CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

Dec. 1 Target Set for Microfiche Replacement

CNS Document ID: u031101a
Last Updated: 11/03/03

UF Information Technology

UFIT

2046 NE Waldo Rd, Suite 2100
Gainesville Florida  32609-8942
(352) 392.2061
<editor@cns.ufl.edu>
# Table of Contents

Dec. 1 Target Set for Microfiche Replacement ...........................................................3
Dec. 1 Target Set for Microfiche Replacement

Microfiche, which has served as the output archival medium for decades, is about to be replaced by a searchable computer CD that can be read at almost any Windows workstation.

The CD-Metafile replacement for microfiche began testing at UF Computing & Networking Services in mid-October.

"We are currently offering to run in parallel so folks using microfiche can test reports on CD as well," said Bill Carr, CNS Operations manager. During testing, CNS is producing reports on both types of media, Computer Output Microfiche (COM) and the Metafile CD, at no extra cost.

Once testing is completed, Carr and his group hope to have users moved completely over to the CD Metafile by December 1, 2003.

"Users who are testing the CD now have been very happy with the results. They prefer the CD to the microfiche. It is much easier to use because it has Boolean search capabilities. Right now the users in Information Systems in Tigert Hall are our biggest test group since they distribute the media all over campus," Carr said.

Microfiche, the rectangular plastic film used for decades to archive data, is being replaced because the machine that produces them is expensive, has an expensive annual contract for maintenance, and has been superceded by newer technology.

"The new system, Metafile, offers several report retrieval options, but at this time, we are just focusing on replacing the current system," Carr said. "Users can search without having to thumb through a box of microfiche. They can just search the output on their CD as easily as using an online search engine."

Metafile installs a small Windows client on the user's computer the first time a CD is read on that workstation.

The Metafile CDs also will save departments space because one CD can hold more pages than 300 sheets of microfiche!

"We're beginning to think of other ways that the CD Metafile system will help our users. For instance, those who have large print jobs could have their output returned on a CD instead of several boxes of paper," Carr said.

For information about the Metafile system, the testing, or COM replacement, please contact Lisa Redwine, senior computer programmer analyst for Operational Services, or Bill Carr at cnscd@cns.ufl.edu [mailto:cnscd@cns.ufl.edu].

Your Comments are Welcome

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

UFIT

2046 NE Waldo Rd, Suite 2100
Gainesville Florida  32609-8942
(352) 392.2061
<editor@cns.ufl.edu>