VT Mail in the cloud

Last month, the university contract with Google for a replacement for VT Mail was announced (See Google Apps for Education at www.cns.vt.edu/html/news/current.html). VT Mail is the central mail service known by various names and descriptions—POP or IMAP email; not-Exchange mail.

In anticipation of the switch, the email team is soliciting participants for pilot use, in advance of opening the service to the community. Pilot users will not be able to return to legacy VT Mail. If you are interested in the pilot, contact goinggoogle@vt.edu.

Active Directory enhancements

ADadmin was put in place earlier this month. This replacement for Hokies Self-Service provides all the legacy features, and expands the capabilities with themes and menu controls, contextual help, role-based assignment templates, and more. It provides an improved technology platform to enable future enhancements. See http://adadmin.w2k.vt.edu.

Microsoft Secure Infrastructure Services (MSIS) has also posted another new tool, using the opensource, GNU General Public License. Warden finds Active Directory users that have not changed their password since a specified date. It is equipped to log, email, and/or set the ‘must change password at next logon’ flag. The tool provides for optional logging, and can be readily customized. Warden can be configured for warning mode or password expiration mode to help enforce security policies. The software is available at http://opensource.w2k.vt.edu/registration.php?product_id=14. For more information, contact Steve Warrick.
Unified Communications

Most of us talk with friends from other departments outside work. When the conversation drifts to the university’s new “telephone” system, we become ambassadors for Unified Communications. Stay in touch with the overall progress of the program—check the UC website (www.nis.vt.edu/uc) or watch it through RSS or Twitter.

Feel free to send inquiries or refer others to unifiedcomms@vt.edu.

ACCS annual conference

This year’s ACCS conference include the following presenters from Information Technology:

Lucas Sullivan, “Crack the Code—the results are in”
Philip Kobezak, “Securing data for investigations and litigation”
Marc DeBonis, “Selectively enforced password changes for Windows Active Directory.”

The conference was held March 14-16 in Charlottesville. The Association of Collegiate Computing Services of Virginia may be found online at http://www.accssva.org/.

Summit

At Summit, the annual conference for SungardHE Banner and related products, Enterprise Systems staff presented the following:

Lee Anne Hoppe, Effort Reporting and Labor Redistribution—Git-R-Done, focusing on Employee Self-Service Labor Redistributions and Self Service Effort Reports
Debbie Fulton and Ken McCrery, IT Governance: Tools, Strategies, and Lessons Learned, addressing use of new tools and processes to deal with increasing project demands, diminishing resources, ever present security risks, ever expanding compliance requirements, and ever changing technologies.

The conference was held in Las Vegas, March 26-29.

IT Connection

Information Technology’s spring 2012 publication, IT Connection, is now available online at www.it.vt.edu/publications/IT-Connections.html.

Featured topics include discussion of the role of information technology in the production of the report on the university report on the future of instructional technology; the new TelePresence videoconferencing systems; “Reducing password clutter”; and the past and future for the university switchboard, and enhancements that will come with the Unified Communications projects.

Save the date: DCSS is April 12