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Faculty-staff individual sales

Software Distribution, a component of Information Technology Acquisitions, has historically sold software to students.

On July 1, 2008, they will begin to sell selected Microsoft products and Adobe Studio 8 to university employees. Contracts with the software providers dictate whether a particular title may be included. Check the ITA website for updates and changes (www.ita.vt.edu). Payment will be through university billing. Individuals must be current employees of Virginia Tech.

Print Services and Mail Services

Printing Services and Mail Services have been units of Network Infrastructure and Services. These organizations will move to Transportation and Campus Services (<http://facilities.vt.edu/ot/>) at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Student photos on rosters

New to the Faculty Access section of the Hokie Spa is access to student pictures by instructors and advisors. Instructors will be able to see the class pictures for students in their classes via the *Detail Class List* and *Summary Class List* pages. Advisors will see individual pictures using the *List of all your Advisees with Email Addresses* page. Student pictures are part of a student's educational record so that the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) applies.

With the photos, instructors and advisors will have assistance in remembering students, as well as an additional verification tool for class participation.

Summer CVC

The summer CVC event was a success with great participation and raised \$686.50 toward the upcoming campaign. Thanks go to the folks who volunteered to be on the event committee—Lylah Shelor, Evelyn Martin, Becky Brim, Joyce Clower, Nola Elliott, Bob Robinette, Diane Whitlock, Rob Grant, and special thanks to Roger Carroll and Reba Ratcliffe.

CNS departmental rates: *Departments will see reductions in various recurring telecommunication service costs effective July 1, 2008. CNS will continue to work to align department rates for services with the capacity used.*

Wireless in classrooms

Building on the award-winning pilot project for tablet PC-based learning environments (<http://www.vtnews.vt.edu/story.php?relyear=2007&itemno=393>), Communications Network Services (CNS) will upgrade the wireless network infrastructure in many Blacksburg campus classrooms this summer.

Network bandwidth requirements associated with classrooms and lecture halls are typically intensive. The improvements to the wireless network infrastructure will significantly expand access to synchronous and collaborative computer learning in support of the university's teaching, research and outreach missions.

Work on this project commenced May 12, 2008. CNS will communicate with representatives of departments in each building prior to beginning work at their site. Typical construction noise may be expected, though work has been scheduled to minimize interruptions to classes. All upgrades are scheduled for completion before the beginning of the fall semester.

Questions about this project should be forwarded to Jeff Kidd, CNS Public Relations via e-mail to jeff.kidd@vt.edu or by calling 1-3932.

ED GroupTools

GroupsTools will allow Virginia Tech application services to manage Enterprise Directory groups. These groups are used to authorize individuals to use online services when other methods of authorization—notably affiliations—are insufficient. Although ED groups have been available, distributed management has not been, and IRM was required to intervene in any changes in membership or new groups.

The new web interface provides the ability for departments to manage group membership themselves. An initial request to IRM is required to establish an entryway for a department administrator of the department's groups. Once created, departments can establish "child" groups under the departmental umbrella group, as well as manage the membership. Deployment is scheduled for July.

The Enterprise Directory will contain group information, and ED-Auth permits online services to authorize using established groups. Service providers and managers of groups will negotiate for the appropriate services available to group members.

Dreamspark

Microsoft's DreamSpark program offers students no-cost access to technical software for software development and designer tools. Students must be verified as enrolled students by their institution. New tools for inter-organizational authorization that underpin this process include InCommon, a federation of higher education institutions along with some governmental groups and corporate entities, that, in turn, leverages Shibboleth.

Virginia Tech has recently joined the InCommon Federation (www.incommonfederation.org). Middleware will be deploying the identity provider component of Shibboleth in July. For more information about the DreamSpark offering, look for announcements on www.ita.vt.edu. For more information on InCommon or Shibboleth, contact Mary Dunker in SETI.

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The "Technology Channel" of University Business Magazine (<http://www.universitybusiness.com/topicchannel.aspx?categoryid=6>) lists among the current items:

- *"Today's blogosphere is a veritable Wild West of verbal ambushes and shootouts, with very little fear of legal recourse to keep character assassination, defamation and dirty business tricks in check," wrote Judge Edward Fadaley, retired associate justice of the Oregon Supreme Court. From the article "Cyber-harassment in Academia" by Dr. Uma G. Gupta.*
- *From the Chicago Tribune/AP of June 17: "Schools Drop Landlines As More Students Carry Cell Phones."*