CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

Secure Your Connections with Virtual Private Networks!

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UF Information Technology

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VPN (Virtual Private Networking) is now available at UF! Thanks to the efforts of OIT-Network Services, this service allows for secure connections in an unsecured environment (such as wireless), the ability to use IP-restricted services (such as NETg online courses) from off-campus locations, and generally provides an extra layer of encryption.

Many people at UF are already using the VPN to enable them to perform previously impossible tasks (such as connecting to the NETg server from off-campus) and to heighten the security of their computing. All university faculty, staff, and students are eligible to use the UF VPN service; the only requirement is a valid GatorLink account.

To use the VPN, you install software on your computer which makes a connection to a VPN concentrator and creates a secure tunnel from your machine to the UF campus network. Additionally, your machine will appear as if it were on the UF network.

VPN is an important component in the wireless network access that is being developed on campus. Without VPN on a wireless connection, the connection should not be considered secure.

We also now have a document that describes how to use VPN to gain access to UF's NETg server if you dial in from off campus. NERDC Document D0155 [http://docweb.cns.ufl.edu/d0155/d0155.html], Connecting to UF's NETg Server from Off-Campus, describes three methods of accessing the courseware from off campus and one of those ways is VPN.

For information on how to use VPN, including a FAQ, installation and configuration instructions, and a troubleshooting guide, please see http://net-services.ufl.edu/provided_services/vpn/.

To get the most up-to-date information about VPN, you can subscribe to an e-mail list. Maintenance announcements as well as problem reports and feature enhancement notifications will be posted to the list. Anyone with a problem or question is also welcome to post. You can subscribe to the list by sending e-mail to listserv@lists.ufl.edu [mailto:listserv@lists.ufl.edu] with the body: SUBSCRIBE VPN-L. Support for the VPN service may also be obtained from the UF Computing Helpdesk (392-HELP).

Your Comments are Welcome

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

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