CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

GatorLink Eases Access to Basic Services

CNS Document ID: u970801b
Last Updated: 5/13/99

UF Information Technology

UFIT

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

Table of Contents

GatorLink Eases Access to Basic Services ...............................................................3
GatorLink Eases Access to Basic Services

GatorLink, a new system to allow universal access to fundamental services such as e-mail and dialup, will make its debut during the Fall ’97 semester. It is being established as an effort to reduce the myriad of user names and passwords which students, faculty, and staff use to access different systems at UF.

Under this new system, a user will sign on with his or her unique userid. Once they have been authenticated by the server, they will then have access to a variety of computer services on campus.

GatorLink accounts will eventually take the place of all Basic Access accounts. No new Basic Access accounts will be issued in Fall ’97, but current Basic Access accounts will be continued for an undetermined time.

During a recent meeting, CIRCA Director Dr. Mark Hale spelled out the implementation plan for GatorLink. CIRCA will handle the customer service aspects of the accounts, including assigning, trouble shooting, and security issues. NERDC will host the name space and maintain the hardware and software for the accounts.

"We're moving to a model where there will be long-term name spaces," Hale said during the June 20 meeting which addressed GatorLink, adding that the temporary class accounts will still exist.

While GatorLink promises to bring many changes with its implementation, NERDC will continue to offer its traditional services.

According to a document written by CIRCA staffers John Sheehy (who has since joined NERDC) and Mike Wright, "The GatorLink ID is not intended to replace research computing accounts funded by grants, research computing accounts funded by the colleges, or administrative accounts controlled by Academic Affairs or Administrative Affairs."

GatorLink will start by using the existing directory server, Ph, during the transition period. Then NERDC will eventually move over to a different and more reliable server, such as LDAP (Lightweight Directory Access Protocol).

"We don't think it would be wise to dump it all in one month," Hale said.

And step by step, GatorLink implementation moves along. In early July, the Kerberos servers started running. Kerberos servers will be the authentication "check point" for participating systems on campus. Once a user is authenticated by Kerberos, they may then log into participating servers without having to enter their userid and password again during that session.

While the organization of e-mail accounts will be undergoing changes, one thing stays the same: the cooperation between CIRCA and NERDC. The end result of this teamwork will make e-mail universally and easily available to all of UF.

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>