Safety & Security Technology Showcase

Converged Technologies for Security, Safety, and Resilience will again host an annual showcase for research related to safety and security topics. This year’s showcase will be August 20. Topics of interest include security camera analytics and tools, situation awareness platforms, threat assessment tools, location-aware security and safety applications, mobile device apps for security and safety, privacy, anonymity, and identity verification, technologies for crime prevention and response, novel applications of existing technologies for safety and security, 9-1-1 dispatch and rescue squad technologies, and more!

Notice of the specific date and location of the showcase and an open invitation to the university community will be coming soon.

For more information, contact Angela Correa at 540-231-4202.

Filebox decommissioning

Have you heard? At the end of this Fall 2014, the service will be discontinued. Various incarnations of Filebox have provided storage for faculty, staff, and students for nearly 30 years—the lifespan of “online” living.

If you have your own files on Filebox, please move them to alternate file storage. VT Google Apps—specifically, Google Drive and Sites services—are reasonable alternatives. Keep in mind that the Google quota, while generous, is one quota for all VT Google Apps services, including Drive, Sites, and email.

For more information on how to use VT Google Apps for Education, see the page on “Computing”—https://computing.vt.edu/content/vt-google-apps.

Remote Access-VPN service

Virginia Tech’s legacy PPTP VPN service will be replaced by a newer, technologically robust virtual private network service this summer. VPN service allows you to access university services as though you were on the Virginia Tech network, even though you may be miles or continents away. Limiting service to university network addresses restricts the scope of exposure. For those university services that restrict access to campus network addresses, the VPN service is a way of selectively re-opening services only to known members of the university community.

The new service—“Remote Access-VPN service”—replaces equipment that has exceeded its expected life. Most students, faculty, and staff are eligible to use the service because they are already wireless or wired Ethernet customers.

You can begin early access to the new service by following the directions to download the client software--https://computing.vt.edu/content/virtual-private-network
Focus on HR

**IT Jobs page on the IT website**

The Vice President’s office is pleased to announce the release of our new webpage that features all job announcements within the IT organization. You can navigate to the new IT Jobs page from the IT site. The goal with this new page is to make the employment opportunities within the organization more accessible to both employees and job seekers.

We hope you will enjoy browsing the new webpage for job openings.

**Employees enrolled in the Virginia Retirement System Hybrid Retirement Plan**

To maximize retirement benefits under the Virginia Retirement System’s Hybrid Retirement Plan, Virginia Tech employees are strongly encouraged to consider voluntarily contributing up to an additional four percent (in 0.5 percent increments) into the Hybrid 457 Deferred Compensation Plan. For more information contact the Human Resources Service Center: Send an email, start an online chat using the link on the right, or call 540-231-9331.

**New Employee Benefit:**

Legal Resources protects employees, spouses, and dependent children (up to age 19 or 23 if enrolled as a full-time student) from paying the high cost of attorney fees associated with everyday life events. The plan offers comprehensive legal coverage on a broad range of services for $16.50 per month via payroll deduction at $8.25 per pay period. Legal Resources covers 100 percent of the attorney fees for fully covered legal services. A list of those services is available on the HR website.

Open enrollment will be August 15 – September 15. The cost is $16.50 per month, paid by payroll deduction. Coverage begins on October 1. For more information contact the Human Resources Service Center: Send an email, start an online chat using the link on the right, or call 540-231-9331.

**John Moore** is retiring after 43 years of service to Virginia Tech. He was one of four employees who founded the Learning Resources Center (LRC) in 1971. LRC provided television production, photography and graphic arts, classroom AV support, test scoring, silkscreen printing, and housed the university film library. For many years, John managed television production services and directed award-winning video productions. He was an early pioneer in distance education supporting interactive, televised courses on satellite.

In the 1980s, he moved to the Instructional Development Division, later becoming its director. This unit consulted with faculty on course development and specialized services.

He planned and implemented the nationally recognized Faculty Development Institute (FDI) in 1993. FDI was recognized for its best practices in a national benchmarking study sponsored by the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association.

Other awards and invitations to work on higher education projects came his way in recognition of his dedication to improving instruction and learning through judicious application of technology. John’s hand was importantly in recent efforts, from Scholar and ePortfolio, to, again, distance learning.