CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

Welcome Back!

UF Information Technology

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Each fall we take a moment to review things you might have missed while you were away for the summer. We encourage you to visit our on-line documentation service called DOCWEB (http://docweb.cns.ufl.edu) to look at news articles and /Update newsletter issues published in your absence.

Computer training opportunities have been enhanced in several ways. Faculty can now customize NETg courses with a new NETg application called NLO+ (NETg Learning Objects). This new tool allows faculty to drag and drop learning objects from NETg courses to create a hybrid course that contains the skills your class, department, or team requires.

Additional NETg courses were made available this summer on topics relating to large-scale computing applications. These are courses designed for z/OS (OS/390) professionals. You can find out more about these new tools and register for them by writing to online-training-l@lists.ufl.edu.

In the spring, just before you left, UF launched the Peer2Peer training initiative to supplement commercial training venues by using UF's own professional staff to provide local training sessions. The second such seminar was held in July at the McKnight Brain Institute and included these topics: How to Get Vendor Certification, Virus Protection, and Florida's Public Records Law and Electronic Communications. For more information about Peer2Peer training, visit the training Web page at http://www.it.ufl.edu/training.

The VPN (Virtual Private Network) service became a production-level service in July. Sometime after the original VPN test version was available, we were informed by our vendor that they were consolidating their equipment line and that we needed to switch to a new platform. Unfortunately, this new platform client was not compatible with the older VPN client. If you were using VPN before you left for the summer and have not converted to the new platform client, you will need to do so. You can find information and software to download at http://net-services.ufl.edu/provided_services/vpn. You should also check out the article about the VPN service on page 7 of this issue.

Network Services has continued to work on the UF wireless network. You can check out new site locations at the wireless Web page (http://net-services.ufl.edu/provided_services/wireless).

Another service enhancement provided by Network Services was a conversion to upgrade its modems to the v.92 modem standard. If your modem is v.92 compliant, you'll be able to use most of the new features of your modem with your NERDC dial-up connection: Quick Connect, Modem-On-Hold, and V.44 compression. PCM Upstream is not currently supported, and client modems with this feature enabled may have difficulty connecting.

If you dial up to NERDC using a modem with a v.90 or previous standard, you shouldn't notice a difference in your connections. However, if you do encounter problems, please contact us at the NERDC Support Desk at (352) 392-2061.

Our Open Systems Group (OSG) has implemented improvements to the NERSP computer complex and its services. The NERSP node housing NERSP home directories (node 15) received an operating system (OS) upgrade to AIX 4.3.3. This upgrade was part of a larger system-wide operating system upgrade for the NERSP computer complex meant to bring our system up to a more current level of system software. Virus scanning began for NERSP e-mail
and the backup service called NSAM (Network Storage and Archive Management) received several hardware upgrades including tape drives, additional storage, and a new processor node.

Our z/OS staff has also been very busy. In May 2002, the OS/390 system was upgraded from OS/390 V2R10 to z/OS V1R2. This release allows us to enable new options for application development and security and was done in conjunction with a number of other upgrades to supporting systems and applications software such as IOF and Syncsort for z/OS. In addition, the CICS (Customer Information Control System) group has upgraded to CICS Transaction Server 2.2. This upgrade includes support for Rexx, Java, Enterprise Java Beans, Java 2 Enterprise Edition, and other object-oriented languages.

We think you will enjoy these changes to our computing environment and invite you to let us know how we can further meet your computing needs. We can be reached at the NERDC Support Desk at (352) 392-2061, or by e-mail at consult@lists.ufl.edu. Sincerely,

Marie

Associate Director, NERDC

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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