



HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING (HPC)

Members of the Research Board HPC subcommittee, Chaired by Oceanography Professor Wieslaw Maslowski, presented the HPC roadmap to President Oliver and Executive Vice President and Provost Ferrari on June 10. In attendance were Vice President of Information Resources and CIO Christine Haska, Research Computing Director Jeff Haferman, ITACS Executive Director Joe LoPiccolo, Professor and Chair of the Faculty Council Frank Giraldo, and CAPT Rod Abbott of the Research Office.

Dr. Jeff Haferman reviewed the past, present, and future of HPC at NPS. Both the President and Provost thanked the subcommittee for their hard work, and reiterated their support for HPC. The Committee will now continue its advisory role as a formal sub-committee of the IT Task Force.

In addition to the mission dollars currently received for their annual budget, Dr. Haferman will be working closely with the Research Office to develop a "chargeback center" to help fund HPC.

LABS AND CLASSROOMS UPDATE

An annual walk-around of labs and classrooms was recently completed by Mr. Joe LoPiccolo, Dr. Christine Haska and Mr. Cullen Jones. That assessment is the basis of the life cycle management plan for the labs and classrooms.

Inspections of the learning spaces on campus will be ongoing, and will include a carpet-to-ceiling review. Thus far in 2011, 87 classrooms, 13 computer labs, 100+ podiums, 124

projectors, 17 conference rooms and more than 450 computers have been inspected. Continued maintenance and daily/weekly visits will be conducted through remote monitoring; desktop and podium maintenance will continue through LANDesk; projector and audio-visual maintenance through Global Viewer; and a five-year "omnibus" plan will be developed with contractors, Public Works and Hope Janitorial. The Technology Assistance Center and the direct line for immediate assistance in classrooms (Ext. 6911) are services that are also available.

CLASSIFIED COMPUTING UPDATE

Mr. Donald Free, the Classified Computing Manager, is a graduate of NPS in Information Systems and a former Navy officer who worked in industry before joining NPS in late April.

At the IT Task Force meeting on Thursday, June 9, 2011, Mr. Free reviewed the six requirements and objectives of the Classified Computing Committee's final report, stating that classified computing at NPS needs to:

- Be equal to or better than unclassified capabilities;
- Have appropriate bandwidth for all networks;
- Improve its VTC capabilities;
- Be placed on life cycle maintenance plan;
- Upgrade its furniture;
- Improve space conditions;
- Have appropriate staffing.

Current plans for upgrades in the SCIF include getting new furniture/refurbishing, increasing Video-Tele-Conferencing (VTC) capabilities from two to three, refurbishing the hallway in the STBL, and hiring an additional staff member. ITACS has



allocated \$260K for the upgrades, and Dr. Chris Olsen, Professor of Physics and member of the Classified Computing Committee, has contributed a \$500K grant to support the effort.

The switch was upgraded on the SIPRNet; the switch in JWICS will be upgraded in fall quarter 2011.

CYBERSECURITY: MULTIPLE ACCOUNTS? USE DIFFERENT PASSWORDS

If you have been watching the news, you will have noticed that a group called "LulzSec" hacked Sony servers and stole over 1,000,000 customer passwords that were unfortunately stored in plaintext. Assuming that stored password data will become accessible to unauthorized parties, entities must follow the best cryptography practices to ensure that data is as difficult as possible for the thieves to unencrypt, which means stored passwords must be encrypted.

The password data posted by LulzSec and analyzed by security professionals showed that users typically choose weak passwords unless they are forced to choose strong ones. At NPS, users must choose strong passwords of at least 9 characters. In the Sony case, approximately 50% of the passwords were 7 or fewer characters; 50% of all passwords were all lowercase characters and 45% were all numerals, weak and very weak choices respectively. An additional vulnerability, password reuse, was also discovered. Once a user name and password gets compromised, the attacker will probably try them on another system. By comparing the Sony database of passwords to the Gawker database, also recently hacked, security

professionals discovered that two-thirds of the people with accounts at both Sony and Gawker used the same password.

To protect your systems, follow the formula for creating passwords established at NPS, and do not use your password for multiple accounts. If you need assistance or have questions, please visit the Security Center on the NPS Wiki at <https://wiki.nps.edu/display/SC>.

PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH

The Navy Higher Education Information Technology Consortium — CIOs from the Naval War College, the United States Naval Academy and NPS — conducted their annual meeting from June 21-23, 2011. The agenda included a visit to NetApp, VMware, and Google in Silicon Valley and on-campus discussions.

ITACS participated in the NPS campus visit by RDML William Leigher, USN, Deputy Commander of the U.S. 10th Fleet on June 22, 2011.

TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE CENTER

From June 1 through June 29, the Technology Assistance Center (TAC) received 5,251 requests for assistance, 4,456 of which were resolved by the Tier 1/Tier 2 areas. The remaining 795 requests were escalated to groups outside of TAC for specialized assistance, reflecting a 20% increase in requests for assistance from June 2010. In addition, 92% of all calls were resolved within the Service Level Agreement (SLA). Requests for assistance were categorized as follows:

Phone: 2,651
E-Mail: 1,965
Walk-in: 589
Web: 3
Technician: 43