

EITS Status and Activity Report for June 2014

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

1. Announcements for Faculty and Staff Meetings

- *Free Office 365 ProPlus Available to Students:* UGA students can now download and install Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus for free on up to five personal devices, such as their computers, tablets, and phones with Windows, Android, and Mac operating systems. This new program is called Student Advantage and is available through UGA's existing contract with Microsoft. The Office 365 ProPlus package includes Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and more. Students may install Office 365 ProPlus on their computers through their web-based UGAMail accounts. For mobile devices, students may go to the App Store or Google Play to find the applications and provide their UGAMail account information. EITS will promote this free service to incoming students at orientation this summer and continue promotion through the fall semester. For more information about the Student Advantage program, please point a web browser to <http://office365.uga.edu> or contact Shawn Ellis at Shawn.Ellis@uga.edu by email.
- *Transition Underway of Self-Registration System for Wired Network Devices:* EITS is continuing to prepare IT professionals throughout UGA to transition the University's networks from a legacy IP address management system to a commercially-available product that, when configured, will allow users to self-register their computers and other devices to wired networks. This summer, EITS is providing in-depth training to campus IT professionals for this system, called BlueCat. Currently, IT professionals in each unit help individuals get their computers connected to a network. With BlueCat, anyone with a MyID may register up to five devices on UGA's networks. IT professionals in each unit will have the ability to administer and monitor usage on these networks. This self-registration system that uses MyIDs is being used successfully by the PAWS-Secure wireless network and by residents in University Housing. EITS is continuing to work closely with departments to transition to BlueCat by the end of July. For more information about BlueCat, please contact Brian Rivers at brivers@uga.edu by email.
- *MyWeb/MyDrive Service to End on June 30th:* At the end of this month, the MyWeb/MyDrive service will no longer be available. MyWeb offers webpages for individuals and some departments. EITS is working with those who need alternatives to MyWeb. As an alternative to MyDrive, Microsoft's OneDrive for file storage is available to all UGA students, faculty, and staff. MyWeb and MyDrive will not be available after June 30, 2014. Departments and individuals who need assistance with their MyWeb pages are asked to contact Wes Johnson at wesj06@uga.edu by email.

2. Support for Student Technology Services

- *Orientation Events to Highlight UGA Technology Services for Students:* EITS is once again participating in various orientation events this summer to welcome new students. At undergraduate orientation, EITS will participate in an Arch session presentation with all students to highlight technology services available at UGA. EITS will also conduct a presentation for parents and participate in the resources fair. Overall, EITS will take part in more than 20 orientation events this summer. New students will be given the EITS Student Handbook, which is also available by pointing a web browser to <http://newtocampus.uga.edu>. In addition, the vendor of UGA's print kiosks, WEPA, has

given about 8,800 cards for \$5 of printing at the print kiosks for all incoming students. UGA now has 28 print kiosks spread across the Athens, Health Sciences, and Gwinnett campuses. For more information about the print kiosks, please point a web browser to <http://printkiosk.uga.edu> or contact Shawn Ellis at Shawn.Ellis@uga.edu by email.

- *Student Accounts to be Available in July in Athena:* The ConnectUGA team continues to work on the next project milestone, which is the ability for students to pay their tuition and fees in Athena. Starting in July, the student accounts component of Athena will be available. Other recent major milestones for the project have included the availability of fall 2014 class registration in Athena and financial aid information. ConnectUGA staff continue to fine tune elements within the system and complete financial aid awards for current students. For more information about Athena, please point a web browser to <http://connectuga.uga.edu>.

3. Support for Academic and Administrative Computing

- *GoToMeeting Available for FY15:* The web conferencing tool GoToMeeting is now available to University departments on a cost recovery basis. GoToMeeting allows users to easily join or conduct online meetings from their desktops or mobile devices. GoToMeeting features video conferencing, VoIP or telephone audio, and collaboration tools to share desktop screens among meeting attendees. UGA's license with Citrix includes several GoToMeeting products that allow participants to invite anywhere from one to 1,000 people to join their online meeting, webinar, or training session. GoToMeeting for administrative purposes is available to UGA departments for \$299 a license for FY15. For more information, please point a web browser to http://eits.uga.edu/learning_and_training/web_conferencing or contact Sohayl Moshtel at sohayl@uga.edu by email.
- *BigCard to be Decommissioned Soon:* BigCard, the data processing component of the UGACard system, will be decommissioned at the end of this month. Departments that had been using BigCard have transitioned to new products or applications that provide enhanced security features to protect restricted data. EITS has been working closely with the departments implementing these new systems to replace BigCard. For more information about the decommissioning of BigCard, please contact Shawn Ellis at Shawn.Ellis@uga.edu by email.
- *Listserv System to be Upgraded:* The email list system, called listserv, will be upgraded on June 20. This upgrade is primarily a new web interface with additional functionality for people who are listserv owners and/or moderators. General users and those posting messages to listservs via email will not notice a change. However, this upgrade will fix an issue with replies sent from web-based UGAMail to listservs, thus allowing those messages to be posted properly. One of the features of the new system is the ability for listserv owners to schedule postings for specific dates and times by using the new web interface at <http://listserv.uga.edu> after the upgrade. For more information about the new listserv system, please contact Shawn Ellis at Shawn.Ellis@uga.edu by email.

4. Support for Research

- *Clemson CIO Speaks at Big Data Event:* Dr. James R. Bottum, CIO of Clemson University, recently spoke at the Tate Student Center about Cyberinfrastructure in a Big Data workshop series sponsored by several UGA units. Before arriving at Clemson,

Bottum was the CIO at Purdue University and was the executive director of the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA). His lecture at UGA focused on cyberinfrastructure, which is being explored by numerous disciplines in support of research, instruction, and university outreach. Bottum also met with the Georgia Advanced Computing Resource Center (GACRC) advisory committee to discuss potential collaborative efforts between UGA, Clemson, and other institutions. For more information, please contact Dr. Guy Cormier, Director of Research Computing, at gcormier@uga.edu by email.

5. Core Campus Infrastructure

- *Faster Network Speeds Coming for Studios:* EITS is installing a permanent underground network connection to replace a wireless link that connects several art and design studios in downtown Athens with the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences. The new connection will tie into the UGA campus fiber backbone, thus allowing the studios to increase their network speeds from 54 MB to 1 GB. For more information, please contact Michael Lucas at mlucas@uga.edu by email.

6. Did You Know?

- *Chester Serving on National Steering Committee to Improve Institutional Research:* Timothy M. Chester, Vice President for Information Technology, has been selected to participate in a national steering committee reviewing how to strengthen institutional research (IR) capacity among public university systems and campuses. The National Association of System Heads (NASH) is spearheading the effort, which is sponsored by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. NASH recently released its findings that show the rapidly growing demands for IR to improve student performance and reporting using analytics. The steering committee will recommend a framework for reconfiguring IR. For more information, please point a web browser to www.nashonline.org.

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