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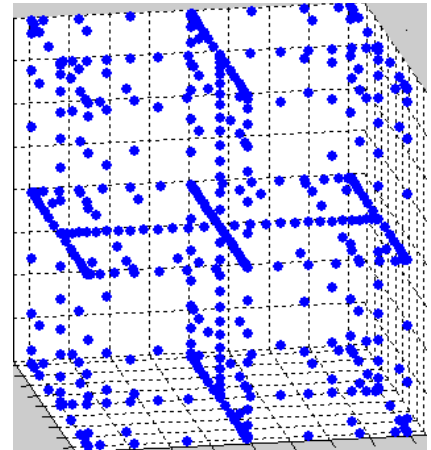
Computational science grant

Computational science specialist John Burkardt was awarded a research grant from Sandia National Laboratories for “Investigation and implementation of sparse grids” for the 2008 calendar year. For the grant, John will be collaborating with Clayton Webster, who received this year's prestigious John von Neumann fellowship at Sandia. The grant will enable them to extend John's sparse grid programs so that they can tackle the stochastic problems that Clayton has been analyzing for some time.

Sparse grids can be an alternative to Monte Carlo methods, as a means of analyzing very complicated systems with large amounts of probabilistic behavior, such as climate modeling, groundwater flow, or the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository.

John recently joined the staff of Research Computing to assist researchers with the advanced research computing parallel systems. He received his Ph.D. in mathematics from

Virginia Tech in 1995 and has been a research associate at Florida State's School for Computational Science. He has worked at the Pittsburgh Supercomputer Center and as researcher with Virginia Tech's Interdisciplinary Center for Applied Mathematics. His research includes centroidal Voronoi tessellations, reduced-order modeling, and sparse grid collocation.



Ensemble CMS

The university's content management system was launched on January 25 and is available for use by university departments. Branded “Ensemble CMS,” the system uses Percussion Software's Rhythmyx product to create a means for website contributors to update content. The system is a joint project of University Relations and Information Technology, particularly the Document Management Systems group in Enterprise Systems. Training courses are offered through the Faculty Development Institute. More information about Ensemble CMS is available at www.unirel.vt.edu/web/cms.php. More information on the vendor is available at www.percussion.com/news/press-releases/2007/press-release-3373.html

Assistance in Human Resources

David Ferraro, Senior Recruiter in Human Resources, focuses on assisting the university in recruiting and attracting new personnel for positions requiring information technology knowledge and skills. Managers can contact David through the Department of Human Resources for difficult-to-fill positions in the information technology arena.

PDC website updates

Support and information on personal digital certificates is available through the revamped PDC webpages at www.pki.vt.edu/pdcl. Additional support is available through 4help (4help.vt.edu or 540-231-HELP).

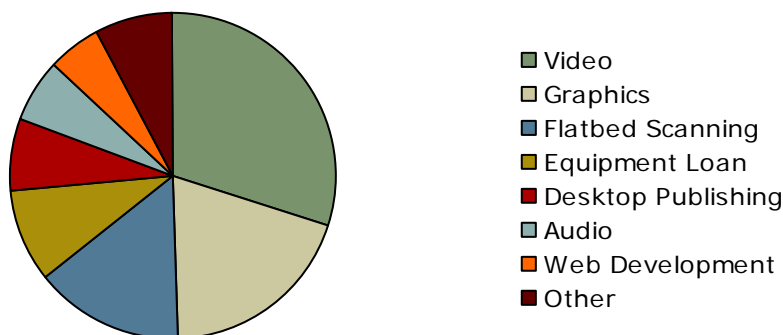
Audio conferencing

VITA—Virginia Information Technology Agency—offers enhanced, interactive audio and data conferencing.

Reservationless Conferencing provides on-demand conferencing, 24x7. “Conference codes,” similar to a calling card, are re-used for subsequent conferences, once an initial code is obtained. The charge for the conferencing is 6 cents per minute, per attendee, and can accommodate up to 125 participants. The conference codes are obtained from CNS with an ICR. Complete information is available at www.cns.vt.edu/html/news/VITAConferenceCallChanges.html

New Media Center

New Media Center summary



The New Media Center provides a central campus facility that supports the integration of technology in teaching and provides the opportunity for students to use technology in support of learning. The chart displays use for July 2006 through June 2007.

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In “Naked in the 'Nonopticon',” University of Virginia professor Siva Vaidhyanathan recounts the tale of Facebook’s consumer blunder in posting users’ web purchases. The article notes that different types of privacy have different impacts for individuals. Four privacy domains are at issue: person-to-peer or negotiation among friends and family, today including what one chooses to post online; person-to-firm, or what companies we deal with learn about us; person-to-state, what various government agencies have rights to demand from us; and person-to-public, the broad range of what others (mis)understand about us. Public surveillance has elevated the impact of person-to-public losses of privacy.

The article is available from the Chronicle of Higher Education. Virginia Tech Libraries provide access to this secured article. <http://chronicle.com/weekly/v54/i23/23b00701.htm>