Wireless Project-Phase Two Nears Completion

Wireless coverage in all major academic buildings and common areas is almost a reality at UNCG. Phase Two of the wireless project, part of the University wireless computing initiative, is expected to end formally in December. The wireless computing initiative, led by Academic Affairs and implemented by Information Technology Services, seeks to strengthen technology resources at UNCG.

The second phase of the wireless project continued the work from Phase One of building a campus-wide wireless environment. Wireless access is now operational in the following buildings: Bryan, Carmichael, Curry, Eberhart, EUC, Ferguson, Graham, HHP, Foust, Jackson Library First Floor/Tower Lobbies, McIver, Moore Humanities, Moore Nursing, Music, New Science, Stone, Studio Arts, and Taylor. Wireless coverage has also been extended to several common areas including College Avenue, the Fountain, and the Science Quad.

Related to the wireless computing initiative, the Student Laptop Initiative (SLI) Phase One project is almost complete. The SLI recommended that incoming freshmen purchase a wireless laptop computer for Fall 2006. A laptop requirement will take effect for Fall 2007. Through the SLI, students have the opportunity to purchase select laptop computers from Lenovo and Apple at competitive prices. According to Chuck Curry, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Technology Planning, laptops offered through the SLI program are equipped to work optimally with the UNCG wireless network. For additional details regarding the SLI, go to http://its.uncg.edu/Laptop/.

The third phase of the wireless project is currently in the planning stage and will begin in 2007. The SLI Phase Two project will identify updated hardware and software specifications for student laptops and will implement new services important to a wireless enabled technology environment.

If clients experience problems with the wireless network at UNCG, contact 6-TECH Technical Support at 6-8324. For more information about the University wireless network, go to http://its.uncg.edu/Wireless/.

UNCG Begins Converting SSNs to University Assigned IDs

As mentioned in the August 2006 issue of Technology at UNCG, the University is making progress toward eliminating the use of the Social Security Number (SSN) as the primary identification number used in administrative processes that require a unique identifier.

By the end of this calendar year, SSNs for all students (former and current), faculty, and staff will be converted to a University assigned identification number. The impetus behind this initiative is to comply with the 2005 N.C. Identity Theft Protection Act, which restricts the collection and use of the Social Security Number.

Each university in the UNC System has been assigned a range of numbers. All UNCG identification numbers will begin with 88 or 89 prefixes. For added security, numbers will be assigned randomly. In early October, the University began assigning non-SSN identification numbers for new individuals. All current students, faculty, and staff will be notified when their number has been converted and when to begin using the newly assigned identification number.

To aid in this transition, a web “self-lookup” tool is being developed that will allow individuals to type in their SSN and obtain their new identification number. However, for security purposes, a reverse lookup (to obtain the SSN) will not be available.

ITS Reports Over 1,000 SLI Laptops Sold

Since May 2006, 1070 laptops (Lenovo ThinkPads and Apple MacBooks) have been sold to students through the UNCG Student Laptop Initiative (SLI).

ThinkPads accounted for 85% (913) of the total laptops sold. 60% of ThinkPads sold were the T60 model, a more powerful laptop priced at $1,569. Sales of the R60 ThinkPads total 361. 157 MacBooks have been sold.

For information on how to purchase a SLI laptop or details about the SLI, go to http://its.uncg.edu/Laptop/.
UNCG Software Updates

New Anti-Spam Software
PureMessage (from Sophos) has replaced MailFrontier as the UNCG anti-spam software solution. PureMessage is more adaptive to UNCG’s diverse computing environment. PureMessage is also more capable of distinguishing between bulk email (electronic magazines, notifications, etc) that clients may wish to receive and spam that should be quarantined. In PureMessage, clients are still able to block senders who send unwanted bulk email. Clients will continue to get daily “digests” that summarize the email quarantined by PureMessage. Clients who visit http://spamcontrol.uncg.edu to manage their individual anti-spam settings will notice that the interface is somewhat different. Updated documentation for PureMessage is available online at http://its.uncg.edu/email/spam, which also has links to Sophos’ recommendations for combating spam and avoiding phishing schemes.

Save Money on Adobe Software
UNCG clients may order Adobe software at discounted prices through Computer Intelligence Association (CIA). CIA is an authorized Adobe CLP reseller that offers licenses for Adobe products to affiliates of the UNC system at reduced prices. Adobe produces several applications commonly used at UNCG such as Acrobat, Dreamweaver, and Photoshop. For prices and more information on the selection of software available through this program, please visit http://its.uncg.edu/Affiliate_Purchase/.

Adobe Acrobat Pro 7.0 Available for Faculty and Students
Adobe Acrobat Pro 7.0 is available to UNCG faculty, students, and staff in academic offices. The Acrobat 6.0 Standard has been available to clients for some time, but upgrading to 7.0 Professional provides even more features than the previous version. Faculty and academic staff may install Acrobat Pro from the UNCG Applications folder on their computer desktops. Students may access Acrobat Pro on computers in the ITS computer labs. The Acrobat Pro licenses are managed by KeyServer, and 20 licenses may be used concurrently by UNCG clients.

EndNote Bibliographic Reference Software Upgrade
An upgrade of EndNote X (for Windows and OS X) was made available to campus users on October 23. If clients need assistance installing the software, please contact 6-TECH Technical Support at 6-8324. To learn more about EndNote, a Thomson ResearchSoft trainer will be visiting campus on October 26. There will be an introductory session and a session covering more advanced features of EndNote X. To register for the EndNote training, go to https://utlc.uncg.edu/workshops/.

ITS Web Site Redesign Complete

The redesign of the ITS Web site is now complete, and all ITS Web pages have been consolidated into one Web site (http://its.uncg.edu).

The “look and feel” of the site is uniform and adheres to the UNCG Web Accessibility Policy and the Unit Web Site Requirements as defined by the University’s Web Oversight Committee. Web pages on the ITS site also follow the ITS Editorial Style Guide, which further standardizes the presentation of content in the ITS Web presence.

The ITS site has universal navigation features. Visitors to the site may begin on the appropriate Faculty, Staff, or Student audience-specific page, or visitors may navigate directly to a specific topic of interest by using the A-Z Index page.

Technology news items and announcements of interest to UNCG clients are posted regularly on the site by the ITS Communications Office. An RSS feed of the news items is available on the site for clients who wish to utilize it.