

Technology Department Report

Desktop Systems:

We prepared several computers for NOCTI practical testing this month. The NOCTI testing website requires some software and that the client computer system's compatibility be validated prior to actual testing.

We're exploring automated software deployment solutions, to simplify in our deployment processes. The goal is to reduce the complexities, especially in cases where updates and upgrades do not have automation services provided by the software vendor. Quite possibly the success of the Microsoft Automatic Update System's reliability has exposed potential for all software maintenance to be automated. Earlier products designed to offer these services had several incompatibilities, but the industry has focused heavily in this area with the increase in demand by IT Administrators.

We've worked with Dell to get a lot of hardware replaced under warranty, mostly keyboards and mice that have become defective from excessive wear and use in the labs. I am extremely proud of the relationship we've established with Dell since entering their Premier Accounts system.

Staff:

Our technology substitute, Steve Brawn, is fitting in very well with our staff and has adapted quickly to our environment. It is very evident how valuable my staff is, even if at the very least just in manpower resources. They help provide a higher level of service to the instructional staff and student population which enables me the time to focus on planning, system upgrades, and administrative functions.

Integrated Communication Systems:

Paul and I met with One Communications and Treese to discuss implementation dates now that orders have been placed. Treese Communications expects to be completed with the infrastructural wiring upgrades by May 1st. Jen Neely from One Communications and I have been working with Verizon to ensure our new telephone service is installed by the end of May in accordance with our implementation specifications. There seems to be some confusion on Verizon's behalf with regard to proper placement of their equipment.

Server and Network Systems:

Additional hard drive storage was added to our Microsoft Systems Update Server, which provides a local mirror of Microsoft software updates. The benefit of this server is that it provides all our internal computer systems with routine software updates so they don't have to get their updates directly across the internet.

Kubinski performed our first major routine service on the new High School Copier. The reliability, flexibility and performance of this copier, in comparison to our four other copiers has renewed my confidence in our decision to choose this machine.

Thanks to Steve Sceiford and his team for the attention given to our new Server Room A/C unit that failed earlier in the month. Their diligence and follow-up to ensure its stable operation is greatly appreciated.