ITACS

Information Technology and Communications Services

Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California

Technology News   December 2006

WASC PROPOSAL

The WASC proposal, which was submitted on October 15, 2006, has been enthusiastically endorsed by the Proposal Review Committee of WASC. Many of the elements in the WASC proposal were based on themes identified in the WASC faculty and staff survey conducted over the summer and from recommendations made by the Provost's *Ad Hoc* Committees on Business Practices and Administrative Affairs. Continuing updates on the WASC process will be included in the Provost's monthly newsletter which can be found at: http://intranet.nps.edu/Code01/Default.htm

COPIER REPLACEMENT UPDATE

All 79 of the multi-function devices that are replacing the copiers on campus have been installed. Coordination is underway with the Network Operations Center to get the networking and fax capabilities operational on each machine. Currently, one-third of the machines now function with those capacities. As part of the new contract, Xerox provides all supplies for the multi-function devices, so all are encouraged to use the new machines for their copying needs.

A Xerox DocuColor 250 printer has been installed in Room 130 of Herrmann Hall, in the Office of Institutional Advancement, and is available for in-house printing jobs of 2,500 or less. The printer produces professional, photo-copy quality printing for brochures, pamphlets and newsletters, and has book-binding capabilities as well. Contact Mr. Javier Chagoya at ext. 7682 to schedule small-scale publishing jobs.

GRADUATION CEREMONY

The graduation ceremony of December 15 is available to view via streaming video, at the following: http://www.nps.edu/Technology/Video. The ceremony photo gallery is also now online here.

INFOCON

A Computer Network Defense Task Order (CTO) regarding an Information Condition (INFOCON) notification which affected both the SIPRNet and NPGS domains was issued and required 13 actions. Compliance to the CTO and the new mandate required that all ITACS staff shift their priorities to meet the immediate deadlines of the CTO.

In January, ITACS will begin to implement those practices now currently focused on the SIPRNet and unclassified MIL domains onto the ERN, and will also request that users change their passwords.

In response to current phishing tactics, a web-based training session about the practice is currently under development, and will be distributed campus-wide in January.

In preparation for a visit after January from NETWARCOM personnel, who will be inspecting the NPS network system for vulnerabilities, plans to partner with the Naval Research Laboratory to validate current best practices at NPS, and an audit of NPS systems by an external cyber-security firm are underway.

HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING (HPC)

Two large air conditioning systems have been installed in the High-Performance Center in Spanagel Hall, and the electrical upgrade is pending. Both the Math and Mechanical Engineering departments are reporting good results and success using the existing clusters. The IBM cluster that is being re-utilized from Aberdeen should arrive in mid-January 2007, at which time a NPS grid will be designed to tie the clusters together and to allocate cycles. The model for that process will be based on one currently being used at the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) and if successful, will connect NPS to UCSB, which will be connected to UCLA.

NPS has been awarded 30,000 service units on Teragrid (www.teragird.org), so that if NPS needs thousands of CPUs, accounts can be created through that consortium.

The possibility of a high-bandwidth project in collaboration with Cal Tech is currently being explored, and will be greatly improved if the NPS network upgrades from its current 1 Gig backbone to 10 Gigs.

PROVOST'S ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE UPDATE

The Administrative Affairs Implementation Task Force has completed its final report, and one of the actions taken from the list of recommendations was the issuance of a memo from Dr. Ferrari to faculty leaders, asking for their participation in an Academic Strategic Vision Committee which will develop an academic blueprint for the institution.

A second memo was issued by Dr. Ferrari, requesting his direct reports to submit a report by the end of January 2007, outlining each area's goals, mission, organizational chart, and performance metrics. The purpose of each report is to ensure alignment with the School's academic mission, to provide transparency in NPS operations, and accountability in relationship to its customers.

LAB RECAP AND MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

During the winter break, 484 computers were re-imaged with 234 software packages. All labs and instructor stations in all classrooms were cleaned by a volunteer group. A summary report of the cleaning efforts will be generated in January 2007 and presented to NPS leadership, to help facilitate greater commitment to resolve this problem on an ongoing basis.

Maintenance tasks performed by the Web Operations staff during the break included the McCain Development Webserver, Remedy Help Desk Software, Email/Exchange Server, Sharepoint migration, as well as upgrades to the Blackboard System and Python Student Management System.

REPORT FROM THE TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE CENTER (TAC)

From December 1 through December 26, 2006, the Technology Assistance Center (TAC) received a total of 1,843 requests for assistance, 1,546 of which were resolved by the Tier 1/Tier 2 areas. 297 of the remaining calls were answered by other ITACS departments/groups.

UPDATE FROM INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

The first Graduating Student survey has been completed and a final report has been generated, including detailed reports to each of the schools. The overall report will be posted to the WASC website soon.

On December 15th, **Dr. Fran Horvath** gave a well-received presentation to the Monterey Leadership Council regarding the proposed brochure and website for the Higher Education and Research cluster. The meeting was attended by various leaders from business, education and local government.

MONTEREY PENINSULA DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NET

The Technical Advisory Committee of the Monterey Peninsula Department of Defense Net met on December 4th, and discussed plans for implementing a storage area test (SAN) across the Net. Budget constraints preclude full implementation of a SAN at this time. At the same meeting, based on anticipated ship dates, the completed wavelength build-out plan was presented to the group for its approval.