Welcome Home: Returning after Summer Break

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Welcome Home: Returning after Summer Break

While you were away, we had a hot, hot, summer in Gainesville and the rest of Florida. It was too hot to spend much time outside, so we had plenty of time to think of, and implement, improvements to our services. Here is a review of what we did.

In May, we published a new document called NERDC UNIX: An Introduction to NERSP for NERVM Users and New NERDC Customers [http://docweb.cns.ufl.edu/d0107/d0107.html]. This tutorial and reference volume was written to help NERDC customers migrate from NERDC's VM/CMS-based computing complex (NERVM) over to NERDC's UNIX-based platform (NERSP), and also for new NERDC customers who will be using NERSP. This document is available on the web by going to the NERDC home page (http://www.cns.ufl.edu) and selecting Online Documents. Then select "NERDC UNIX." Or, you can call us at (352) 392-2061 or drop by to pick up a hard copy of this document.

In June, we gave some pointers on handling the Year-2000 issue and provided tips on how to get additional information on this topic. We also printed a discussion of fair use guidelines for those of you working on multimedia projects. It includes an overview of, and abridged excerpts from, the "Fair Use Guidelines for Educational Multimedia," available on-line from DOCWEB: document U980607A [http://docweb.cns.ufl.edu/update/u980607a/u980607a.html].

The UF/Gartner training intraweb opened for business on a large scale in July. Almost 350 computer training courses became available FREE to all UF students, faculty, and staff. Check out the URL at: http://netg.ufl.edu/gartner.html to see a complete list of courses you can take and available formats. Courses are available on the UF Intranet, and in CD-ROM, floppy diskette, video, and multimedia formats.

Our Network Services staff installed a distributed "gigapop" connection point at NERDC to pipeline Internet2 traffic to and from universities on FloridaNet, the high speed data network for Florida educational institutions. Once the OC3 physical line to the national vBNS (very high speed Backbone Network Service) was turned on, we were able to send Internet2 traffic on to other Internet2 universities.

During July and August, NERDC Network Services switched the connection between the Internet and the UF Intranet to ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode) technology. ATM provides virtual point-to-point connectivity which should result in improvements in reliability and throughput.

Also, as of July 1, 1998, rate reductions went into effect for the use of selected NERDC disk storage services. One example is that disk storage for NERSP was reduced to $0.02/megabyte/day.

We said good-bye to OfficeVision/MVS and the IBM COBOL II Compiler (replaced by IBM COBOL for MVS & VM), and we acquired MATLAB on the NERSP. MATLAB is an integrated technical computing environment that combines numeric computation, advanced graphics and visualization, and a high-level programming language. You don't have to be a computer programmer to use it, but if you are one, you can make extensive customizations.

You can read about any of these topics and more in the 1998-99 NERDC Guidebook, NERDC News items in DOCSYS, and by looking at summer issues of /Update, our monthly newsletter.
All of these information sources are available in hard copy at NERDC or from the NERDC home page. Please check us out.

We look forward to working with UF during this year to help support the new student computing requirement.

And if you have questions, just give us a call. If we cannot help you, we will help you locate someone who can. The NERDC Support Desk staff can be reached at (352) 392-2061 or by e-mail at: consult@lists.ufl.edu. We want to hear from you.

Welcome back!

Marie Dence
Associate Director, NERDC

Your Comments are Welcome

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

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