Welcome Back!

CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

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Welcome back! We have had a very busy summer and want you to know about the exciting things we have been working on. First, you will notice that our Web page (http://www.cns.ufl.edu) has a new look. Many of you have requested that certain topics be put closer to the home page—or on it—so that you can find them faster. We think our new Quick Links system does just that. Select the Quick Links menu for instant access to specific topics. Or, click on linked titles to see more information as well as links to grouped topics. Please visit our site and see how easy it is to use.

Once again, we were able to upgrade our OS/390 (MVS) processor without any disruptions to production services. Our IBM 9672-R55 processor was upgraded to a model R46 processor and the central memory was increased by two gigabytes to a total of six gigabytes. We expect this additional processing capacity to meet increasing user demands. We also upgraded the operating system from OS/390 V2R8 to OS/390 V2R10 which included performance improvements to the system.

We improved the security to our domain name servers by limiting their use of recursion. A server that uses recursion will ask other servers for help if it is asked for information that it does not have. This introduces the possibility of accepting incorrect information from another server. A server that does not use recursion will not seek assistance from other servers. Restricting recursion in this way is a common best practice for networks and can improve network performance as well as prevent certain forms of cache attack. We are happy to make this improvement to our service.

We have been working on upgrades to the UF Internet and Internet2 connections and expect this work to be completed during the month of September. This upgrade will provide increased bandwidth that will enhance service levels and facilitate research on our Internet connections. You can read more about this project on page 3.

Early this summer NERDC hosted a demonstration of a new technology, the Access Grid, which consists of prototype nodes used to conduct remote meetings, training sessions, and educational events. Using large-format multimedia displays, the Access Grid provides face-to-face interaction among the participating groups. A permanent Access Grid node at UF is being implemented at this time.

The University of Florida launched its Computer Challenge training program this summer. Faculty and staff can earn a certificate in one of three areas of concentration by taking a series of information technology classes. NERDC helps maintain one of the computer training resources, NETg online courses, which is funded by the Office of the Provost. NERDC also participates on the committee behind the Challenge. Other groups providing training resources for the Challenge include the Center for Instructional Technology and Training (formerly the Faculty Support Center), University Personnel Services, DOCE (Division of Continuing Education), CIRCA, the Health Science Center, and more. For more information, please see http://www.it-train.ufl.edu [???].

Another project to watch for is the UF wireless campus plan. Network Services has begun implementing a plan which will place about 120 six-inch long antennas on buildings around campus, creating a wireless network that will be completed within the next three years. A separate project, also in progress, will provide indoor wireless connections that will integrate with this outdoor wireless project. The wireless network is intended for use mostly by laptop computers, but some PDA companies will soon have modules available to allow them to
access wireless systems.

We look forward to participating in new information technology initiatives at both the statewide and campus levels and welcome the opportunity to help facilitate the new goals they bring. As always, please let us know how we can help you meet your own computing goals. We can be reached at the NERDC Support Desk at (352) 392-2061, or by e-mail at consult@lists.ufl.edu. We want to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Marie

Marie Dence,

Associate Director, NERDC

Your Comments are Welcome

We welcome your comments and suggestions on this and all UFIT documentation. Please send your comments to:

UFIT

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