Technology Services and Operations Corporation

The board of visitors has approved the creation of the Virginia Tech Technology Services and Operations Corporation. The purpose of the corporation is to manage strategic emerging technologies and services with the potential to scale beyond serving only Virginia Tech; with the potential to attract external private partners; or with the potential to spin out as independent entities—where any of these options have a significant potential return or advantage to Virginia Tech.

The corporation will be governed by an affiliation agreement with the university. The full board resolution may be seen at www.bov.vt.edu/minutes/10-08-30minutes/attachment_p_08-30-10.pdf.

Facility and cyber security

A public-private partnership is planned between the university and both information technology solutions and services provider L-3 STRATIS and enterprise decision support solutions developer ERIS Technologies LLC to co-develop an integrated security and incident management center of excellence. University partners are Information Technology, focusing on emerging technologies, and Administrative Services with a focus on physical infrastructure and emergency management. The infrastructure to be established will integrate applications for campus security, incident management and response, facility management, energy monitoring, and cyber security through a dashboard for facility managers, emergency personnel, and information technology security professionals. The dashboard will provide information for identity management, access control, geospatial data and sensors integration, building management, energy management, cyber security, and security systems.

ERIS Technologies’ information system will provide real-time situational awareness about buildings and infrastructure for first responders and facilities managers.

For more information, see www.vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2010/10/102210-vpit-securitypartnership.html.

Spring break SANS training

During spring break, the Information Technology Security Office will sponsor an offering of SANS 542—Web App Penetration Testing and Ethical Hacking, with SANS instructor Kevin Johnson. Watch for more information on pricing, times, and registration on www.security.vt.edu.
**Oracle/Banner upgrade**

Banner and related Oracle databases will be upgraded to Oracle 11g on Saturday Nov. 13 and Sunday Nov. 14. Because of the centrality of the system, various services will be impacted, including Banner itself, leave reporting, web password change, Make A Gift Today (University Development), Self-Service Banner (Hokie Spa, Hokie Plus, Hokie Team), Shibboleth, My VT, and the budget-tuition application.

The maintenance will be from 6am on Nov. 13 to 3pm on Sunday, Nov. 14.

**“Bridge Initiative”**

The Software Installation Support and IT Education Center on Torgersen Bridge begins November 1. It is a partnership between Information Technology Acquisitions and University Computer Support (4Help). On-site software installation support will be offered on the Torgersen Bridge, beginning with the now-released Microsoft Office 2011 (for Macs) on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons.

This initiative provides on-site technical software support and offers bi-monthly educational seminars to students, faculty, and staff. This center will provide installation assistance to individuals, along with regularly scheduled tutorial help sessions based on common problems such as backup of data, reformat of a system, virus removal, VT-Wireless, and other offerings.

**Change your passwords!**

Hackers have been running password guessing programs against PIDs and have had some success in guessing a PID password. Recommended password strength rules are available at [www.computing.vt.edu/accounts_and_access/pickinggoodpasswords.html](http://www.computing.vt.edu/accounts_and_access/pickinggoodpasswords.html). The password strength rules are invoked when a password is changed. All PID, HOKIES, Oracle and Banner passwords must be changed by 6/30/2011 to enforce these password strength rules. See [www.security.vt.edu](http://www.security.vt.edu) for more information.

**Broadband mapping**

eCorridors was featured on the university homepage spotlight at the end of October, focusing on the broadband mapping effort. The broadband mapping application that was developed at Virginia Tech continues to receive national attention as the federal government identifies high-speed Internet access as a critical tool for helping to jump start the economy. After the map’s release, eCorridors received numerous requests from state agencies in Virginia, North Carolina, and Alaska, as well as national broadband mapping projects, to adapt elements of its speed test and mapping tools. The application is the first to integrate Web-based mapping with network performance measurement to produce the map.

You can assist eCorridors in this data collection effort by running a speed test from your home connection and place your marker on the map at [www.acceleratevirginia.org](http://www.acceleratevirginia.org).