

Vice President for Information Technology Status and Activity Report for December 2024

Prepared by Timothy M. Chester, Vice President for Information Technology (VPIT)

1. Key Items for Faculty and Staff Meetings

- *2024 State of Technology Highlights Progress Towards IT Strategic Goals, Continuing Improvements to Services:* Ongoing progress is being made on the University of Georgia's IT strategic goals with initiatives in place to implement improvements in next-generation teaching and learning, student digital life experiences, and research computing and data management, as well as the new unified enterprise resource planning system that will be implemented at the university system level by 2028, Dr. Timothy M. Chester said during his annual State of Technology address. Chester, Vice President for Information Technology at UGA, gave his address to approximately 400 people over Teams on November 20, speaking about progress toward the IT strategic goals, the process of moving forward with the new University System of Georgia's unified ERP system, and the future of AI. Chester also shared results of the 2024 TechQual survey, which measures satisfaction with central IT services on campus. For more information on this year's address, visit https://eits.uga.edu/stories/2024_stateofit_recap/.
- *Request for Proposal Process Under way for Enterprise Survey Tool:* A search is underway to potentially identify a new enterprise survey research tool for the University of Georgia, which could result in a decommission of Qualtrics by August 1, 2025. UGA Procurement is continuing efforts to lead the negotiation phase, which will enable final supplier selection and awarding. As part of this evaluation, all campus units that rely on Qualtrics should review their current and future Qualtrics use. Regardless of the tool chosen through the RFP process, any forms built in Qualtrics that are currently being used for purposes outside of survey research projects will need to transition to other platforms before August 1, 2025. To learn more about the enterprise survey tool project, including alternative tools, visit https://eits.uga.edu/about/initiatives/survey_tool/. For more information, contact Stacy Boyles at stacy.boyles@uga.edu.
- *Update for USG Unified ERP:* The Unified Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Project will replace OneSource Financials, OneUSG Connect, and eventually Athena (Banner) systems. The University System of Georgia (USG) has selected Workday, Inc. as the next Financials and Human Capital Management (HCM) system. The go-live target dates for Finance and HCM are scheduled for 2028. The next steps are to select an implementation partner, a process that will be led by USG staff. For more information about this project, visit <https://www.usg.edu/unified-erp>.
- *Reporting Transition to Power BI:* Over the next year, the Office of Institutional Research will transition to Power BI as the primary enterprise reporting tool for the university. For consumers of OIR reports, the transition will result in a refreshed look and feel to reports with familiar, consistently sourced data. The Office of Institutional Research will communicate with Tableau Server stakeholders in the coming months with information to help them plan any needed transition to Power BI. All UGA faculty and staff have free access to Power BI through their Microsoft Office 365 licenses. To learn more about Power BI and its features, visit <https://uga.teamdynamix.com/TDClient/3190/eitsclientportal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=154374>. For more information, contact Andrew Westbrook at awestbrook@uga.edu.

2. Services for Teaching Faculty:

- *GACRC Teaching Cluster for Spring 2025:* A small high-performance computing cluster devoted exclusively to teaching duties is available for use during the Spring 2025 semester. The cluster, which is supported by the Georgia Advanced Computing Resource Center, was also in use during the fall. Faculty members interested in discussing the capabilities of the teaching cluster and how it might integrate with their coursework should contact Dr. Guy Cormier at gcormier@uga.edu.

3. Services for Students

- *Graduating Student MyID Notices:* To maintain security of the UGA network and prevent unauthorized access, EITS disables student MyID accounts approximately one year after they graduate or leave UGA. This results in loss of access to many UGA IT services, including UGAMail. To increase awareness about this process, notices will be sent to students eligible for graduation in December 2024 and to graduate students who graduated or left the university during the summer of 2024. The first notice will be sent on December 4, 2024, with additional communication through social media and other platforms. UGA departments can help by reminding their graduating students that they will lose access to their MyIDs in one year, and to establish a non-UGA email account to apply for jobs, graduate schools, or professional schools. To learn more about this process, visit https://eits.uga.edu/access_and_security/myid/myid_account_removal/.

4. Other General Services

- *Spring Biannual Network Maintenance set for March 2, 2025:* The 2025 spring biannual network maintenance will be held on Sunday, March 2, 2025, from 4 a.m. until midnight. Students, faculty, and staff should plan for intermittent service outages through the day. EITS conducts biannual network maintenance in the fall and spring each year to support the network and provide ample bandwidth and Internet capacity to the University. For more information, contact Rayid Tartir at rayid@uga.edu.
- *Transition from Omni CMS to WordPress by End of 2025:* In 2023, EITS announced the transition from Omni CMS (formerly OmniUpdate) to WordPress, with Kaptiv8 as the new centrally supported hosting vendor. The transition began in early 2024, and all sites currently on Omni CMS must migrate to Kaptiv8 WordPress or another website hosting platform by the end of 2025. To learn more about options for transitioning to WordPress, visit <https://uga.teamdynamix.com/TDClient/3190/eitsclientportal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=15874>. For more information, contact David Crouch at dave@uga.edu.
- *CAPTCHA for Listserv Login:* In early 2025 EITS will be implementing a CAPTCHA box for Listserv logins. This will increase security and protections against botnet attacks. CAPTCHA stands for “Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart.” It is a tool used on websites to make sure that a user is a real person and not a computer program (bot). Examples include requiring a user to identify objects in pictures, type out distorted text, or check a box that says, “I’m not a robot.” These tests are designed to be easy for humans to solve but difficult for automated programs, helping to

prevent spam or automated abuse on websites. For more information, contact Ashley Henry at ashenry@uga.edu.

- *Biannual UGA SSO Upgrade Planned for February 21, 2025:* UGA's single sign-on service, UGA SSO, will undergo scheduled maintenance on February 21, 2025. This maintenance is necessary to move the service to the latest version and to receive up-to-date security patching. EITS will work with application owners to prepare their applications for this upgrade throughout December and January. In preparation, EITS will not move any new applications to production UGA SSO after January 17, 2025, until the upgrade is complete in February. EITS applies updates to UGA SSO twice a year, in February and September. For more information, contact Kristi Wall at kristi.wall@uga.edu.
- *Verify and Claim Your Departmental MyID Accounts by December 6:* Departmental MyID accounts can be used by units, colleges, and departments for running automated processes and to establish a contact email for a department or program. EITS conducts an annual verification of these MyIDs to ensure that all accounts have a current owner who is classified by Central Human Resources as a full-time faculty or staff member. This verification also ensures other important information connected to the Departmental MyID is still correct. The 2024 Departmental MyID verification process began on November 4, 2024, and concludes on December 6, 2024. Owners of Departmental MyID accounts received an email in November asking them to complete the verification process through TeamDynamix. Account owners have received several reminders to complete this process. Accounts that are not verified by December 6, 2024, will be disabled. For more information, contact Kristi Wall at kristi.wall@uga.edu.
- *Google to Decommission Jamboard at the end of the Month:* Effective December 31, 2024, Google will decommission Jamboard, their digital whiteboard for real time collaboration. At the beginning of October, Google set accounts so that users could no longer create new or edit existing Jams on any platform and placed the app in "view-only" mode. During this time, users have been able to back up their Jam files. On December 31, 2024, users will no longer be able to access their Jam files and Google will permanently delete them. If you wish to keep your Jams, EITS suggests migrating them to Microsoft or Zoom Whiteboard. To learn more about Google's decommission of Jamboard, visit <https://workspace.google.com/blog/product-announcements/next-phase-digital-whiteboarding>. For more information, contact Justin Sackett at justin.sackett@uga.edu.
- *Anaplan Budget Management System Update:* The Budget Management and Planning System (Anaplan) implementation continues with a tentative go-live date set for early December. For additional information and updates visit, https://onesource.uga.edu/resources/anaplan_budget_management_project/. For more information, contact the University Budget Office at budgets@uga.edu.

5. Did you know?

- *Brush Up on Your Skills with LinkedIn Learning:* Over the holiday break, take advantage of LinkedIn Learning, free to all UGA students, faculty, and staff with your MyID. With an extensive library of over 16,000 online courses, master the latest software, refine your leadership and communication skills, and learn new problem-solving techniques. Connect

your LinkedIn profile to LinkedIn Learning to automatically share completed courses and certifications on your profile. Start learning today and make the most of your holiday break.

- *Help Desk Holiday Hours:* On December 23 and 24, the EITS Help Desk office will be closed to the public, and the staff will be working remotely. The Help Desk will be closed from December 25 – January 1 for the UGA Winter holiday. If you need technical assistance while the Help Desk is closed for the holiday, visit the EITS Knowledge Base for self-service resources and troubleshooting:
<https://uga.teamdynamix.com/TDClient/3190/eitsclientportal/Home/>.

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