CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

CNS Personnel Win Awards

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CNS Personnel Win Awards

Several of CNS's sections won recognition for their extraordinary efforts this past year. The MVS and CICS groups and Open Systems are among those whose work has been recognized with a Davis Productivity Award. The Davis Productivity Awards honor individuals and work units for innovation, creativity, and smart work that measurably increase performance and productivity in the delivery of state services and products.

CICS, MVS, OSG Win Davis Productivity Awards

On June 7, 2005, the ceremony for the 2005 Prudential Financial Davis Productivity Awards was held at the Paramount Plaza and Hotel Suites in Gainesville. Among the recipients were CNS's CICS (Customer Information Control System) and MVS (Multiple Virtual Storage) groups for their cost-saving reconfiguration of the mainframe computer, and the OSG (Open Systems) group for their work implementing the spam-blocking SpamAssassin filter.

The CICS and MVS groups won a Notable Team, Work Unit and Partnership Award, and the OSG won a Certificate of Commendation.

CICS and MVS Award
Pictured above (from top) are CICS group members (from left) Steve Ware, Cathy Honeycutt, and Barry Brooks; and the MVS group: (from left) Tina Morris, Scott Crumpton, Jack Bloom, and Jack Schudel.

The seven members of the CICS and MVS groups that won the award were Barry Brooks, Cathy Honeycutt, and Steve Ware, CICS; and Jack Bloom, Scott Crumpton, Tina Morris and Jack Schudel, MVS. The team devised and implemented a reconfiguration of the mainframe system that handles the student registration process.

In anticipation of a record peak processing load for registration and schedule adjustments for Fall 2004, they consolidated CICS regions and made adjustments to the WLM (workload manager) component of the z/OS operating system on the mainframe. They also prepared a list of on-the-fly adjustments to be made if needed during the registration process itself. The team then monitored the whole process carefully during registration to make sure their back-up adjustments wouldn't be needed. (They weren't.)

Why did they go to all the trouble? Approximately $400k in savings, that's why. The team's initiative avoided spending that amount on a hardware and software upgrade. For more information, please contact Jack Schudel at (352) 392-2061, ext. 178, or e-mail schudel@ufl.edu.

OSG Award

The Open Systems group, led by Steve Ulmer, won a Certificate of Commendation for their work implementing the spam-blocking SpamAssassin filter. Members of the group include Ulmer, Todd Williams, and Drake Emko.
Pictured above are the OSG group: Todd Williams, Steve Ulmer, and Drake Emko.

In October 2004, following OSG's successful implementation of the SpamAssassin-based e-mail scoring system, "spam scores" began to be used to reject likely spam at the server. This change alleviated the problem of large Internet service providers (ISPs) rejecting legitimate mail from UF due to reports of junk e-mail being sent "from UF."

In addition to resolving problems with other e-mail systems, all GatorLink users benefited from having less junk e-mail to process and the university benefited by having fewer resources expended on transporting and storing nuisance messages.

Congratulations to these teams!

Your Comments are Welcome

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

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