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Guest Wireless Service Manager

Communications Network Services has redeveloped the Guest Wireless Service Manager application with an improved interface and guest identity management. Guests can manage their own passwords and contact information by logging into COLA.

For more details on the improved system, see https://cola.cns.vt.edu/html/GW_new_overview.htm.

Project Management

The Project Management standard for information technology projects is available at the website www.itplanning.org.vt.edu/pm/. The standard describes the steps involved in a project and provides templates or forms to help guide the process. The standard will be improved through use and feedback over time, but is now ready for implementation by project managers in all Information Technology units. The standard follows the best practices promoted by the nationally recognized Project Management Institute.

Training on the use of the guidelines and procedures is currently underway. Everyone in IT who manages projects is encouraged to attend the training. Please talk to your supervisor to request a seat in a training session.

Project Management is required under the restructuring policies approved by the board of visitors (See policy 7210—<http://www.policies.vt.edu/7210.pdf>).

EDUCAUSE has recognized the **uPortal project** with its Catalyst Award. Excerpts from the announcement point to the application of open-source technologies in a community source collaborative development environment. “In the late 1990s, a group of institutions joined together to develop flexible, functional software to meet the common needs of the higher education community. This group evolved into the Java in Administration Special Interest Group (JA-SIG), with uPortal as one of its initiatives.” The expertise of commercial partners leveraged project management, software development, and marketing.

uPortal “has been an inspiration for many important projects that are now maturing, including Sakai, OSP, Quali, and others.” Virginia Tech’s My VT is built on uPortal.

For the full award description, see <http://www.educause.edu/apps/eq/eqm07/eqm07312.asp>.

VT, I.T. and You

VT, I.T. and You will be held for the second year as students come to Torgersen Bridge to purchase software needed to begin the academic year. The program begins the first day of move-in on August 15, and continues through the weekend of August 19. VT, I.T. and You is an Information Technology event designed to provide students and their parents the opportunity to:

- Learn about services offered by Information Technology;
- Learn to navigate Information Technology websites;
- Set up wireless connectivity;
- Get assistance with installing software;
- Get answers to technical questions; and
- Pick up software bundles.

Participants include Software Distribution, University Computing Support/4Help, VT Alerts, OCS/Blackboard, Office of University Summer Sessions and Institute for Distance and Distributed Learning, MyVT, VT Knowledge Base, IT Security Office, Newman Library, Engineering SWAT Team, Pamplin School of Business, and vendors—Adobe, Apple, CDW-G, Fujitsu, Microsoft, and National Instruments.

If you want to assist, contact Patty Branscome or Joyce Landreth.

IT Status

A status feed on Information Technology systems and services is now available. University Computing Support will post messages consisting of “services operating normally” or initial notices of significant service outages. This posting can be subscribed to by other web pages. The initial subscriptions will be to www.cns.vt.edu, with later implementation to www.computing.vt.edu and as an option in My VT.

A group continues to work on a larger effort to publicize appropriately when maintenance or unplanned outages disrupt normal services. For more information, contact Susan Brooker-Gross.

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“The New Economy, Technology, and Learning Outcomes Assessment” is the title of Anne Moore’s article in the Viewpoint section of Educause Quarterly. [<http://www.educause.edu/apps/eq/eqm07/eqm0730.asp>]. She concludes that “the time has come to show—more transparently than ever before—that our approaches to teaching result in the kinds of learning we have identified as important for students today. Aligning our learning outcomes assessments with the multitude of creative, technology-enabled faculty and student activities already under way is a significant step toward understanding the progress we have made in higher education to this point, and it might also provide useful pointers to progress in a new economy.”