VT WSUS

The Microsoft Implementation Group (MIG) recently completed Windows Software Update Service or VT WSUS. The VT WSUS system involves three main components: the VT WSUS client, VT WSUS Web Reporting, and the VT WSUS servers. When the client is installed on a Windows machine, it augments and enhances Windows Automatic Update Service, providing greater assurance that Windows systems and core Microsoft applications are up to date. The service is freely available to university faculty and staff members.

Users and their OU administrators may view the update status of their machines at the VT WSUS Web Reporting website. Web Reporting also allows users to see details and history. Ready-made and configurable reports can be used to highlight successes or pinpoint problems.

Having local VT WSUS servers provides faster and more reliable downloads. Departments that want to use their own WSUS servers can still benefit from VT WSUS by becoming a downstream or side-stream server, allowing client data to be accessible for custom reports through the VT WSUS Web Reporting Interface. See computing.vt.edu/security_and_viruses/vtwsus/.

“VT WSUS quietly updates, protects, and enhances the security of your clients while reducing maintenance time and costs,” Karl Larson, Internal Audit.

Blacksburg Electronic Village

The Blacksburg Electronic Village (BEV) was invited by the National Science Foundation to participate at its annual Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research conference earlier this year in Nashville. The program is focused on states that have historically received low levels of federal research funding due to their lack of requisite broadband infrastructure and computing capacity.

BEV Director Bill Sanders described the Technology Opportunities Program funded by a Department of Commerce grant to address these issues in some of Virginia’s most disadvantaged counties. BEV, NI&S, and Virginia Cooperative Extension collaborated to train technology leadership teams in these communities and to deploy electronic villages modeled on the BEV. A Technology Assessment and Master Plan helped guide technology-related planning and growth. (See http://top.bev.net.)
Principles of Community

"This bill proposes to establish at least one college in every State upon a sure and perpetual foundation, accessible to all, but especially to the sons of toil, where all of needful science for the practical avocations of life shall be taught, where neither the higher graces of classical studies nor that military drill our country now so greatly appreciates will be entirely ignored, and where agriculture, the foundation of all present and future prosperity, may look for troops of earnest friends, studying its familiar and recondite economies, and at last elevating it to that higher level where it may fearlessly invoke comparison with the most advanced standards of the world."  

1862, as quoted by William Belmont Parker, The Life and Public Services of Justin Smith Morrill

Thus, Justin Morrill spoke of his Land Grant College Act, the Morrill Act of 1862. Signed by Abraham Lincoln amid the strife of civil war, the act affirmed egalitarian public higher education—accessible to all—as a cornerstone of American life and laid the foundation upon which were built Virginia Tech and her sister state universities—the universities of the people.

In 2005, Virginia Tech reaffirmed its commitment, both to its land grant heritage and to the people, when the collective leadership of the university signed and published the Virginia Tech Principles of Community. The Principles speak particularly to issues in our work place. They identify values that need to be actively nurtured and passed on to others. Finally, they speak of commitment to those attitudes and behaviors that enable the very best in each of us and in those we serve.

We have distributed at least one framed copy of the Principles of Community to each work location in Information Technology. If you don’t see it, please ask. If you personally would like a smaller, professionally printed copy, check at the reception desk in either the AISB or RB-XIV. The Principles are also available online at (www.multicultural.vt.edu/pdf/Virginia_Tech_Principles_of_Community.pdf).

Personal Digital Certificates

The initial implementation of using Personal Digital Certificates to sign leave reports within Information Technology is nearing completion. The Information Technology Security Office and SETI have used the PDCs since early October, Enterprise Systems, Learning Technologies, and units reporting to the Vice President’s office are now using them for the leave period ending November 9, and NI&S salaried employees will begin using them for the leave period ending December 9. If you have not already received your PDC, check the schedule at www.pki.vt.edu/pdc/schedule.html.

ACCS

The Spring 2007 Association of Collegiate Computing Services (ACCS) Conference will be April 18-20 at the Charlottesville Doubletree Hotel, hosted by the University of Virginia. ACCS of Virginia is a state-level organization that supports the sharing of information among technology professionals in Virginia’s colleges and universities. ACCS is now accepting presentation and pre-workshop proposals covering topics relating to information technology in higher education.