Account Recovery Options for PIDs

Account Recovery Options provides a secure and easy way to recover use of your PID if you have forgotten your password. One-time passwords can be received via text or voice messages to pre-registered phones, or by confirmation through OpenID with a Google or Yahoo! account. Review your account settings—https://my.vt.edu/accounts.

The project leader was Kevin Rooney, and the technical team was drawn from IMS, SETI, and IPS, and included Marvin Addison, Victor Bagley, Daniel Fisher, Karen Herrington, Kim Homer, Mike Hosig, Steve Legge, Ken McCrery, and Andrew Olson. Greg Kroll was the project manager. The next phase of the project addresses account recovery options for Oracle passwords.

HokieSpeed

HokieSpeed is the new supercomputing instrument that uses both CPUs and GPU (graphical processing units). It was implemented successfully despite a very tight time constraints. Computer Purchasing, led by Nancy Pressing, ensured that the procurements were expedited. Mike Moyer, Data Center manager, worked with Lylah Shelor and the Facilities team to ensure that the infrastructure for the new computers and new racks were appropriately outfitted with sufficient power and HVAC, and with Tim Rhodes and the systems team to ensure that the machines themselves were installed successfully. Mark Gardner and the network crew ensured that the connectivity for the supercomputer was put in place. The Warehouse team, led by Jerry Surface, managed receipt and delivery of the computers and infrastructure materiel.

HokieSpeed is expected to deliver 35 times better peak performance, 70 times better peak power efficiency, and 14 times better peak space efficiency than System X. The system is supported by an NSF instrumentation grant awarded to PIs Wu Feng, Khidir Hilu, and Scott King. The system is scheduled for benchmarking later this month.

Identity Finder

Today’s malware can give malicious users complete access to computers while going completely undetected. The first step to protect sensitive information is to know where it is located. To help, the university has purchased a site license for Identity Finder software. Identity Finder helps locate forgotten or misplaced sensitive data on computers. It runs on Windows and Mac platforms. The software is available to university employees and is for use on university-owned machines.

Download Identity Finder from Software Distributions—http://network.software.vt.edu. For information on getting started, see www.security.vt.edu/idf.
National Capital Region Fiber Optic Ring

As the university opened the Virginia Tech Research Center in Arlington, a new fiber optic ring provided the center and other strategic university resources in northern Virginia with world leading connectivity. The fiber optic ring, constructed for Virginia Tech by AboveNet Inc., spans more than 90 miles from Arlington to Ashburn. Interconnecting the Research Center and the Northern Virginia Center in Falls Church with both nodes of the National Capital Region Aggregation Facility (NatCap), the ring is owned and operated by Virginia Tech. NatCap is the mid-Atlantic access point for research networks including Internet2, National LambdaRail, several federal research networks, and many others.

NI&S has deployed an advanced network system using the fiber optic ring to offer Ethernet switching services over a Dense Mode Wave Division multiplexing layer. This system provides an aggregate 400 gigabits per second of initial capacity with the ability to precisely tailor services to meet the unique requirements of individual researchers at low incremental cost. The system is highly reliable with fully redundant, diverse fiber paths and automatic failover capabilities. This fiber ring effectively puts the Virginia Tech Research Center and the Northern Virginia Center “on-net” with direct access to national and international research networks, as well as regional resources.

For more information, contact Jeff Kidd, kiddj@vt.edu, or 540-231-3932.

Center for the Arts

Information Technology personnel are contributing to the Center for the Arts, scheduled for design completion on August 1 and to open in Fall 2013. CNS and Video/Broadcast Services consult on the networking and audio/video infrastructure and equipment requirements, and the Learning Technologies staff works with administrators and faculty to lay programmatic groundwork for research and learning in the Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology.

Dane Webster (School of Visual Arts) and his students converted architects’ renderings into an immersive, 3-D visualization of the center. A sneak-peek "fly-through" of the new building, available at the link at www.vt.edu/spotlight/innovation/2011-05-30-arts-center/fly-through.html. Nicholas Polys, director of visualization, and his students imported the design into the "visualization cube" in Torgersen so visitors can become "immersed" in the Center today, although opening is two years away.

Password change project

The password change project led by Randy Marchany depends on several technical efforts. The Microsoft: Secure Infrastructure Services team has built Warden, a tool that analyzes Active Directory accounts and sends reminders to update passwords for full user and sponsored accounts. It will set accounts with old passwords to "must change password" to comply with the yearly password update requirement. Similar tools have been built in the Enterprise Directory by the Enterprise Middleware & Authentication Services team. Integration & Portal Services created an account manager in My VT to facilitate changing passwords, as well as to support the Account Recovery options (see page 1). Changes to the Oracle systems to facilitate password change were implemented by IMS.

Invent The Future: VT 2020 is here!

The interactive report of the Task Force on Instructional Technology, Invent The Future: VT 2020, is available: http://blogs.is.vt.edu/inventthefuture2020/

Last fall, Erv Blythe and Daniel Wubah, vice president and dean for undergraduate education, charged the 18-member task force with developing a vision plan on the best use of instructional technology at Virginia Tech in the next decade and beyond. Co-chaired by Anne Moore and Peter Doolittle, the task force convened meetings between January and May 2011, hearing presentations and engaging in discussions about the future for instructional technology at large. In particular, the task force sought to envision what Virginia Tech might look like in 2020 in order to realize the possibilities for instructional technology to benefit learning.

A wealth of information resides on the interactive site that may serve as a resource for thinking, discussion, planning, and action. This website is a dynamic outcome of the task force’s work and is designed to allow anyone to join the conversation and ongoing activities. Your comments and additions are welcome.