CAS upgrade

The Virginia Tech Central Authentication Service, CAS, was upgraded from version 3.0.6 to 3.3.3 on Sunday, September 13. The upgraded service will provide a number of feature enhancements in the areas of authentication and authorization, as well as providing enhanced availability and performance. Notable new features include support for eToken/PDC (personal digital certificate) authentication and SAML-based attribute release. The attribute release feature will enable the use of Enterprise Directory data for authorization and personalization in CAS-enabled applications.

Banner upgrade

On September 20, the Banner 8.x release went into production. Specific releases include General 8.2, General Web 8.2, Web Tailor 8.2, Financial Aid 8.5, Finance 8.2, E-invoice 8.2, and FinAid Self-Service 8.5. In addition to maintaining currency to facilitate future upgrades and ensure performance, the new system supports new requirements for veterans’ reporting to the federal government (VETS-100) that requires federal contractors to report on numbers of disabled veterans, Vietnam-era veterans, and other protected veterans.

Computer Purchasing class

Computing Purchasing hosted procurement training in an all-day class September 14. The class was a review of the Commonwealth of Virginia Agency Procurement and Surplus Property Manual. This training meets the Category B requirement for Virginia Contracting Officer (VCO) recertification and earns one of six points needed for the five-year recertification period. Two members of Computer Purchasing are VCO certified.

Thirty state and local government employees registered for the class with two instructors from Richmond. Participants included personnel from Virginia Tech, Radford University, Virginia Military Institute, New River Community College, Virginia Western Community College, the City of Roanoke, and VDOT locations in Abingdon and Bristol.
The VTGIS group—Enterprise GIS and the Center for Geospatial Information Technology (CGIT)—participated in recent grant proposals:

• The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) awards one proposal per state to map statewide broadband mapping. The lead contractor for Virginia is the Center for Innovative Technology (CIT), with participation by eCorridors and CGIT, will use the $1,259,797 funding for collection, verification, and dissemination of broadband data.

• As a subcontractor to CIT, CGIT and the Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science submitted a proposal under the Sustainable Broadband Adoption portion of the NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program entitled “Electronic Medical Records Training for Sustainable Broadband Adoption.”

• CGIT and eCorridors are partnering with BroadbandCensus.com on a proposal to NTIA entitled “National User-Generated Data.”

• CGIT and eCorridors' staff and graduate students assisted Jeff Crowder and the Virginia Tech Foundation on a proposal in partnership with the Mid-Atlantic Broadband Cooperative to deploy a "middle mile" fiber route in six western Virginia counties.

See www.gis.vt.edu for more on VTGIS activities.

In-person resources—
The FDI Fall short course schedule is available at https://www.fdi.vt.edu/public/?term_pk1=8902. FDI short courses are free, and open to Virginia Tech faculty, staff, and graduate students.

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month. The IT Security Office is hosting a one-day workshop October 9 titled “Defense Against the Dark Arts.” The workshop is open to the university community and free of charge. For more, see www.security.vt.edu.

The Virginia Alliance for Secure Computing and Networking conference is October 5-6 in Charlottesville (http://vascan.org).

Online resources—
Sessions from this past summer’s Educause Policy Institute are available at http://icpl2009.ning.com on outsourcing e-mail, cloud computing, information technology policy, campus music, and GoogleBooks.

Indiana University has an online tutorial about copyright at http://filesharing.iu.edu/tutorial.