

Technology Department Report

Software

As the 2005-2006 school year approaches, we continue to build images for our computers labs. At the beginning of the school year we will have the majority of the labs finished except for both Graphics and Commercial Art. Once we receive the Adobe software those images will be complete. All new lab images have a custom lockdown configuration to prevent students from installing and saving data to the local computer. This configuration has greatly reduced the number of help desk calls relating to inappropriate computer use.

We have received our data from SchoolDESX and are currently in the process of readying our new student management database for the start of the school year. We are currently working with SchoolDESX to schedule training.

This school year we will be incorporating biometrics into our food service sales. Working with our vendor, Food Service Solution, we have purchased their biometrics solution to help improve customer service. The past year we used a barcode on the student ID card. This presented a minor delay when students forgot or lost their card. The biometrics solution will eliminate the need for students to either remember a pin number or have possession of an id badge when making cafeteria purchases.

Working with LJ Technologies, Marchelle Eberle has been able to give the new Networking Instructor, Phylis Zimmermann, an in-depth overview of the curriculum and how the software integrates with in the class.

Network

We have completed the rewiring and documentation of the Graphics Lab. Both switches in the lab have been replaced with a single Dell PowerConnect 2724. This switch operates at a much faster transfer rate and provides us with a web management interface.

Security patches are continually being deployed. Microsoft released its latest wave of fixes for vulnerabilities. We assessed the deployment by randomly checking workstations in the building for the patches. The deployment was a success.

Skill Center

We have finished connecting all the phone extensions in the skill center building along with documenting all building connections within our current phone system. Opening the Skill Center has added an additional 12 phones to our system.

With the help of Jesse Redfield and Marchelle Eberle we have worked to configure data cabling in the Skill Center Building, along with providing connections for all staff computers and lab computers. We will be adding an additional 25 computers to the network.

Training

Working with Natalie Fatica, Jan Kennerknecht, and IUP, we are in the process of deploying a technology assessment survey to staff and faculty. We will be using this assessment to determine what areas of training our staff would best benefit.