IT how-to videos on campus cable

During move-in, and the first week of classes, University Computing Support will be running “Hokie How To” videos on campus cable from 8 am to midnight, August 16 through August 22. Feel free to mention that to students if they ask about any of the issues listed below. During the year, they are also posted on VT’s iTunes U and Youtube site, and can be viewed year round!

Channel 2
- How to install Windows 7 on a Mac with Bootcamp
- How to activate Windows 7
- How to setup automatic backups with Windows Backup

Channel 3
- How to install Windows 7 on a Mac with Parallels
- How to import Windows 7 images from ITA with Parallels
- How to activate Windows 7
- How to setup automatic backups with Time Machine
- How to setup automatic backups with Windows Backup

Teaching in a virtual world

InnovationSpace continues exploring online virtual environments for teaching and learning. The work by Joy Rosenthal, instructor of photography, reflects that effort. She teaches a digital photography class in the online virtual environment framework, OpenSimulator. The course is set in the virtual environment where there is a classroom for lectures, a gallery for students to display their digital photographs, and a playground for students to explore on their own and build in the virtual environment. During the summer session, Joy holds 1-2 classes a week in this virtual environment where she lectures students on digital photography concepts, while answering questions and reviewing their photographs in the virtual gallery.

Andrew Lincoln, InnovationSpace, is responsible for updating the virtual environment with building modifications, and writing programs to facilitate the teaching experience in this space. Recent enhancements include the addition of audio voice chat support and rich media presentation techniques. NI&S Systems Support has helped maintain the virtual instances. For more information, contact Bill Plymale.
As a new academic year begins, here are some newer Information Technology services geared to university employees:

- Passwords for enterprise IDs must now be changed at least annually. (www.awareness.security.vt.edu/index.html)

- Account Recovery Options allow individuals to establish a means to reset a forgotten password (www.computing.vt.edu/accounts_and_access/account_recovery_pid/index.html).

- Identity Finder is available at no charge to faculty and staff members, and the IT Security Office strongly encourages its use (www.security.vt.edu/idf/index.html).

- TelePresence videoconferencing, supported by Cisco technology, is available in one of the two planned TelePresence spaces available for conferencing, collaboration, and instruction.

- Virginia Tech Global Web Server certificates are available at no charge (www.pki.vt.edu), and they are trusted by most browsers.

- In collaboration with University Relations, NI&S staff have enhanced VT Alerts to support the multiple locations of Virginia Tech facilities. (www.alerts.vt.edu)

- Discovery Commons is the research repository, now with the completed repository for the Civil War edition of the Macon Telegraph newspaper (dcr.emd.vt.edu).

- The free Hokie Mobile app provides campus news, events, maps, and a directory search from iPhones and iPod Touches.

- The university has an iTunes App Store license (www.ita.vt.edu).

Have you seen the fresh look to the Blacksburg Electronic Village website as it approaches its 18th anniversary? See www.bev.net.

With the new winter closing schedule, remember to manage your annual leave for the remainder of the year so that you have sufficient leave to cover the end-of-year closing. More information is available at www.vtnews.vt.edu/notices/060211-hr-newwinterclosingschedule.html.