



Find information

- [answers.vt.edu](http://answers.vt.edu)
- [computing.vt.edu](http://computing.vt.edu)
- [CNS FAQs](#)
- [Online Course Support](#)
- [Software Skills Gateway](#)
- [security.vt.edu](http://security.vt.edu)
- [antivirus.vt.edu](http://antivirus.vt.edu)
- [Annual Report](#)
- [CSC-4help](#)

## HokieMart

The promise of online purchasing transactions and visibility of real-time commitments moves closer with the implementation of HokieMart—Virginia Tech’s implementation of SciQuest’s product, “Higher Markets.” Higher Markets provides e-procurement from requisitioning, approving and purchasing, to receiving, invoicing and payment processing.

With this spring’s implementation, “source point data capture” becomes a reality for financial transactions included in Phase I services. Both external vendors on approved contracts and internal service providers—those that use ISRs and related forms—will eventually use this hosted solution. Through its integration with Banner and the Commonwealth’s eVA procure-

ment system, each system will be fed appropriate information by HigherMarkets. Other large, research university clients are Penn State and the University of Illinois.

The requisitioning process uses PID logons. The electronic approval process uses Banner Fund/Org security. Luminus Data Integration Suite’s message broker moves data between the two systems. The system will send approved requisitions to university service suppliers and, through eVA, send orders to external vendors.

The implementation effort is being led by University Purchasing, with integration with Banner and eVA worked on by the **AIS Finance Team**.

## Authorization process overview

Presentations on newer uses of PID credentials were outlined by Karen Herrington, Information Resource Management, to Information Technology employees last month in the first of a series of efforts to disseminate information about the more expansive university uses of PIDs.

Many long-time uses of PIDs worked under the assumption that having a PID sufficiently verified one’s relationship with the university. This “implicit authorization” is no longer sufficient, as more programs rely on online services.

Two forms of authorization are available today. “**Affiliations**” are short-hand descriptions of an individual’s roles—vt-student-enrolled or vt-employee-staff, for example. Affiliations are available through the authentication service, ED-Auth, as a quick form of authorization. The second uses the Enterprise Directory’s **ED-ID** for more detailed data.

A third form of authorization is coming over the next several month in the form of **Groups**. A groups may contain a list of individuals, for example, summer program attendees. The program director can arrange for online services to authorize group members.

More information on Enterprise Directory projects are available at the Middleware website ([www.middleware.vt.edu](http://www.middleware.vt.edu)).

In this issue

- HokieMart 1
- Authorization processes 1
- SANS Workshop 2
- Rural Development Conference 2

## SANS Workshop

Virginia Tech and SANS are sponsoring a 6-day course on “Hacker Techniques, Exploits & Incident Handling” to run during spring break, March 6-11. The course is a SANS Global Information Assurance Certificate course.

Registration and information is available on the Continuing Education site at [www.conted.vt.edu/isect/](http://www.conted.vt.edu/isect/). The instructor is Ed Skoudis, Senior Security Consultant with Intelguardians, a Washington DC based information security consulting firm.

### Information Technology at Virginia Tech

Vice President for Information  
Technology  
Earving Blythe  
1700 Kraft Drive, Mailstop  
0169

Phone: 540-231-4227  
Website: [www.it.vt.edu](http://www.it.vt.edu)

## Rural Development Conference

Brenda van Gelder (eCorridors) participated in the session “Community Web Portals: How to Attract Relocating Businesses and Increase Tourism” at RuralTeleCon '05, presenting “Municipal Networks: Competitive or Complementary?”

Access to affordable broadband infrastructure and services can assist rural communities in meeting economic development, education, and quality-of-life objectives. The lower potential for return on investment in isolated rural communities means that the telecommunications industry has been reluctant to provide more than basic service in rural communities.

In contrast, a municipal government may invest in infrastructure that is critical to future competitiveness and economic well-being, at cost-of-service rates. Such municipalities will most likely see their approach as enabling and not direct competition to private sector providers because of the market and technological uncertainties associated with advanced telecommunications. Leveraging the complementary interests of private sector providers and municipalities creates new opportunities for these parties to collaborate in public-private partnerships, creating win-win results for rural communities.

<http://www.ruraltelecon.org/conference/sessions.php>

### StopBadware.org

*Google and Sun Microsystems are providing funding to researchers at Harvard University and the University of Oxford to combat "badware."*

*The project initially will develop standards to minimize software flaws that can be exploited. Another branch of the project aims to use consumer pressure on developers to improve software.*