

EITS Status and Activity Report for January 2014

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

1. Announcements for Faculty and Staff Meetings

- *Social Security Numbers Converted to UGA IDs.* Approximately 50 million Social Security number records were converted to UGA IDs in the University's central payroll, administrative, human resources, and financial systems in a major information security initiative that was completed on December 21. By minimizing the risk of inappropriate access or use of SSNs, the University has taken a significant step forward to secure restricted data. In addition, this major initiative represented a cost-savings opportunity for the University, as the technical work was completed by local staff, thus reducing expenses by the several million dollars once quoted by potential vendors. Departments experiencing any issues following this conversion are asked to contact Kim Woods at kim.woods@uga.edu by email.
- *eLearning Commons Now Entirely Using Desire2Learn.* Starting this spring semester, all courses using eLearning Commons (eLC) are powered by Desire2Learn. The University System of Georgia (USG) is requiring all of its institutions to use Desire2Learn as its learning management system. UGA previously was using Blackboard Vista for eLC. In December, the USG upgraded to the latest version of Desire2Learn, which includes a new look and feel from a previous version used by instructors for eLC-New during the fall semester. The Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) has several drop-in workshops on the new features of eLC scheduled for January 6-10. To view a schedule of workshops, please visit <http://ctl.uga.edu/elc/faculty>. For more information about eLC, please point a browser to <http://ctl.uga.edu/elc> or contact Sherry Clouser at sac@uga.edu by email.

2. Support for Student Technology Services

- *Print Kiosk Installation Available to Departments.* The offering of cloud-based print kiosks has been a popular option for students across the Athens campus. WEPA print kiosks have recently been installed at the Gwinnett campus, Ramsey Student Center and Dawson Hall — bringing the total to 23 print kiosks available in libraries, dining halls and other buildings at UGA. The print kiosks allow users to send documents from any phone, tablet, or computer to the cloud to retrieve at any of the print kiosks. The print costs for users are the same as laser printers used elsewhere on campus. Users can pay for their print jobs by credit card, debit card and Bulldog Bucks. EITS provides installation and maintenance of the print kiosks, including replenishing paper and toner. Departments interested in learning more about installing print kiosks in their buildings may contact Shawn Ellis at spellis@uga.edu by email.

3. Support for Academic and Administrative Computing

- *ConnectUGA Project Prepares for Financial Aid, Class Registration.* The ConnectUGA project team recently completed its second mock trial for financial aid. Currently, the ConnectUGA team is validating more than 50,000 student records among those who are eligible to enroll for classes. The next major go-live timeframe for the ConnectUGA project is the end of March, when students may begin registering for fall 2014 classes and financial aid. For more information about the ConnectUGA project, please point a browser to <http://connectuga.uga.edu> or email connectuga@uga.edu by email.

4. Support for Research

- *Configuration Recommended for New GACRC Cluster.* The Georgia Advanced Computing Resource Center (GACRC) advisory committee recently recommended the configuration for a new cluster for the GACRC that is proposed to be available late in 2014. This new cluster will expand the computational and storage services of the GACRC and will be open to any researcher on campus with intensive computing or data processing needs. The proposed cluster's configuration will include a total of 6,112 computational cores, a new tier one storage with 140 terabytes of scratch space, and a new tier three storage with an additional one petabyte of archive space. In addition, the new cluster will include a total of 128 compute nodes, of which: 66 nodes will be under a QDR InfiniBand fabric, one node will have 8 NVIDIA K40 GPU cards, two nodes will be high-memory with 512 GB of RAM each, one node will be high-memory with 1 TB of RAM, and all other nodes will have 128 GB of RAM. For more information about the proposed new cluster at the GACRC, please contact Guy Cormier at gcormier@uga.edu by email.

5. Core Campus Infrastructure

- *Common Login Experience for UGA Websites Available.* The Central Authentication Service (CAS) is a single sign-on authentication service that provides a common, secure method to log in to web applications across the University. By taking advantage of this service, University departments no longer have to manage and ensure the security of passwords and usernames used to access their applications. CAS also helps combat phishing attacks because users will enter their passwords one time on a common, encrypted website. Currently, CAS is primarily used on the MyUGA Portal, which provides a single authentication experience for all services available on the portal. University departments are encouraged to develop their web applications with CAS, not only to provide a common login experience for UGA users, but also to improve security. For more information about CAS, please contact Brian Rivers at brivers@uga.edu by email.
- *MyWeb/MyDrive to be Decommissioned in June 2014.* As part of the decision to no longer purchase campus-wide site licenses for specific Novell products, effective July 1, 2014, the MyWeb/MyDrive services will be decommissioned. MyDrive is a file storage system that includes MyWeb, which offers personal webpages. In the coming months, EITS will communicate with affected students, faculty, and staff about the end of MyWeb/MyDrive. As a part of this transition, the following Novell products will no longer be licensed campus-wide: Novell Open Enterprise Server, Novell ZENWorks Server and Configuration Tools, Novell GroupWise, and SUSE LINUX. For Novell licensing options or available alternatives, please contact Shawn Ellis at spellis@uga.edu by email.
- *Evaluation of Cost Recovery Services Rates.* In preparation for the development of the FY15 cost recovery service rates, EITS has initiated a project to provide greater transparency regarding cost recovery rates. The project involves ensuring a consistent methodology to determine the cost basis for cost recovery charges. A revised methodology and costs for services will be provided as they are developed. EITS recently hosted an open forum to discuss this process and solicit comments. For more information the cost recovery services study, please contact Lynn Wilson at llatimer@uga.edu by email.

6. Did You Know?

- As part of a professional development program, several EITS employees and IT managers from various University departments got a behind-the-scenes tour of the Kia manufacturing facility in West Point, Georgia. Vice President for Information Technology Timothy Chester spearheaded the professional development group, which read *The Phoenix Project* and discussed IT processes and reliability of IT operations through several lunch meetings during the fall semester. The group's final assignment was a tour of the Kia plant to get a first-hand look at precision manufacturing processes in action. For spring semester, Chester will guide the group to develop their negotiating skills by reading and discussing *In Business As In Life — You Don't Get What You Deserve, You Get What You Negotiate*. In addition, he will guide a new group of mid-career IT professionals to read *The Phoenix Project*.
- EITS recently participated in the Toys for Tots campaign to collect new toys for children in need during the holidays. For several years, EITS employees have been donating toys to the campaign, which is organized by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. EITS provided toy collection bins in six buildings across campus. A total of 112 toys were donated in the bins, compared to 82 toys last year.
- The EITS Mentorship Program is seeking mentor and protégé applicants for its spring session, which will begin in February. The mentorship program offers one-on-one personal and professional development opportunities across rank, division, and locations. The EITS Mentorship Program is open to any college, department, or unit at UGA and institutions across the University System of Georgia. For the fall session, the mentorship program welcomed 22 mentor/protégé pairs, including 10 among non-EITS departments at UGA and four institutions in the USG. For more information regarding the EITS Mentorship Program, please email mentor@uga.edu.

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