



Several initiatives are being rolled out to students, faculty, and staff Fall term.

Review this impressive list of accomplishments, and look for "ITELL" to return to usual format in the fall!

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Fall Semester Roll-outs

As students settle into their residence halls this fall, they will register their machines through the **CheckNet** service. The service associates the student's PID with the computer's MAC address and provides an opportunity to check the security of the machine.

SafetyNet is a web based service that will be offered to test the vulnerability of a user's or department's computer systems. It is available now as an open beta and will be in production by September. See <https://safetynet.w2k.vt.edu> for more information.

The **Virginia Tech Net CD** has been distributed to incoming students at summer orientation. Among the settings that it provides is the **VTCA-root** certificate so that VT web applications using the VT Certificate Authority will be trusted.

Wireless local area network, or WLAN, service moves from its pilot phase to its production phase in the fall semester, when approximately 85% of academic and administrative spaces will have WLAN access. Student users must register for the production service, regardless of whether they used the pilot service. For more information see <http://wireless.cns.vt.edu>.

Student Software Distribution has made Apple's **iTunes** more easily accessible to students who want to download music. The software itself is free, and the user pays the provider a small fee per song.

ED-ID "went live" on August 9. With this Middleware service, other services will be able to authorize users according to their needs. IRM administers the service in conjunction with the data stewards who approve of the uses of personal information for university business.

ED-ID extends the "**de-coupling**" of PIDs from services (e.g., e-mail, Filebox, Blackboard, etc.). Concurrent with de-coupling is removing users from services they no longer qualify for simply by having a PID. Finally, some PIDs themselves will be deleted as the project better defines eligibility for a PID.

The **Virginia Tech ePortfolio** (VTeP) project moves beyond its initial pilot phase and will be in use by more faculty and students this fall for class-related uses. VTeP will be used for program assessment as well as course assignments.

Fall Semester Roll-Outs

The Banner application is now accessible via the Internet using your web browser. This version of Banner is referred to as **Internet Native Banner (INB)** or Banner Web Forms. The current client-server version of the Banner application will be phased out during December/January. Details for the campus-wide rollout of **INB** this fall are being finalized. Additional information will be provided to the campus community throughout the fall.

The transition away from **Social Security numbers** to Virginia Tech Identification numbers as the primary data element for identifying person records continues with the transition of individuals who lack a currently active affiliation with the university. Only offices with business needs for Social Security numbers will see them.

Hokie Spa will provide finer-grained control of the **confidentiality** of personal information. Students and employees will control whether their addresses and telephone numbers display to the public. Employee work contact information remains public in most circumstances.

MyVT moves to a new look and feel for the fall semester with release 3.0. It uses the VTCA certificate for online security.

Password rules will conform between PID passwords and Hokies passwords, so that constructing robust and secure passwords in the two systems will be more manageable.

Enhanced encryption support to the **campus VPN** service is in place, and the VPN hardware is being upgraded for improved performance and higher capacity.

The VP's staff

The Vice President's office staff consists of individuals who support the management functions of Information Technology for Virginia Tech. They include:

Jamie Boggs, Administrative Assistant, Personnel and Payroll
 Hud Croasdale, Director, Information Technology Strategic Partnerships
 Randy Pelt, Director of Fiscal Operations
 Jeb Stewart, Director for Planning and Administration and Chief of Staff
 Cindy Woods, Executive Secretary

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The "New Horizons" section of the recent [Educause Review](#) published Mary Dunker's article on biometric authentication entitled "Something You Are."

<http://www.educause.edu/puber/erm04/erm044.asp>