ELLUMINATE

The *Elluminate* system has been completely installed and is running smoothly. Between July 5th, when the system went live, and July 26th, there were 3,500 logins; 300 unique users, including Army, Air Force and NMCI commands; and over 200 events. Ten classes are currently using the system, primarily in the Graduate School of Business and Public Policy, (GSBPP), Mechanical Engineering, and Meteorology, which is using *Elluminate* for research collaboration. Demonstrations of *Elluminate* have been made to the Faculty Council, GSBPP, and Space Systems. The Monterey Institute of International Studies started to "piggyback" onto the *Elluminate* system at NPS for their DL system beginning in mid-August.

Short-term efforts for *Elluminate* include having NPS faculty assist in the development of best practices for the system, and creating a troubleshooting guide for the Technology Assistance Center staff. More training sessions on *Elluminate* were conducted during the last two weeks in August, and, to support faculty schedules, they occurred in two-hour segments. An archiving strategy — one that follows the Blackboard model — is also underway. Long-term plans for the *Elluminate* system are to collaborate with GSBPP in establishing an *Elluminate* studio for mixed-class usage similar to that used now for VTE classes, to develop a podcasting strategy, and to establish a framework and policies for student collaboration.

The *Elluminate* system is successful because of the coordination and collaboration of several people and departments on campus, especially those from the Office of Continuous Learning, who deserve to be recognized for their outstanding efforts.

WIRELESS UPGRADE

The campus Next generation wireless upgrade and integration with a Network Access Control device has been completed. Users are now able to have their notebook devices checked for security requirements and gain access to the network without the need to visit the TAC. Access to the Intranet, home directory and other internal files is managed through the Cisco Virtual Private Network appliance which is similar to the access available from user's home computers.

The month of September will see ITACS working to fill the gaps in the coverage map on the campus, particularly in several buildings. Users who notice a lack of coverage or problems in connecting to the wireless network are asked to contact the TAC in Ingersoll 151 or by phone at extension 1046.

REPORT FROM THE TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE CENTER (TAC)

From August 1 through August 27, the TAC received 2,291 requests for assistance, 1,906 of which were resolved by the Tier 1/Tier 2 areas. The remaining 385 requests were answered by other ITACS departments/groups.

PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH

NPS and ITACS leaders visited both Stanford University and the University of California Davis during the month of August, to tour their facilities and to discuss issues with campus leaders related to the development of the IT Strategic Plan.

In mid-August, NPS hosted IT leaders from the U.S. Naval Academy and the Naval War College for a two-day conference of the Navy Higher Education Information Technology Consortium.

HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING

High Performance Computing (HPC) received $35,000 "research re-cap" funding on behalf of Electrical and Computer Engineering for its Phase I "electrical upgrade" project that will provide additional electrical capacity in Spanagel 303-A.

The HPC group, along with Dr. Christine Cermak and Mr. Joe LoPiccolo, hosted the executive leadership from the DoD "High Performance Computing Modernization Program" (HPCMP) for a site visit. There are currently 5 PIs at NPS who are using HPCMP resources.

Oceanography Professor Timour Radko is adding another 8-core node to his existing 32-core Linux cluster; Math Professor Frank Giraldo has ordered a 32-core Apple cluster; the Shock and Vibration Lab has ordered a 132-core Linux cluster; and Physics Professor Ron Brown is increasing the amount of memory in his cluster to 8 GB/node. In addition, The HPC staff is working with Professor Jose Sinibaldi to use Sony Playstation 3 units as high performance computers (taking advantage of their 8-way IBM Cell Broadband Engine that is capable of running Linux and crunching numbers very quickly).

On Thursday, August 8, HPC Technical Manager Jeff Haferman presented an overview of HPC at NPS to Dean of Research Dan Boger and Director of Research and Sponsored Programs Danielle Kuska.

For a tour of HPC facilities, please contact any of the HPC team members: Ray Chatten, Donna Burych, Salma Mack, or Jeff Haferman.

The HPC website can be found at http://www.nps.edu/hpc

TECHNOLOGY SERVICES REPORT

Progress continues to be made on actions directed by the NCDOC and the NAVSEA visits earlier in the year. Currently, firewall rules are being evaluated and network vulnerabilities are being remediated in an effort to fulfill milestones set for ITACS by both organizations.

IMPROVED VULNERABILITY MANAGEMENT CAPABILITY

The Network Security Group (NSG) has successfully implemented eEye REM as a part of the network vulnerability management solution at NPS by allowing NSG to more efficiently deliver vulnerability reports to system owners, both within ITACS and in other departments. As a result, system owners will be better informed of vulnerabilities so corrective actions can be taken faster.

SYSTEM PATCH MANAGEMENT

Over the next month, the Technology Assistance Center (TAC) will be implementing an additional Windows patch management system. The current enterprise system used to "push" patches is the LANDesk system, which is capable of pushing patches to all operating systems on our network. LANDesk and the Retina vulnerability assessment tool will enable NPS to closely manage network systems for compliance using critical system and security patches. The Windows Server Updates Services (WSUS) has also been tested and is ready to be deployed on the ERN windows domain. This server augments our current patching capability by adding the "pull" aspect of patching. Each ERN windows system that logs onto the ERN domain can now be configured to poll the WSUS server at a scheduled time to check for updates, which improves control. The system will conduct patching during off hours and the patches are set to control the automatic reboot feature, protecting clients from unexpected reboots and loss of data.