NEXT GENERATION NETWORK

FISC released the request for proposals for the Next Generation Network in early October. Vendors will be asked to provide a proposal for integrated wireless as an add-on option to their network proposal. Volunteers recruited last spring from each of the Schools comprise the Service Selection Board, which is expected to convene on November 5 and within a week evaluate all the proposals and make a decision on awarding a contract.

PRIVACY INFORMATION

End-of-year funds will be used to conduct a Privacy Information Audit, a recommendation made by the Business Practices Task Force. It is expected that part of the audit will involve a review of current procedures involving personally identifiable information and the subsequent implementation of improved processes to protect that data.

Anyone having questions about configuring or using their PKI credentials (CAC) to encrypt e-mail or about storage of PII on computers should contact the Technology Assistance Center (TAC) at 656-1046.

HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING (HPC)

The High Performance Computing Center added a new 4 node "Quad Mac Pro" (2 "Quad Core" Intel Chips per node) SuperComputing cluster which belongs to the Math Department. Professor Frank Giraldo will use the new cluster to conduct research in atmospheric modeling.

Professor Timour Radko in Oceanography added a new computing node to his cluster, bringing the total number of processors up to 40. During the past quarter, two graduating students used the computing cluster extensively to perform their research.

Discussions are underway to determine what kind of support HPC can lend to Professor Simson Garfinkle in the Computer Science Department, who is doing research in "forensic analysis of disk drives".

For more info on HPC, visit http://www.nps.edu/hpc. For an overview and/or tour of the HPC facility, please contact Jeff Haferman.

REPORT FROM THE TAC

From September 1 through September 25, the Technology Assistance Center (TAC) received 2,022 requests for assistance, 1,717 of which were resolved by the Tier 1/Tier 2 areas. The remaining 305 requests were answered by other ITACS departments/groups.

VTE AND AV POLICY

The NPS university community continues to grow in the area of Distributed Learning. As a result of this steady growth, there has been an increase in the demand on the VTE and AV resources. In an effort to establish a standard delivery of service as well as an effort to ensure maintenance and support, there was a need to establish a written policy for NPS enterprise VTE and AV resources. A policy was drafted and vetted at the Information Technology Task Force (ITTF). During the September 20th ITTF meeting, the policy was discussed and accepted with a few minor changes. Tracy Hammond will meet with each of the associate deans to review the policy and will report the results of those meetings to the IT Task Force.

NETWORK OPERATIONS CENTER

Current projects for the NOC include:
- Working on all high and medium vulnerabilities on the MIL servers until they are cleared and justified
- Reviewing MIL firewall rules and preparing for the waiver process
- Moving users with over 20 Gigs H Drive files to new SANS file storage with a 50 Gig file quota
- Planning and testing the move of network switches to the ERN network for access
- Working on Memorandum of Understanding with ForceNet personnel for support of new servers
- Resolving wireless and Bradford Network Access Controller issues

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY (IT)

IT is supporting 50 Video-Tele-Education class sessions scheduled for the Fall Quarter, and is also testing IP videoconferencing with Harvard University for an upcoming computer science class. The department is continuing to experiment with HD videoconferencing; the goal of which is to eventually install a "telepresence" type system at NPS and at a permanent remote location such as a fleet concentration area.

New carpeting is being installed in classrooms throughout the campus and AV and classroom environment maintenance is ongoing.

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.

The last elements of the Security Test and Evaluation that was requested by the NAVSEA Logistics Command were completed in mid-September, and the work involved all areas of ITACS. During the Certification and Accreditation process, each site tries to reduce the vulnerabilities to the lowest level possible — a huge task on our complex network. The process of scanning for vulnerabilities and then patching is an ongoing task; however, as a site approaches the final phase of C & A there is a concerted effort to patch systems. This is the stage at which ITACS has been working these past several months. The report, which was submitted on September 21, notes that there are no serious vulnerabilities that will negatively affect our Certification and Accreditation process.

In mid-September, an outage with the Monterey Peninsula Department of Defense Net (MP DoD-Net) connection to the Naval Research Laboratory was reported. This network is the "closed" network used by local DoD organizations for several DoD-related functions. NPS is the operator of this network and provides support and maintenance for our DoD partners. The ITACS staff spent several hours tracing the problem on the network, and found that maintenance personnel at the golf course had cut the fiber connection. ITACS worked with MWR and PW to expedite the repair. Several activities were affected by this outage and were required to establish a watch schedule to cover systems for the duration of the outage.