CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

Welcome Back!

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UF Information Technology

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Welcome Back! ........................................................................................................3
Welcome Back!

Once again, it's time for us to begin a new year at UF. As we get started, we would like to help you catch up on our activities while you were away for the summer.

One very important change is that we have a new name. When the state Board of Regents was replaced with a new model for governing higher education, a new name was chosen that better reflects our data center's current mission and scope. We are now called UF Computing & Networking Services (CNS).

We also hired our new director. Tim Fitzpatrick is from the University of Minnesota. We featured him in the May 2003 /Update.

The Open Systems Group (OSG) has been working on a major upgrade to the GatorLink mail service. This upgrade replaces a single server with two IBM p630 servers. Also, the OSG staff has been working with vendor representatives to increase GatorLink's reliability.

In April, we offered a 25% price decrease for selected CPU, memory, and disk storage charges due to capacity and demand conditions related to the UF Directory conversion project and to ERP preparation.

While we made some significant rate reductions, as of August 1 we implemented our first-ever rate increase of three percent on all charges. Workloads are increasing across our user community at a 34% annual average. This modest charging increase will offset the costs of additional capacity required to support these increasing workloads.

UF's OIT Building Network Infrastructure (BNI) Group developed a new wiring standard for UF, and the Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC) approved it. This will affect all construction and renovations on all UF campuses. All new telecommunications infrastructure will be installed to a minimum standard.

CNS's Operations section has overseen the installation of a new FM-200 fire suppression system to replace the Halon 1301 system that has been in place since the 1970s.

The Office of Information Technology (OIT) launched IT Connections, an on-line newsletter for UF's IT personnel. It is available at http://nersp.cns.ufl.edu/~oitnews.

IP Telephony (voice-over-IP) is a new method of providing telephone service. Rather than using dedicated equipment, IP telephony will use much of the same infrastructure as the data network. Our new service, I-Phone, is designed to provide an enterprise communications solution for the University of Florida. This is a combined service of Telecommunications and Network Services.

On May 13, our z/OS Group replaced the IBM COBOL for MVS and VM compiler with the current IBM Enterprise COBOL for z/OS and OS/390 compiler. Please see News item N0377 for more detailed information.

In addition, on August 19, the IBM OS/VS COBOL Compiler and Run-Time Library were removed from the CNS z/OS system. Vendor support for this product was withdrawn in 1994.

Most OS/VS COBOL programs should continue to execute successfully. However, any remaining OS/VS COBOL programs that need to be recompiled will need to be converted to

Staff members in all CNS sections continue to participate in UF Bridges activities and to pursue ways to maintain and improve CNS services to the UF community. In Fall 2003, an additional processor will be added to the z/OS system to accommodate expected high-capacity demands.

Our name has changed but our desire to support your computing needs is just as strong as ever. And, as always, we want to hear from you. Your suggestions and questions-and complaints, too-are valuable to us. We appreciate your feedback and hope you will keep it coming.

Sincerely,

Marie

Marie Dence
CNS Associate Director

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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