CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

The *New* Computer Challenge: A Sneak Peek

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The New Computer Challenge: A Sneak Peek

The "UF Computer Challenge" is an Information Technology (IT) achievement certification program designed to foster increased learning of IT skills by UF faculty and staff. It is sponsored by the UF IT Training Committee (ITTC) [http://www.it.ufl.edu/committees/at/training_committee.htm]; a subcommittee of the ITAC-AT [http://www.it.ufl.edu/committees/at/] (Information Technology Advisory Council-Academic Technology).

As previously announced [http://netg.ufl.edu/ChallengeHiatus.html], the UF Computer Challenge is taking a short break from awarding certificates. It has been five years since the Computer Challenge was launched in January 2001. During that time, there have been many changes in the IT landscape: new products, new versions, new technologies. Like the rest of us, the Computer Challenge must change in order to stay relevant.

Consequently, the Computer Challenge is taking a short hiatus from awarding certificates to allow time for it to be updated. No certificates will be awarded until sometime later this (January 2006) month. In addition, the Challenge will re-emerge with a new name and new tracks reflecting its renewed and updated vision.

At this time, we are happy to be able to share with you a preview of the tracks and certificates planned for the revamped Challenge.

One of the first things you may note is that several of the tracks offer certifications at multiple levels: a basic/foundations level, and then progressively more advanced levels, to facilitate motivated learners who wish to pursue more in-depth work in a track.

Another change of particular interest is the addition of specialized tracks intended for Faculty, and Managerial (administrative) staff.

Also, the new program now offers a specialized "Security" track, with 3 certification levels, to encourage members of the UF Community to become better educated regarding how to protect UF's Information Technology assets. The basic/foundations level of the "Security" track will also be useful to people who wish to learn how to better protect their own personal/home computer systems.

Below is the tentative outline for the updated "Challenge." While the ITTC [http://www.it.ufl.edu/committees/at/training_committee.htm] believes this is reasonably close to the final form, exact details are not yet finalized, and still subject to change.

- Office Support User Track
  - Ground Floor: Foundations of Office Information Technology at UF
  - Competency
  - General
  - Advanced
• Advanced/Database I
• Advanced/Database II
• Desktop Publishing

• Managerial User Track
  • Foundations
  • Competency
  • General
  • Advanced

• Faculty Track
  • Classroom Technology Proficiency
  • Classroom Technology Mentor
  • Classroom Technology Expert
  • Classroom Multimedia Technology Expert

• Security Track
  • Proficiency
  • General
  • Advanced

• Technical Track
  • Networking
  • Web Development
  • Programming
  • System Administration

Please watch for an announcement regarding the "grand opening" of the new "Challenge," soon! If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact the IT Training Committee at <it-training-l@ufl.edu>.

Your Comments are Welcome

We welcome your comments and suggestions on this and all CNS documentation. Please send
The New Computer Challenge: A Sneak Peek

your comments to:

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