CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

Bridges: Some Final Thoughts Before the New Systems Come On-Line

CNS Document ID: u040604a
Last Updated: 5/27/2004

UF Information Technology

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

Bridges: Some Final Thoughts Before the New Systems Come On-Line  ................................3
Beginning on June 18, new services will be available from the new myUFL systems. Due to /Update's publication schedule, this is the last article that can appear here before the launch. By now you have seen many articles on the new systems and on preparations for the change. And by the time you read this, you may have already used the new systems—the portal, new time keeping systems, new sponsored research, travel, purchasing and other systems. Below are some final thoughts.

The changes being brought by the new systems are the largest changes in UF business practices ever made. The first few months are likely to produce anxiety and difficulty. Some people will not know how to use the new systems. There will be confusion about new terminology. There will be people who need to use the new systems and are not authorized to do so. There will be slowness in the systems and sometimes the systems will be unexpectedly down for repair and maintenance. Some deadlines may be missed and some work will need to be redone.

During the first few weeks, please take it slow. Learn as much as you can and try a few things and get comfortable with them. There will be pressure to do everything all at once and to keep everything moving forward just as always. During these first few weeks, it may be best to make some choices regarding things that must be done and things that can wait.

Traditionally university systems are heavily used during very specific times of the day. From 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. in the morning, many people try to do many things. Usage slows down during the morning while there is little system activity during the noon hour. In the afternoon, usage builds steadily to a peak at 3 p.m. and then tapers down towards 5 p.m.

During the first few weeks of the new systems, consider alternate approaches to work. The system may be faster and work may go quicker late in the morning, during lunch hours, during early afternoon and during late afternoon. You may wish to avoid the 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. rush as well as the afternoon peak around 3 p.m.

Our existing enterprise systems have been with us for a long time and when people needed help with these systems, they could always ask a neighbor who had years of experience.

During July, no one will have years of experience. You will need to rely on the UF Computing Help Desk (392-HELP), the Training and Learning center in the Hub, the Bridges Web site (www.bridges.ufl.edu) and each other for support that may be new to you.

Eventually, the systems will settle down and people will find new habits of working with the new systems. There is no doubt that the conversion will be challenging. By helping each other, supporting each other and working together, we will make the change together. We will have modern systems with new capabilities and we will look back on the change and be better for it.
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>