ITACS

Information Technology and Communications Services

Technology News   November 2004

PYTHON Enhancements

Programmers **Kamil Marcinka** and **Chris Webb**, contractors for eDataTech, came onboard NPS in January to form a new **PYTHON Support Team** to enhance the PYTHON application. Their first task was to analyze over two hundred enhancement requests that had accumulated since the deployment of PYTHON. Requests were organized and put into priority order before implementation began. Their goal is to improve the usability and functionality of PYTHON, by tracking and addressing enhancement requests made by users. The PYTHON Support Team also addresses any technical issues that require immediate attention.

Currently, the team has completed a total of 126 enhancements. Some of the changes involve fixing minor code issues; others give the users new or redesigned data views, or implement new business processes. Users can see up-to-date tallies along with a list of selected notable enhancements on the new "Recent Changes" page accessible from within PYTHON. If you have an idea on how to improve PYTHON, please contact Kamil and Chris at python@nps.edu.

ITACS FY2004 Accountability Report

The FY2004 ITACS Accountability Report is available on the intranet. This is the second annual report issued by ITACS. The FY2003 ITACS Accountability Report and the results of the IT Customer Satisfaction Survey are also posted on the intranet from the same location:
http://intranet.nps.navy.mil/Code05/New05/Default.htm

Streaming Media

The Streaming Media Project update was submitted 15 November to the **IT Task Force**. Goals of the project are to capture live data streams of classes/events and make them available via IP or Web. Plans call for storage of streamed classes for video on demand (VOD) as well. Video production is not within the scope of the project.

Phase I, evaluation and purchase of streaming equipment, is expected to be completed in January 2005. Contact **Joe LoPiccolo** for more information.

ITACS Personnel Moves

The East Wing of Herrmann Hall, former location of the Business Solutions and Academic & Client Services Groups within ITACS, is no longer an IT hub. The ITACS personnel have moved into Ingersoll, Spanagel, and Glasgow to accommodate the refurbishment of Herrmann Hall. Check the Global Address Book or the online phonebook for the new office locations for former East Wing staff.

Instructional Technology

Tracy Hammond presented the Instructional Technology Plan to the IT Task Force, which endorsed it. This plan, initially developed by **Professor Jeff Knorr** in 1999, is based on the University of Wisconsin model; it includes a detailed classroom inventory of physical as well as technology conditions.

Web Redesign Project

Proof of concept technical reviews for content management systems have been received from Percussion and RedDot.

High Performance Computing

The NPS HPC Committee is moving ahead with hiring a HPC Technical Manager. NPS hopes to develop a partnership with the DoD Modernization Program to assist in funding the position. Current funding is from the **Dean of Research**.

Director of Institutional Research Selected

Following a national search, **Dr. Fran Horvath** has been appointed Director **of Institutional Research**, reporting to **Dr. Cermak**. Dr. Horvath, current Director of IR and Planning at CSU Northridge, earned her Ph.D. from USC and has extensive assessment and accreditation experience. She will begin work at NPS on December 6. Her office is on the first floor of the Dudley Knox Library.

Quarterly Updates

Dr. Christine Cermak met with each Dean for a quarterly report on ITACS and IR activities, and to hear about the priorities of NPS' various Schools and Institutes.