision Support efforts have been spent supporting production, security, audits and users data questions. For more information, see [payweb.ucdavis.edu](http://payweb.ucdavis.edu).

### **Banner Student Information System**

#### **Banner 7 Upgrade Planned for Fall 2006**

The required SIS Banner system upgrade is underway. A timeline and resource plan is being followed and a focused effort is being made to complete the conversion soon. User testing will begin in March with most heavy testing going on through the summer. Training on the new version of the Banner system is being planned for late summer, prior to implementation in Fall 2006. For more, visit [sis.ucdavis.edu/future.htm](http://sis.ucdavis.edu/future.htm).