

EITS Status and Activity Report for November 2014

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

1. Announcements for Faculty and Staff Meetings

- *State of Technology Presentation to be Held on November 11:* Dr. Timothy M. Chester, Vice President for Information Technology, will present the annual State of Technology at UGA presentation on Tuesday, November 11, at 2 p.m., at the Georgia Center in room K/L. This presentation is open to all UGA students, faculty and staff. The presentation will highlight the results of the TechQual+ survey of students, faculty and staff; technology trends at UGA; and how IT-related initiatives are impacting students and employees at the University. For more information about the State of Technology presentation, please contact Kerri Testament at kerriuga@uga.edu by email.

2. Support for Student Technology Services

- *Designated Inactive eLC Courses to be Deleted:* The University System of Georgia is deleting designated inactive courses in eLearning Commons (eLC) in an effort to be good stewards of data resources and to maintain a robust system for active courses. The affected courses had been migrated from eLC-old (powered by Blackboard Vista) to eLC-new (powered Desire2Learn). They are now marked with the prefix "DELETE." Owners of affected courses were notified of their courses marked for deletion on September 15. On November 3, those courses will be deleted by the USG. Prior to that, impacted course owners can decide if they want to keep the content in those courses. They have several options, which are outlined on the Center for Teaching and Learning's website by visiting <http://ctl.uga.edu/elc/migrated-courses-removal>. Impacted course owners have received several reminders of the November 3 deadline. For more information, please contact Sherry Clouser at sac@uga.edu by email.
- *eLC to be Unavailable During Upgrade:* The University System of Georgia is upgrading Desire2Learn, which powers UGA's eLearning Commons (eLC). During the upgrade, eLC will be unavailable starting on Saturday, December 27 and ending on Friday, January 2, at 5 p.m. Classes for spring semester start on Monday, January 5. Given the downtime for eLC, instructors are advised to plan accordingly. This upgrade to eLC will include enhancements to existing features and is not considered a major interface change. Some of the functional enhancements include those to the assignment dropbox, quizzes and course content. The Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) plans to conduct eLC drop-in sessions for instructors in early January. For more information, please contact Sherry Clouser by email at sac@uga.edu.

3. Support for Academic and Administrative Computing

- *OneDrive for Business Now Available:* The University's license with Microsoft for its Office 365 platform now includes OneDrive for Business, which allows people to store, share, edit, and collaborate on files with others. OneDrive for Business is available to all UGA students, faculty, and staff as part of their institutional account for UGAMail. OneDrive for Business is different from OneDrive, which is available with a Microsoft consumer account. OneDrive for Business is a cloud-based service that allows files to be synced across multiple devices and shared with multiple people. It also features 1 TB of file storage for each individual with an account. OneDrive for Business is accessible via any

web browser upon logging in to UGAMail. Based on your device's operating system, there is also a desktop client and apps that can be installed to use OneDrive for Business to sync files. For more information, including how to use OneDrive for Business, please point a web browser to <http://office365.uga.edu>.

- *Proposal to Revise Faculty/Staff Email Address Policy:* In order to streamline and unify the process of effectively communicating with all faculty and staff, EITS is reviewing a proposal to change University policy that would require all official University email communications to faculty and staff to use only UGAMail addresses. The change would eliminate the current requirement for faculty and staff to identify their "preferred email address" in order to receive official University emails to non-UGA email accounts. Employees and students will still be allowed to forward their UGAMail to another email address, such as Gmail. This policy change for faculty and staff would be similar to a recent email policy change for Athena, the new student information system. Emails from Athena only goes to UGAMail addresses. This policy change would address gaps for employees who are not receiving emails from administrative systems or employees who have not updated their preferred email address. The technology that operates the preferred email address system is also outdated. EITS is seeking comments to revise the faculty and staff email policy. For more information, or to submit comments, please contact Russell A. Hatfield by email at hatfield@uga.edu.
- *ArchPass Required for WebDFS Access:* Authorized users of WebDFS must now use an ArchPass in order to access the system, effective October 31. WebDFS is the University's departmental financial system. The ArchPass is a form of two-factor authentication that provides an additional layer of security for UGA systems with sensitive or restricted data, such as Social Security numbers or financial records. EITS targeted communications to authorized WebDFS users and advised them about using an ArchPass in order to access the system. EITS also coordinated with individuals who previously did not have the ArchPass device in their possession. For more information about the ArchPass, please point a web browser to <http://archpass.uga.edu> or contact Brian Rivers by email at brivers@uga.edu.
- *Self-Service Website to be Updated:* UGA's Self-Service website (employee.uga.edu) for employees will be updated to use the University's Central Authentication Service (CAS) for logins. For visitors to the website, they will no longer need to provide their MyID and password on the Self-Service home page. Instead, they will click on a link on the Self-Service home page that will redirect them to the CAS login page, which is used by multiple UGA online services. The change is tentatively scheduled for December 6. The UGA Self-Service website allows employees to view and update information related to their employment, such as paychecks and leave balances. For more information about this change, please contact Russell A. Hatfield by email at hatfield@uga.edu.

4. Support for Research

- *Buy-In Program Available for New Cluster:* To encourage faculty use of the new cluster for the Georgia Advanced Computing Resources Center (GACRC), the Office of the Vice President for Information Technology is offering a matching program for an additional computing node at no cost, to match the ones purchased through the options available in this buy-in program. A total of \$100,000 will be made available through the program in FY15 and will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. The GACRC is currently installing a major new cluster that will provide additional computational and storage services for researchers throughout the University. For more information, including

specifics about the buy-in program, please contact Guy Cormier at gcormier@uga.edu by email.

- *New Research Cluster Named:* The Georgia Advanced Computing Resource Center (GACRC) is preparing to launch its new cluster, which has been given the name Sapelo. When fully launched in early 2015, Sapelo will offer significant research computing resource enhancements, including 1 Petabyte of storage for research computing and three times the processing capabilities of the current Z Cluster. The name Sapelo refers to UGA's long-standing research on Sapelo Island, where University researchers have made significant advances in the field of ecology and other disciplines. For more information about the new cluster, please contact Guy Cormier at gcormier@uga.edu by email.
- *MATLAB Resources Available Through the GACRC:* The University's recently-announced campus-wide license for MATLAB, Simulink and 47 additional toolboxes also includes resources available through the Georgia Advanced Computing Resource Center (GACRC). The new campus-wide license with MathWorks permits the installation of the software on campus-managed and user-owned computers. The GACRC currently has MATLAB resources available on its existing cluster, but will expand those services with the new cluster, called Sapelo. For more information about MATLAB resources available through the GACRC, please contact Guy Cormier at gcormier@uga.edu by email.

5. Core Campus Infrastructure

- *Successful Launch of SEC Network:* The launch of the new SEC Network is considered one of the most successful TV channel launches in history, according to news reports. To bring the SEC Network to University Cablevision, EITS worked closely with its cable TV provider, DIRECTV, to ensure the new network would be available for its August launch, including multiple backup plans in the event a deal between DIRECTV and the SEC could not be reached by a deadline. The SEC Network became available on UGA's cable TV system on the day of the network's launch. Meanwhile, EITS also coordinated infrastructure availability with the Athletic Association at its facilities for the SEC Network.

6. Did You Know?

- Several EITS employees recently served as presenters at two technology-focused conferences for higher education. Dr. Timothy M. Chester, Vice President for Information Technology, and Lynn Wilson, Director of Planning and Engagement, served as co-presenters at the national EDUCAUSE conference in Orlando. EDUCAUSE is a non-profit association that guides IT leaders and professionals in higher education. EITS employees Lewis Noles, Joe Kelley and Kerri Testament also presented topics at the 43rd annual University System of Georgia Computing Conference at Rock Eagle.
- The Office of the Vice President of Information Technology has subscribed to the Education Advisory Board's (EAB) Technology Forum, joining many other units at the University working with the EAB on strategic interests for the institution. The EAB is one of the largest providers of research, technology and consulting services to more than 700 higher education institutions across the U.S. The EAB's Technology Forum uses data analytics to address IT-specific issues. Any UGA employee may create an account to access the EAB's materials by pointing a web browser to <http://www.eab.com/members/register>.

University of Georgia students, faculty, and staff, as well as interested others, may subscribe to this monthly report by sending an email to listserv@listserv.uga.edu with the phrase subscribe upit-news as the body of the message.