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Reporting data exposures

A critical element of information technology security is seeing that confidential information remains confidential. Exposures have happened—both at Virginia Tech and at other institutions—when websites are insufficiently secured, when access channels and storage devices (including laptops and other portable computers) are left unattended, and when credentials for personal logons have been shared or compromised.

If you encounter such an exposure, a new procedure is now in place. **Call 4help immediately!** The help desk will escalate the issue to the appropriate person and get a resolution as expeditiously as possible.

This procedure is not intended to discourage IT staff members from taking action themselves in situations when they know the source of the problem. Rather, the goal is to ensure rapid action even when the most logical problem-solvers are not onsite. The helpdesk route also makes it easier to contact website managers outside of the Information Technology organization.

Provide the helpdesk with as much information as you know, and always ask that the issue be escalated if you have any concerns about the urgency of the problem being understood.

Enterprise Directory Changes

Among enhancements added to the Enterprise Directory that are to be deployed on May 21 is the ability for individuals to add fax numbers, cell phone numbers, and pager numbers. These numbers can be added through MyVT or Hokie SPA. They will become available for selected uses of the Enterprise Directory. The information will NOT be publicly visible through ED-Lite or PeopleSearch, but will be visible to Exchange users through the *properties* tab of the Global Address List. It will also be available to help-desk tools. Individuals may elect to add the data to their personal profile, or not—as they desire and/or their supervisors suggest.

The deployment will require the Enterprise Directory system to be off line for a few hours early Sunday, May 21.

ACCS Spring 2006 Annual Workshop

“Framing New Ideas” was the theme for the April 19-21 ACCS workshop in Charlottesville. This is the first year for the ACCS Web Portal Symposium, a venue to share successes and explore solutions to web portal issues with others from higher education in Virginia.

Presenters of “Use of Smartphones in a University Environment” were Carol Hurley, University Computing Support; Clark Gaylord, CNS; Tommy Regan, College of Engineering; Kimberly Ascue, Veterinary Medicine; and organizer Joyce Landreth, NI&S.

Anne Sheppard, UCS, was elected to the ACCS Board.

<http://accs.virginia.edu/workshop.html>

Security 2006

The 2006 Security Professional Conference sponsored by Educause was held April 10-12 in Denver. IT presenters included:

- Marc De Bonis (Microsoft Implementation Group), “SafetyNet: An Open Source, Self-Service, Proactive Security Scanner”
- Randy Marchany (IT Security Lab), “Building a Campus DShield”
- William Dougherty, “Securing E-Mail Infrastructure: Lessons Learned,” with Brian McDevitt of Mirapoint

Sungard Higher Education Summit

Another element of the spring conference season is the Banner meeting, SungardSCT’s Summit, held April 2-5 in Orlando. IT presenters included:

- Lee Anne Hoppe, “Interfacing Banner HR & Financial Aid”
- Incoming Associate Vice President Deborah Fulton, “Luminis - Banner and WebCT “ and “Tuning in with Luminis Channels.”

GIS Software Contract

Information Technology Acquisitions (ITA) has been working over the past several years to make geographic information systems (GIS) software available to educational institutions throughout the state. Virginia Tech initiated a contract with a leading software vendor—ESRI—to make GIS software available to the state’s post-secondary education institutions, and was recognized by the vendor for that effort. In March 2006, secondary education was added to the contract through the efforts of ITA, Continuing Education, and the state Department of Education. Over 800 middle schools and high schools will be using contract software this coming fall. GIS supports secondary school curricula in history, social science, and earth science.

Information Technology at Virginia Tech

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Hold the date: Microsoft/
Virginia Tech Security Summit,
May 18-19 in 3100 Torgersen
Hall.

May 18 morning, Microsoft will
present basic-level information
on topics such as service packs,
automatic updates, and Vista.

May 18 afternoon, Microsoft
will present advanced-level infor-
mation on similar topics

May 19 morning, Virginia Tech
IT staff will present basic-level
information on IDs and pass-
words, remote access, e-mail,
4help, Active Directory, storage,
web publishing, antivirus,
SafetyNet and related topics.

May 19 afternoon, Virginia Tech
IT staff will present an ad-
vanced-level information on
these and other topics.

For more information, contact
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