HokieSpeed benchmarking

HokieSpeed, Virginia Tech’s newest supercomputer, has been rated as a high performance “green” machine. HokieSpeed performs double precision computations at 238 teraflops at peak (120.4 teraflops Linpack), faster than System X that performs at 20.24 teraflops at peak (12.24 teraflops Linpack). This performance puts HokieSpeed at number 96 on the November 2011 list of the Top 500 supercomputers in the world, or in the top 10 of US academic supercomputers. HokieSpeed is much more energy efficient than many supercomputers, making it number 11 on the November 2011 Green500 list. HokieSpeed is expected to roll-out for general use early in 2012.

Wu Feng, associate professor of computer science and electrical and computer engineering is the principal investigator on the National Science Foundation to invent and build HokieSpeed, along with Khidir Hilu, professor of biological sciences, and Scott King, professor of geosciences. The core implementation team includes Professor Feng*, Dr. Heshan Lin (Computer Science), Balaji Subramaniam* (Computer Science doctoral student), and Dr. Mark Gardner* from NI&S.

*Pictured

CAS and ED update

On December 8, the Central Authentication Service and the Enterprise Directory were updated. The functionality changes that came with the deployment included enabling authentication of Guest IDs through CAS. The Enterprise Directory deployment updated the system to version 3.2. Functionality changes associated with this deployment include changing the default setting for newly created student PIDs so that their PID and email addresses will not display in VT PeopleSearch. Students may change the display option themselves by using the tools in My VT. The change was made to better fit the university’s declaration of student “directory information” that is made annually by the Office of the University Registrar. The impact of the change will be felt when new students for the 2012-13 academic year create PIDs. A Knowledge Base article details how to find student email addresses when required for university business (http://answers.vt.edu/kb/entry/3702/).

The deployments also added functionality to the tool used by 4Help and others. The Directory Access Tool (DAT) now displays a user’s account recovery options.
Fall graduates

Information Technology employees who graduated this past term include those below. Congratulations to all these Virginia Tech degree recipients!

- Steven Bowman, Masters of Information Technology
- Marc DeBonis, Masters of Information Technology
- Eric Fischer, Masters of Business Administration

Educause Information Security Guide


Information for the presentation is derived from the Information Security Guide. The guide is a compendium of best practices in security in a variety of topical areas (www.educause.edu/security/guide). Dunker is co-chair of the Information Security Guide Editorial Board. The guide was also featured in the webinar of the Higher Education Information Security Council on January 9 (archived and available—see http://www.educause.edu/blog/vvogel/)

Testing and Data Services moves

Testing and Data Services has moved to InnovationSpace in 1140 Torgersen. Formerly known as Test Scoring, this service of Learning Technologies provides optical mark reader processing of forms (opscans) used by Virginia Tech faculty and staff for test scoring and other data collection. Standard forms in various formats are provided free of charge.

For more information, please visit www.lt.vt.edu/Programs_and_Services/TDS.html or call (540) 231-5413.

Unified Communications Project

The Unified Communications Project website is available at www.nis.vt.edu/uc/. You can follow the progress of the project, and access related information resources about unified communications.