Technology-enhanced Learning & Online Strategies

Effective July 1, 2013, a new organization, Technology-enhanced Learning & Online Strategies (TLOS), was begun that brings together into one organization the array of activities, services, and leadership in online and other technology-enhanced learning already in place at Virginia Tech. This new structure will combine existing resources of the former Learning Technologies and the Institute for Distance and Distributed Learning to position Virginia Tech as a national leader in online and technology-enhanced learning, and to provide “one-stop shopping” for development, support and delivery of online and distance education content, courses and programs. TLOS is the home to services for teaching and learning across the university, including distance learning programs, online content for on-campus courses, and hybrid courses. Organizationally, TLOS is part of the Information Technology organization, in close partnership with the Provost’s office and as well as colleges and academic departments.

The marketing, admissions, registration, and related functions for distance learning students that are currently performed by IDDL will be housed within the Provost’s office as part of Enrollment and Degree Management.

The TLOS website is www.tlos.vt.edu, and will be seeing significant development of content in these early days of the new organization.

Network upgrade completed

The upgrade of equipment at the core of the university's data network and the switches which connect the campus network to the Internet, occurred from 11:00 pm Friday, August 2, 2013 into the early morning hours of Saturday, August 3, 2013. This interruption in service provided an opportunity to exercise the emergency recovery site for the university homepage.

These "core and border" components of the network require an upgrade in order to support the expanding and increasingly sophisticated requirements of Virginia Tech’s academic, research, administrative, and public safety functions. This upgrade positions the university to conduct network maintenance with higher reliability, shorter resolution times, and minimal service impacts.
UC update

The UC Service Migration Progress meter is available on the UC website, www.nis.vt.edu/uc/schedule.

As of August 1, the migration was 36% complete, with 3774 of 10545 phone subscribers converted. The percentage belies the even larger body of completed and yet-to-complete work that it takes to prepare for the migration, from construction or renovation of equipment rooms and siting of cable pathways, installing new cables and new equipment, and training—online and in-person—for newly converted phone users.

Safety and security annual meeting

All university employees interested in learning about plans to improve campus safety and security are invited to the Converged Technologies Annual Meeting, August 7. The session is hosted by Scott Midkiff, vice president of information technology, and Sherwood Wilson, vice president of administrative services, and organized by Converged Technologies for Security, Safety, and Resilience at Virginia Tech. The meeting showcases current projects that impact safety, accessibility, and security at the university. Brief presentations, as well as a poster session, include topics such as regional 911 service; electronic cameras and security; identity management; forensics and technology; VT alerts; and hazard mitigation planning.

The complete program may be viewed at www.it.vt.edu/ctssr/annualmeeting.

What’s new this year

The fruits of many labors are apparent in the listing of new services since last year.

- **BlueRidge** supercomputer—in production for the fall and beyond
- **CONNECTtoVT-Wireless** (https://computing.vt.edu/content/xpressconnect)
- **Distributed scanning** for exams and surveys—www.tds.vt.edu/pages/datalink.html
- **eBook** pilot
- The **Geospatial Archive Resource and Data Exchange Network**—GARDEN http://garden.gis.vt.edu
- **Going Google**
- **InCommon Silver**
- A new template for information technology **risk assessment** (www.it.vt.edu/ctssr/risk_assessment/)
- The **research tab** in the My VT portal (www.my.vt.edu)
- **RLAN** for selected departments
- **Technology-enhanced Learning & Online Strategies** (see first page story)
- The **TimeClock Plus** system university-wide
- **Unified Messaging**—www.nis.vt.edu/uc/support/unifiedmessaging

JDA Scholarship fund has been fully vested as a recurring scholarship and will begin making awards soon. The scholarship is in memory of Judy D. Albert.