



System X

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System X has completed its conversion from the Apple G5 desktop computers to the Xserve G5 foundation. The original System X posted 10.28 teraflops for its benchmarking when it was ranked third in the world by www.Top500.org in November 2003. The rebuilt system has now been benchmarked at 12.25 teraflops. The Xserves now used are uniquely built for System X, using dual 2.3GHz G5 processors. System X remains notable for its design and its cost effectiveness.

Rebuilding reduced the size of the super-computer by a factor of three. System X now consumes significantly less power and generates less heat. The upgrade added automatic error correcting code (ECC) memory that can recover from transient bit errors. The upgrade has significant hardware monitoring capabilities for real-time analysis of the health of the system.

Current users of the system are dubbed "hero users" who understand that the system is still in its pre-production phase. They include researchers from the mathematical, physical, and natural sciences. An allocation committee of university faculty will oversee the assignment of usage to applicants when the system enters the production phase (expected November 2004). Allocation decisions will be based upon the scientific merit that the research promises and its suitability for this type of cluster computing.

This summer, System X garnered honors at the Computerworld Honors 21st Century Achievement Award in Science, in which the system competed with over 250 innovative applications of technology.

Public tours are available on Friday afternoons. Registration is required (See <http://www.tcf.vt.edu/>).

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Access Grid

The Access Grid node in Room 104 of Research Building XIV, Corporate Research Center, supports academics and research at Virginia Tech. This Network Infrastructure and Services facility provides an ensemble of resources to support group-to-group interactions across the Access Grid. The Access Grid, an application of the Internet2 network architecture, was developed by the Futures Lab at Argonne National Laboratory and deployed under the auspices of the NCSA PACI Alliance. It can be used for large-scale distributed meetings, collaborative work sessions, seminars, lectures, tutorials, and training. Access Grid nodes exist at institutions throughout the United States, Europe, Australia, and the Asian-Pacific rim. Services include multimedia large-format displays, presentation and interactive environments, and interfaces to Grid middleware and visualization tools.

You may attend the SC Global 2004 portion of the annual *SC2004 High Performance Computing, Networking and Storage Conference*. The event is being held November 9-11 at Virginia Tech's Access Grid node. More information is available at www.accessgrid.vt.edu. To better accommodate attendees, we appreciate you pre-registering: <https://survey.vt.edu/survey/entry.jsp?id=1099328514274>.

Virginia Tech Windows Users' Group

Virginia Tech Windows Users' Group is a conduit for communications on topics concerning Microsoft Windows. It is open to all Virginia Tech faculty, staff, and students who operate in an administrative role with regard to Microsoft Windows systems in the VT environment.

Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month, hosted by Marc DeBonis. The location is the Garvin Conference Room, 1872 Pratt Drive (Corporate Research Center). See <http://vtwug.w2k.vt.edu>.

SafetyNet v. 1.0

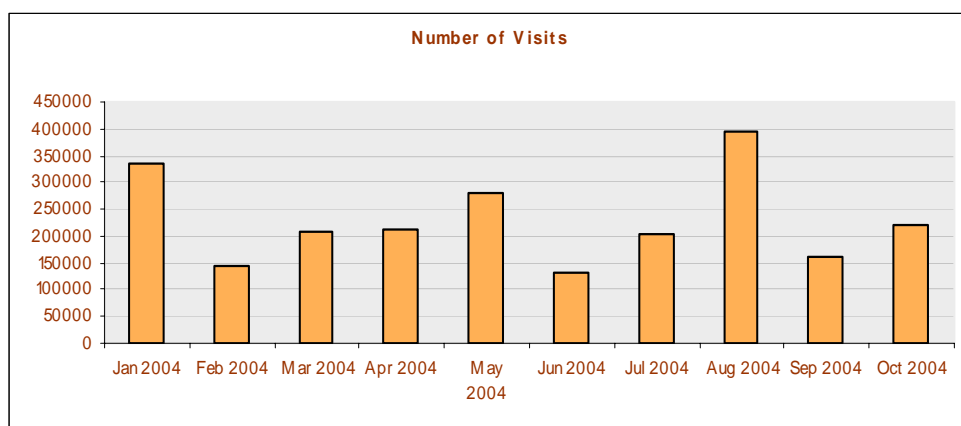
SafetyNet (SN) is an open source web based application framework that allows authorized users to proactively scan individual and groups of computer systems for security vulnerabilities. SN keeps a history of these results for comparison and auditing purposes. SN was designed from the ground up to be secure, scalable and stable. SN allows you to integrate many available open source and freeware security testing tools into SN to help you review the security of your computing environment from a concise interface.

- Development Status: Production/Stable
- Environment: Web Environment
- Intended Audience: System Administrators, Developers, Security Auditors
- License: GNU General Public License (GPL)
- Operating System: MS Windows 2003
- Programming Languages: Winbatch (<http://www.windowware.com>), PHP
- Topic: Security

<http://opensource.w2k.vt.edu/safetynet.php>

HokieSpa Visits

The number of times people logged into HokieSpa by month (below) traces actions during the annual cycle: semester start-up with drop/add, address changes and similar functions in January and August, and course requests at a lower peak mid semester (March and October).



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

What is GEDI?

The Graduate Education Development Institute is a collaboration between Learning Technologies and the Graduate School.

GEDI addresses the professional development concerns of graduate students for the 21st century.

GEDI focuses on multidisciplinary pedagogical practices that integrate advanced technologies. The director is Shelli Fowler.

<http://www.gedi.vt.edu/>