Converged Technologies Annual Meeting

Plan to attend the Converged Technologies Annual Meeting, on June 27, 2012, 10am-noon, Solitude Room at The Inn. The session is open to all Information Technology and Administrative Services personnel who want to learn about current projects impacting safety, accessibility, and security at Virginia Tech. Attendees may arrive and depart at any time, so feel free to walk in and listen for as long as you care to stay, or come for the 2 hours to get a comprehensive overview of current initiatives involving technologies that cross over into physical security and safety.

Erv Blythe and Brenda van Gelder will open the session, followed by five brief presentations on the following projects:

- Campus routing/interior space initiatives, including 3-D building models (Jason Shelton, Thomas Dickerson)
- Distributed antenna system for improved cellular phone coverage on campus (Richard Hach)
- Security cameras and associated infrastructure (Richard Hach, Kevin Foust)
- Stadium safety/GIS game day application (Seth Peery)
- Identity management, credentialing, and access (Mike Mulhare, Karen Herrington)

Coffee and continuous break service will be provided. If you have questions, please contact Brenda van Gelder (bvgelder@vt.edu).

InnovationSpace equipment

The InnovationSpace has expanded the equipment offered for over-the-counter loans. GoProHD cameras are waterproof and shockproof. These cameras include helmet straps, handlebar mounts, suction cups attachment, and a chest strap. Students have used these cameras to record the Highty-Tighties perspective of a football game, and while snowboarding, biking, hiking, and skydiving. Within courses, students can use the helmet strap to record actual work being done, such as problem solving or hands-on surgeries. For more information, visit http://gopro.com/cameras/hd-hero2-outdoor-edition/.

The InnovationSpace also loans iPad2s with both photo and video capabilities. Apps include Pages, Numbers, Keynote, GoodReader, iThoughts HD, iBrainstorm, iAnnotate, Dropbox, and more. Projection cables for the iPads are available for loan, making them a great option for travel and presentations. iPad loans are available for up to one week.

To learn more about the equipment or to see availability of any equipment at the InnovationSpace visit www.is.vt.edu.
Learning Technologies won the 2012 Teaching with Sakai Innovation Award for its use of ePortfolios in First Year Experiences: Pathways to Success courses. Sakai is the open-source learning environment that Virginia Tech has branded “Scholar,” the primary platform the university uses to build ePortfolios. The Pathways to Success courses help students develop their problem solving, inquiry, and integration of learning skills. “The use of ePortfolios reinforces the goals of the Pathways to Success program,” said Marc Zaldivar, director of ePortfolio Initiatives in Learning Technologies. “They can be used to meet student needs for learning and professional development, while enhancing opportunities for authentic assessment of student learning on behalf of the institution.”

“The First Year Experiences program is designed to provide students with the appropriate tools for exploration and discovery with opportunities to fully engage as learners,” said Mary Ann Lewis, director of the Office of First Year Experiences. “The use of ePortfolios in each program opens up those doors for students to reflect and build life-long learning skills.”

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Learn more on the ePortfolio Initiatives website, including examples of student portfolios and video tutorials.

Unified Communications update

Unified Communications involves four projects: the installation of new phone sets that will, in most situations, provide the IP connection for workstation computers, along with the software that supports the system; ensuring that the spaces within buildings to house the new equipment are adequate; upgrading the network cabling where necessary; and installing the network electronics for the UC system. Work in different buildings may involve all four projects.

By mid-June, progress includes:

- Completion of construction of new telecommunications space in the Parking Services building
- Completion of new cabling in Burchard Hall and new cabling underway in Hancock Hall
- Installation of new cable
- Installation of building network electronics in RB 14 in advance of system training and controlled deployment
- Site preparation work in RB 14 and AISB
- Extensive work to create software tools to support the project

To stay in touch with the progress of the project, see www.nis.vt.edu/uc.

Universities constitute 6 of the top 10 networks in terms of percentage of traffic on IPv6—and Virginia Tech leads the list! The list posted at www.worldipv6launch.org/measurements/ is dynamic, and in mid-June, Tech leads the list with just under 60% of traffic using IPv6. [Click on the header for “IPv6 traffic” in the chart. ASN is a network identifier.]

For more on the university’s strategies and involvement with IPv6, see the April 2011 edition of ITELL (www.it.vt.edu/itell/itnewsletter_4_11.pdf).