NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL
ITACS
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

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CYBERSECURITY – TRANSFERRING LARGE FILES

A DoD-approved method of transferring larger files, called SAFE, is hosted by the U.S. Army, and allows users to send up to 25 files (up to a total of 2GB in size) securely to recipients on the Internet. The following information explains how SAFE can be used and what it provides:

- **Who can use it?** Anyone, including individuals outside the DoD networks, may use SAFE to send files to recipients with a .mil or .gov email address. However, only users with a valid DoD Common Access Card (CAC) may send files to other addresses, such as .com or .edu.
- **Browsers** - SAFE also uses the Secure Socket Layer protocol (128-bit encryption) when a file is uploaded and downloaded. SAFE has only been tested with Internet Explorer and Windows XP, according to Microsoft. The NPS Cybersecurity team has successfully tested this in Google Chrome on Macs.
- **PII** - FOUO files and files containing personally identifiable information may be transferred using SAFE. For privacy information, recipients will be notified that the data they are about to download is protected by the Privacy Act and that recipients are responsible for its protection in accordance with DoD guidelines and policies.
- **File types** - With SAFE, any file type, including zip files, may be sent to anyone with a valid email address. When transferring multiple files, it is recommended that files are zipped before sending them and that the file names are concise. However, they should be descriptive enough so that recipients will know exactly what they are receiving and for what purpose.
- **What to expect** - After uploading files, the originator receives an email with the subject "AMRDEC Safe Access File Exchange Submittal Notice." The email provides the originator a link and password/PIN to check the status of the files. Recipients then receive an email with the subject, "AMRDEC Safe Access File Exchange Delivery Notice," indicating that they have been given access to a file, along with a file description, a password/PIN to retrieve the file, and a link that will direct recipients to pick the file up. This email also provides the date that the file(s) will be deleted. The deletion date is specified by the originator of the file transfer. The default expiration date is seven days from the upload date, and the maximum expiration date is two weeks from the upload date. To access SAFE, go to https://safe.amrdec.army.mil. Make sure to use your CAC's e-mail certificate and consult the Help link at the top of the web page for a list of frequently asked questions.

METRICS FOR PASSWORD CHANGES

Recently ITACS launched a new tool that assists users in unlocking their accounts or changing their passwords (http://npspassword/). This system was added to provide a self-help capability for both resident and remote users. We specifically wanted to target distant students and faculty that may have challenges accessing the Technology Assistance Center with the different time zones.

If you have not used this tool, please follow the link provided and establish your security profile so you will be able to either unlock or change your password in the future. If you need assistance or have a comment or suggestion, please feel free to contact the Technology Assistance Center at tac@nps.edu or by calling (831)656-1046.

HPCMP PETTT ON-SITE SUPPORT

Dr. Jose Renteria is our new "HPCMP PETTT" on-site support lead. HPCMP is the DoD "High Performance Computing and Modernization Program," and the acronym "PETTT" stands for User Productivity Enhancement, Technology Transfer, and Training. Dr. Gabriele Jost previously held this position at NPS for over three years. Dr. Renteria can assist researchers who are using the "large" (off-site) DoD HPC SuperComputer. He can also assist users who are currently using the NPS super computer, "Hamming," to transition to larger DoD super computers. Dr. Renteria is sponsored by the DoD HPCMP.

This coming April, Dr. Renteria is also coordinating a two-day course on Scientific Visualization. Course dates are forthcoming and users of "Hamming" will receive details via email. Others interested in the Scientific Visualization course, or in the services provided by Dr. Renteria, can send an email to JRenteria@drc.com.

CLASSIFIED COMPUTING PROGRAMS

ITACS' classified computing staff are often asked to support faculty research, and classroom instruction. In addition to providing space to host projects, the classified computing staff offers technical expertise, access to networks, and assistance with equipment.

Recently, the classified computing staff partnered with teams from the Department of Operations Research in support of Project REAP, and the Simulation, Experiments and Efficient Design (SEED) Lab's Peace Support Operations Model (POSM) projects. In addition, the staff assisted members of the Oceanography, Physics, and Electronics and Computer Engineering Departments with special software support for "sun setting" research projects – "Service from Start to Finish."

PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH

On February 1st, Dr. Christine Haska hosted a VTC with Mr. Joe Pangborn, CIO of the Naval War College. The meeting was arranged to review policies associated with the management of education networks. Topics of discussion included current Navy data calls, and plans for the annual meeting of the Naval Higher Education Information Technology Consortium (NHEITC), scheduled for June. The consortium includes the Naval Postgraduate School, the United States Naval Academy, and the Naval War College.

NPS is also exploring research and operational opportunities with Bloom Energy. Members of the Naval Postgraduate School met with Bloom Energy in Sunnyvale, California, to learn more about their alternative energy solution. Bloom Energy's fuel cell, originally developed in support of NASA's space exploration program, is used by several Fortune 500 and U.S. Government organizations to provide a reliable source of back-up energy. Bloom Energy also reduces CO^2 emissions by more than 40% compared to the U.S. grid and virtually eliminates all SOx, NOx, and other harmful greenhouse gas emissions.

In addition, members of the Naval Postgraduate School visited Palantir Technologies in their Palo Alto offices to explore how Palantir could be used to analyze and visualize NPS's "sphere of influence" across government, private industry, and academic networks. Of particular interest is the possibility of analyzing and demonstrating the impact of NPS's research and academic mission on the Department of the Navy and DoD. Palantir provided an overview of their current customers (mainly from the intelligence and banking communities), and demonstrated how to navigate the product's interface and use powerful data analysis tools. Palantir is already being used to great effect by NPS's CORE Lab.

TAC STATISTICS

From 1 – 29 February, 2012, the Technology Assistance Center (TAC) received 4,647 requests for assistance, 4,062 of which were resolved by the Tier 1/Tier 2 areas. The remaining 585 requests were escalated to groups outside of the TAC for specialized assistance. This represents a 22% increase in requests since February, 2011. Assistance during February, 2012, is categorized as follows:

Phone: 2,309
E-Mail: 1,956
Walk-in: 343
Web: 1
Technician: 38

Finally, 91% of all calls were resolved within the Service Level Agreement (SLA). Calls carried over to March, 2012, are either awaiting parts or pending information from customers.