



ITACS

Information Technology and Communications Services

Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California

Technology News

June 2007

DID YOU KNOW....

...that there are two methods available for phone conferencing? For up to three participants, you can use your desk telephone and for more than three participants, the Sonexis conference manager can be used. Directions for how to use both methods are available online at <http://intranet.nps.edu/ITACS/Phones/ConferenceBridge.htm>.

...that in response to staff and faculty feedback concerning the need for improved email communications at NPS, the Business Processes Implementation Task Force has posted new Email Etiquette guidance on the IT website which you can find by clicking on the link located at:

<http://intranet.nps.edu/ITACS/Email/Email.htm>.

WINDOWS VISTA

New computers, by default, have Windows Vista as their operating system; however, initial testing has identified several NPS applications that are not compatible with Vista. There is a significant effort underway to verify applications and systems compatibilities in the NPS environment and to develop workarounds or mitigations for these issues. As a result, ITACS will not be upgrading client systems to Windows Vista nor providing support for this operating system until early 2008.

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY

The Instructional Technology Lifecycle Management Plan has been briefed to the IT Task Force as well as the Provost and President and was endorsed by all. A proposal for POM 10 funding is being developed for consideration by NPS leadership.

CENIC

The Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC) has completed planning and procurement to upgrade the Digital

California (DC) network backbone speed from 2.5 to 10 gigabits per second. Configuration, installation, and activation of the new backbone routers and switches are expected to be completed this calendar year. Design for the high-performance research (HPR) network has been completed and presented for approval and funding. ITACS participated in planning for both network upgrades. NPS circuit requirements were included from the beginning of both planning efforts. NPS connections to state, national, and international high-performance networks are assured the ability to increase bandwidth in step with our growing requirements and advances in network capabilities.

In cooperation with the Monterey County IT department, Network Operations Center personnel have upgraded NPS connections to the California Research and Education Network (CalREN) from a single shared 1 gigabit leased circuit to dedicated 1 gigabit per second circuits for both the CalREN DC commodity Internet, and the CalREN high-performance and research networks. Coordination to increase the HPR circuit to 10 gigabits per second is ongoing.

Phase I of the storage area network test using standard 1 gigabit per second Ethernet switches and the Monterey Peninsula DoD Network (MP DoD-Net) infrastructure has been successfully completed. Phase II using fiber channel switches optimized for interconnecting data storage arrays is underway. Upon completion of Phase II, the MP DoD-Net Technical Advisory Committee will prepare a proposal for distributed storage area network clusters to support continuity of IT operations and disaster recovery plans of the DoD-Net members.

BUSINESS SOLUTIONS GROUP

The Business Solutions Group supported the launch of both the Comptroller's and the SIGS websites on the .edu network, and completed the



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installation and configuration of the *Elluminate* software. A web page for the *Elluminate* system has been created and can be found at www.nps.edu/Technology/Elluminate. Staff are also working on the migration of the ECE website from the .mil to the .edu domain.

In response to a directive from NETWARCOM, Web Operations is completing the migration of all the sites on www.nps.navy.mil to www.nps.edu.

IT STRATEGIC PLAN

Dr. Christine Cermak is continuing a series of interviews with faculty, staff and students as background information for the development of the second five-year IT Strategic Plan for NPS. Planned site visits at Sacramento State and UC Davis have also included meetings with campus leadership to assist with input in the plan. If you would like to provide feedback for the IT Strategic Plan process, please contact Dr. Christine Cermak at cmcermak@nps.edu or at ext. 2391.

WIRELESS UPDATE

All radios installed by Mesh Dynamics are currently functional, and the network access controller by Bradford Networks has been patched and now meets NPS requirements. During the summer break, the new wireless system will be operational campus-wide, including the network access controller, which will be used to authenticate remote users.

NETWORK OPERATIONS CENTER

In June, ITACS Server Management completed maintenance functions on the following servers: Enterprise, Applications, Remedy, SharePoint, Videoconferencing, ESL Lab server, Dudley Knox Library, ABC and Virus, File/Share, Email and Blackberry.

DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN (DRP)

The Disaster Recovery Planning team has completed the first draft of the DRP. Tasked to

develop a plan that will ensure the availability of ITACS' critical services in the event of a severe disruption to normal operations, the team has been working to identify and to establish a level of criticality for key applications and servers; to gather or draft documentation to recover those applications and servers in the event of an outage; and to define critical infrastructure areas; to review back-up and storage procedures; and to develop a test plan. The DRP team will brief the IT Task Force prior to promulgating the plan.

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING (IMET) FUNDS

ITACS has requested \$450,000 in FY08 IMET funds to continue the expansion of streaming media capabilities in all NPS classrooms and to continue the development of the NPS web re-design using a web content management system.

NPS GRADUATION CEREMONY

The video stream of the summer graduation on June 15th can be seen on the NPS website at: <http://www.nps.edu/technology/video/index.asp>. 314 students graduated from NPS on that day, and Vice CNO ADM Patrick Walsh was the keynote speaker at the ceremony.

REPORT FROM THE TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE CENTER (TAC)

From June 1 through June 26, the TAC received 1,918 requests for assistance, 1,635 of which were resolved by the Tier 1/Tier 2 areas. The remaining 283 requests were answered by other ITACS departments/groups.

INFORMATION ASSURANCE UPDATE

To comply with a Computer Task Order (CTO), the Information Assurance (IA) staff recently installed and configured Retina, a new vulnerability scanning tool. Retina manages vulnerabilities by performing weekly scans on all



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computers on the nps.edu network, and those systems that are identified as having vulnerabilities (missing patches or configuration errors) are noted and tracked until the vulnerability is addressed.

PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH

On June 19th, **Dr. Christine Cermak**, **Mr. Tracy Hammond**, and **Mr. Alan Richmond** visited Sacramento State University to tour their Telecommunications Center. The group also met with the university's President and Provost to discuss the NPS IT Strategic Plan and the use of video/television Institutional Advancement efforts.

Mr. Joe LoPiccolo and **Mr. Jon Russell** were the keynote presenters at the WeTEC Fourth Annual Wireless Community & Mobile User Conference, held at California State University Monterey Bay. A link to the conference can be found at: (<http://wetec.csumb.edu/site/x17154.xml>).

The Navy Higher Education Information Technology Consortium (NHEITC) will meet at NPS in August. Both the President and the Provost are expected to address the group, and provide guidance about the consortium's agenda and focus for the next year.