Scholar transition

The migration from Blackboard to Scholar continues. This summer will be the final terms in which Blackboard may be used in teaching. Teaching faculty continue to migrate course from the older system to the new. The Scholar transition website is https://learn.vt.edu/transition/. Virginia Tech’s Scholar is the local name for the community-source collaborative learning environment called Sakai.

More than 160 educational institutions now use Sakai. Among those are:

- Arizona State University
- Cornell University
- Georgia Tech
- Indiana University
- Johns Hopkins University
- Ohio State University
- Portland State University
- Rice University
- Stanford University
- Univ. of California, Berkeley
- University of Michigan
- University of Nebraska
- Univ. of North Carolina—Chapel Hill
- University of Virginia
- Yale University

Auditing Linux and Windows—training

The IT Security Office offered training on January 8 for auditing Linux and Windows machines. The hands-on training for IT professionals covered techniques in change management, password auditing, compensating controls, securing web application, as well as security controls for Windows and Linux machines.

Attendees came from various departments, including the College of Engineering, Human Resources, the Grado Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, Information Technology Acquisitions, Computer Science, Undergraduate Admissions, Network Infrastructure and Services, the Library, and the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

If you have suggestions for additional training, send your suggestions to Randy Marchany.

MS Project course

To help meet university goals in project management, Microsoft Project is a resource. Greg Kroll will be teaching an FDI course on Microsoft Project 2007 for managing projects. The course covers entering tasks, assigning dates and resources, and manipulating Gantt charts. The course also covers importing existing projects into a centralized plan, applying templates, and developing graphs and charts for reporting purposes. The class meets February 25. To sign up for this or other FDI short courses, see “Spring Short Courses” at www.fdi.vt.edu.
VT WSUS v. 2.0

VT WSUS v2.0 is now available from http://network.software.vt.edu. The current VT WSUS client v1.2 expires on 1/28/2010. The new VT WSUS client v2.0 supports Windows 7/Vista both 32 and 64 bit and Windows XP (32 bit only) and provides the same updates as before. The new version does NOT support Windows 2000, no updates are provided for Windows 2000. Also, no updates for Office 2002/XP. For more information on VT WSUS v2.0, see: http://computing.vt.edu/security_and_viruses/vtwsus/index.html

Early 2010 conferences

Association for Information Communications Technology Professionals in Higher Education (ACUTA) Winter Seminar
   January 24-27, New Orleans
   www.acuta.org

Jasig
   March 8-10, San Diego
   www.jo-sig.org/conferences/10spring/index.html

Association of Collegiate Computing Services Conference
   March 17-19, Charlottesville
   www.accsva.org/

Sungard Summit 2010
   April 11–14, San Francisco
   www.sungardsummit.com/

Educause Security Professionals Conference
   April 12–14, Atlanta
   http://net.educause.edu/sec10

Higher Education Data Warehousing Forum
   April 18-20, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
   www.hedw.org

Common Solutions Group

Mary Dunker and Jeb Stewart represented Virginia Tech at the January Common Solutions Group meeting in San Diego. Mary Dunker shared Virginia Tech’s vision of identity assurance at the Wednesday panel session. Participants from the University of Chicago and Duke University also provided their experiences. For more on Common Solutions, see www.stonesoup.org.

Under current IRS rules, cell phones issued to employees are a taxable fringe benefit. Any exception requires exclusive use and extensive documentation. ACUTA noted that the IRS commissioner reiterated that he would like to see legislation changing the rules. For now, however, the old rules are still in place. For more information, see www.acuta.org/?2752.