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MyVlab

Nancy Wellard <nwellard@uwo.ca>

Access to Student Computing Lab applications - anywhere, anytime

ITS has undertaken a project to offer an alternative method of accessing some of the applications currently used in the Student Computing Labs across campus. My Virtual Lab allows you to access these applications, which are licensed for instructional use only, from any PC - at any time! The initial applications offered include SPSS, Matlab, Mathematica, Maple, and R.

We are currently in a pilot stage and are looking for volunteers to try out this new virtual lab.

For details on how to access myVlab, please refer to http://myvlab.uwo.ca/

Please Note:

Using myVlab involves the installation of a client agent on your PC. A limited number of concurrent licenses is available for each of the applications, so access is subject to license availability.

We welcome any comments you have regarding myVlab. Please direct your e-mail to myvlab@uwo.ca.

ITS Extended Hours for Exam Scanning

From April 15—30, ITS will offer extended hours for scanning exams. During this time, the ITS front counter will be open until 10:45 p.m. Monday through Friday.

As always, you will receive an e-mail with the scanning results as soon as they are available.

Please note that this extended service does not apply to our Full-Service SCANEX Examination Marking. Anyone interested in using this service should continue to drop their exams off at the ITS Main Office, Natural Sciences Centre, Room 108, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.
Scheduled System Maintenance
Sundays
6:00am - 12:00 noon

Need help, have a question?
Call the ITS Support Centre
661-3800 or ext.83800

Network Backup Service
For network backup and
recovery service please contact
the ITS Legato Group, e-mail:
legato@uwo.ca  For details see:
http://www.uwo.ca/its/network/
backup.html

ITS OPEN HOURS
Building hours and hours of
opening for the various areas of
ITS are listed on the web at
http://www.uwo.ca/its/reach/
contactus.html#hours

In Touch Mailing List
Additions, deletions, and
changes to the mailing list can be
made using the form on the web at
http://www.uwo.ca/its/doc/
newsletters/InTouch/
subscription.html

ITS Mission
We are committed to
delivering the best information
technology services and solutions
in support of the teaching and
research missions of the
University.

ITS Vision
To be recognized as the
preferred source of information
technology services and solutions
within the campus community
and recognized as one of the
leaders in the North American
university community.

ITS Services 2005-2006
http://www.uwo.ca/its/services.pdf
Protect Your Computer Against Viruses

Ellen Smout <esmout@uwo.ca>

Every new year brings a new crop of viruses, Trojans and spyware to the Internet, to Western and to your computer. So far 2006 is no exception.

January brought the Zero Day vulnerability and February brought a new worm known by many names that included Blackworm, Blackmal, Kama Sutra, Mywife or Grew. This worm potentially had the ability to destroy critical files on infected computers on February 3 and the third of every month thereafter. However, the worm did not become as widespread as predicted, partially due to the use of anti-virus software.

Strategies to Maintain a Healthy Computer
1. Keep your operating system and software applications up to date and patched.
2. Make your own backups.
3. Avoid phishing scams and protect your identity.

Anti-Virus Software
As always, we strongly recommend the installation of PC-Cillin 2006 on home computers which is available to Western students, staff and faculty at the Campus Computer Store for the nominal charge of $15 (including taxes).

If you are not running OfficeScan, Trend offers a free scan, which now includes the Damage Cleanup Services, at http://housecall.trendmicro.com

PC-Cillin 2006 Campus Edition for Western Wireless Users
The Campus Computer Store now has the Campus Edition of PC-Cillin 2006. This version turns off the problematic Port 137 scanning that came as a default with the earlier release of the product.

If you have already purchased PC-Cillin 2006 and require the patch to disable this feature, please refer to http://www.uwo.ca/its/doc/hdi/virus/pcc2006/

The purpose of this patch is to alleviate the excessive port 137 scanning that PC-Cillin 2006 has been causing on the Western Wireless network. This traffic has had a detrimental effect on the service available on the Western Wireless network. This patch is recommended for people running PC-Cillin 2006 on their computers who intend to use or do use the Western Wireless network. After this patch is run, a restart is required for the changes to take effect.

If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact the ITS Support Centre at 661-3800, ext.83800.

Anonymous FTP Update
Judy Steward <judy@uwo.ca>

In January, the Anonymous FTP web page Download Micro Software at UWO (http://www.uwo.ca/its/ftp/) was removed from the ITS web site. This was our first step towards eliminating the anonymous ftp service (ftp.uwo.ca).

The majority of files and programs available through our anonymous ftp service are updated regularly by the software developer so that it is no longer necessary for us to host these updates on our server.

In December, the anonymous ftp service was replaced with the http://www.uwo.ca/its/ftp/ site. This site now lists the relevant links to:
• http://www.java.com/ - Sun Java Software for WebCT Vista
• http://www.mozilla.org/ - Thunderbird and Firefox downloads and an updated authenticated http download of the SSH software that we have a site license for.

Please note that any of the files that are accessible through anonymous ftp will still be available, if needed, as we make this transition. If there is something that you need to download, please contact the ITS Support Centre. If you have any recommended software links that you would like to see included on this page please e-mail helpdesk@uwo.ca or contact the ITS Support Centre at ext.83800.
CanIT-PRO software is lessening the amount of offensive e-mail sent to the 50,000 student, staff and faculty e-mail accounts. The article CanIT-PRO: Spam Filtering System, in the winter issue of In Touch, discussed the pilot project testing this software with some ITS staff accounts.

CanIT-Pro anti-spam software, from Roaring Penguin Software, is now providing relief from e-mail spam (an incidental benefit is some relief from viruses also), which accounts for 70 to 80 percent of e-mail hitting the University's servers.

Prior to CanIT-PRO, we were using an open-source filter to block junk e-mail. Despite a great deal of time and effort, spam was still getting past our filters. CanIT-PRO is more robust and requires less daily attention. There is a double benefit; less spam is getting through and the time spent on spam-related work has also gone down dramatically. Staff time can be spent much more productively.

More robust filtering and quarantine options are being made available. We have modified CanIT-PRO's interface to match the look and feel of our website, and we are continuing to add some custom features to adapt the system to our particular environment.

Staff Recognition

Congratulations to ITS staff member Rich Jones who was a nominee in the 2006 Western Awards of Excellence. The Western Award of Excellence is the highest level of campus-wide recognition for the exceptional performance of Western staff.

ITS has many staff who have worked at Western for twenty years or more and this indicates a very high level of service and commitment to Western students, faculty, and staff. In December, Gary Miller and Rich Jones received their long service pins for 20 years of service to ITS and the University.
On the Road ...

Instructional Support team members, Jean Savage, Sue Barschel, Jeff Longland, Merran Neville, and Jane Winkler and Kim Holland from the Teaching Support Centre, have been making presentations to Faculties to highlight the activities of the Instructional Technology Resource Centre (ITRC), the Teaching Support Centre (TSC), ITRC Projects and WebCT Vista.

Presentations have been made to the Faculty of Health Sciences, the Faculty of Science, the Faculty of Social Science, the Faculty of Music, and the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry. Visits to other faculties are planned for the future.

These visits have provided an opportunity for discussion and Q&A about the resources and support available to faculty and instructors who offer or would like to integrate technology into their courses. We welcome the chance to meet with faculty and instructors to discuss their needs and goals to achieve this.

To learn more about the ITRC and TSC, visit the websites at http://www.uwo.ca/its/itrc/ and http://www.uwo.ca/tsc/

Conferences and Faculty Development

The following events, both at Western and further afield, will be of interest to faculty and instructors.

Spring Perspectives on Teaching
May 4, 2006 9:00a.m.-4:00p.m. coordinated by the Teaching Support Centre. Details available at http://www.uwo.ca/tsc/pdf/Spring_Perspectives_Ad.pdf

Summer Teaching with Technology Institute - May 29-30, 2006 hosted by the Teaching Support Centre and the Instructional Technology Resource Centre. Details: http://www.uwo.ca/tsc/flyer_summerTTI.html

Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education STLHE Conference - June 14-17, 2006 hosted by the University of Toronto. Details: http://www.utoronto.ca/ota/stlhe_sapes06/

WebCT IMPACT 2006 8th Annual WebCT User Conference - July 10-14, 2006 to be held in Chicago. This conference is for educators, course designers and system administrators. Details: http://www.webct.com/2006/

MERLOT 2006 International Conference - August 8-11, 2006 to be held at the Ottawa Congress Centre. “The MERLOT International Conference is designed to foster learning, innovation and practice in the use of information and communications technologies in higher education. It is the venue for educators, administrators, and technologists who have interests and expertise in technology-enabled teaching and learning and who recognize the need to remain current in this rapidly advancing field of educational practice and theory.” Details: http://conference.merlot.org/2006/

Learning Objects Submitted to CLOE

In March, three learning objects designed by Professor Sheila Macfie were submitted to the Co-operative Learning Object Exchange. These peer reviewed learning objects Chromosomal Abnormalities, Meiosis and Mitosis were developed by ITRC student consultants, including Andrew deWaal, Zlat Djuric, Jeff Longland (prior to becoming a fulltime ITS staff member), and Jon Villalobos. The students worked on the graphic design and animation of the learning objects.

Congratulations to Prof. Macfie for bringing these learning objects to fruition. We are happy to meet with any faculty who have projects of this nature and would like to explore the possibility of setting up an ITRC project to work on them.

Details about CLOE are on the web site http://cloe.on.ca/

2006 Western Film Festival

Congratulations to ITRC student consultants Nick Haffie-Emmslie and Sam Chow who carried off most of the prizes in the 2006 Western Film Festival held at Rainbow Cinemas March 17-18.

Nick won the first place award Best Overall Film ($1000) for his film Truth and Sam won the Achievement in Storytelling award ($350) and the People’s Choice award ($150) for his film Falling for Marsha.

Fourteen films were shortlisted for the festival from a large number of entries. Details: http://www.wufs.net/festival/home.htm
The Ontario Universities Computing Conference (OUCC) is an annual conference that brings together computer technology professionals from academic institutions across Ontario. The conference focusses on information technology initiatives in higher education.

In 2006, the 37th annual OUCC is being hosted by the University of Guelph, in Guelph, Ontario from May 28 to May 30, 2006. The theme this year is *The Mobile Campus*.

**Keynote Speakers**

OUCC 2006 promises to be an exciting conference for computing professionals from campuses across Ontario. Confirmed keynote speakers are:

- The Hon. Bob Rae, Former Premier of Ontario
- Ms. Jennifer Corriero, TakingITGlobal
- Mr. Tim Bray, Sun Microsystems

Conference Web Site: [http://www.oucc.ca/](http://www.oucc.ca/)
Commonly Used Numbers

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Facilities

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Mailing List

If you wish to have your name and/or address added, changed, or deleted from the In Touch mailing list, please provide the following information.

Category:

UWO ____ faculty, ____ staff, or ____ graduate student (Please give campus address below.)

Request following action:

_____ ADD   _____CHANGE   _____DELETE

Last Name_______________________________ First Name and Initials_______________________________

Department_______________________________

Address of Department (Building on campus or affiliate)_______________________________

Please provide previous label information (if varies from above, or include previous label)

Return to: In Touch Mailing List, Information Technology Services, Natural Sciences Centre, The University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada, N6A 5B7