

Vice President for Information Technology

Status and Activity Report for November 2024

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

1. Key Items for Faculty and Staff Meetings

- *State of IT Scheduled for November 20:* Dr. Timothy M. Chester's annual State of Technology at UGA address will be held on Wednesday, November 20 at 1:30 p.m. The address will be fully virtual and will be held as a Teams webinar. To register for the event, visit <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/1a71f372-c551-4ace-9678-b946d54cf223@a8216c1e-4d63-4352-8c3b-50fa1f1475b1>. For more information, contact Allyssa Robinson at allyssa.robinson@uga.edu.
- *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. Current plans are to share an update on the outcome of the Request for Proposal (RFP) process and the name of the next enterprise survey research vendor in November 2024, pending any procurement challenges. 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.
- *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 Students

- *Automated Student MyID Clean-up Process Under way:* EITS has automated the clean-up process for student MyIDs. This automated process runs once a semester; students who left the university or graduated more than a year ago will have their MyIDs and UGAMail addresses flagged for disablement and deletion. Alumni and former students who have their accounts flagged will receive two automated emails to their UGAMail address, alerting them that their account will be disabled and deleted soon. Account holders employed by UGA or attending UGA for another degree program will not have their accounts removed. The automated clean-up kicked off on October 14, 2024, with notices to affected users; accounts will be disabled on December 2, 2024. For more information, contact Kristi Wall at kristi.wall@uga.edu.

- *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/.

3. Other General Services

- *Spring Network Maintenance set for March 2, 2025:* The 2025 spring 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.
- *USG Open Enrollment 2025:* The 2025 Open Enrollment period ends November 8. UGA employees will need to complete their 2025 enrollment elections and certifications through OneUSG Connect – Benefits, <https://oneusgconnect.usg.edu/>, no later than November 8. A summary of the approved healthcare plan design changes and premiums is available on the USG Benefits website, <https://benefits.usg.edu/>.
- *New GACRC Tape Archive in Place:* Scholar Vault, UGA’s new preservation storage solution running on Varsity’s ScoutAM platform, is now in place and will be used to preserve institutional copies of critical research data stored in the UGA Libraries. The system will begin backing up digital collections data in the UGA Special Collections Libraries as well as curated open access research data published in the UGA Libraries institutional repository. Scholar Vault will be supported by the Georgia Advance Center for Research Computing in partnership with the University Libraries. For more information, contact Guy Cormier at gcormier@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 begins November 4, 2024, and concludes on December 6, 2024. Owners of Departmental MyID accounts will receive an email asking them to complete the verification process through TeamDynamix. Account owners will receive several reminders until the process is complete. 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 Year:* Effective December 31, 2024, Google will decommission Jamboard, their digital whiteboard for real time collaboration. As of October 1, 2024, users can no longer be able to create new or edit existing Jams on any platform and Google has placed the app in “view-only” mode. During this time, users can 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 late November/early December. For additional information and updates visit, https://onesource.uga.edu/resources/anaplan_budget_management_project/. For questions, please reach out to the University Budget Office at budgets@uga.edu.

4. Did you know?

- *MLC Tech Lending Fall 2024 Overview:* The Tech Lending Desk at the MLC has had an impressive Fall 2024 semester so far. With over 1,226 students served since the beginning of Fall 2024, this is a vital and valuable resource for students needing supplemental technology. Located on the 3rd Floor, East Wing, Tech Lending offers a wide range of computing and audiovisual equipment, including DSLR cameras, laptops, tripods, and chargers, all available for checkout with your MyID information. The most popular items are laptops, making up 70% of checkouts, followed by cameras at 10% and USB-C cables at 9%. For more information on what the Technology Lending Program at UGA offers, visit <https://www.libs.uga.edu/access-services/tech-loans>.
- *Ensuring Cybersecurity This Holiday Season:* As the holiday season approaches, it is crucial to take precautionary measures to maintain cyber security while shopping online. Consider the following tips to shop safely this holiday season: Update your devices to the latest software versions and review your privacy and security settings to ensure you are not sharing more information than intended. Exercise caution with special offers or deals, as cybercriminals often send phishing emails disguised as legitimate retailers. Never provide your personal or financial information unless you are certain the website is secure and trustworthy. Remember, legitimate businesses will never email you asking for sensitive information. Whenever possible, use a credit card as opposed to a debit card, as credit cards offer better fraud protection and lower liability. If you think you have been targeted by a phishing scam, report it to abuse@uga.edu.

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