

News from IT – 02/27/04



...Everybody ready for spring?

February is a short month, and with the winter doldrums in full swing, the *News* this month is shorter than usual. That doesn't mean we're slacking off down in Memorial Hall, it just means that the day-to-day has kept us busier than usual. Here are the high points of what we're up to:

IT prepares for E911 – Information Technology is completing negotiations to implement an E911 system for the campus, as part of the university-wide initiative to improve campus safety. Any large organization that has their own telephone system has the same problem – if someone calls '911', the emergency responders do not receive specific location information with the call. A 911 call placed from the university today only carries with it the designation "Mansfield University". An E911 system intercepts 911 calls, looks up extension information using a local data base, inserts the real telephone number, building and room information in the caller ID fields, then forwards the call to the local Public Service Access Point. Additional software forwards a copy of the emergency call record to campus police. We hope to complete contract negotiations for supplying this service in March, with installation to commence just as soon as it can be scheduled.

A reminder on test scoring times – Test scoring and general scanning by the IT staff takes place at 10:00 AM every business day. Tests delivered by 10:00 AM may be picked up after lunch.

General test scoring and scanning processes use automated scripts, so faculty interested in immediate gratification or one-stop service can do their own scanning. Training to "do it yourself" only takes around five minutes. If you are interested in scanning your own forms on the spot, call Calissa Lazowicki at x-4839 and schedule time for a walk-through of the scoring software system.

Mimio makes it's debut – In the fall, we advised faculty of the availability of Mimio – a device attachable to a white board which, when used with special markers, allows information on the board to be recorded by the room PC and stored for later addition in other presentations, or added to on-line course materials. Several faculty took us up on our offer to give Mimio a try, and trial units have been installed in specific classrooms in Elliot, Belknap and Retan. If anyone not

familiar with Mimio technology is interested in a demonstration, contact Tamela Bastion at x-4857.

One more word on backups - I know, we're starting to sound like a broken record, but if you're not backing up your critical files, why not? Loss of a hard disk on your personal computer, or the loss or inability to read the single disk or CD a critical file is on can spell disaster. Backups using your CD burner can be done in minutes, easier (and cheaper!) than ever before. Check out Tamela's training catalog for dates when backup classes and other training opportunities are scheduled, at:

<http://acs.mnsfld.edu>

MyDoom won't let go – The Internet continues to be plagued with the MyDoom worm, now in its sixth iteration. The latest version, MyDoom.f, is by far the most troublesome, as it is the first variant which deletes files, specifically Microsoft Word and Excel files, at random, hijacking your computer to perform denial-of-service attacks on the Microsoft and SCO web sites, and searching out other computers on the Internet to infect. IT has been highly successful in blocking attacks on campus computers, though many home computer users have not been so lucky. The only way to prevent infection is to keep your antivirus software up-to-date, include Email scanning if your antivirus product is capable, and use caution prior to opening any Email attachment.

Class cancellations on the Web – Coming soon to a PC near you: Up-to-date information on class cancellations. IT is working with Public Relations to put this new service in operation. Providing information via the Web increases coverage and availability of the most up-to-date information to off-campus students outside the CAN's viewing area. Availability of this service will be announced via a campus broadcast message.

What would you like to see? – Are there any particular issues you'd like us to address in the *News from IT*? In the past year, we discussed repair options for home computers, utilities to keep your PC free of spyware and viruses, the care and feeding of your CD burner, and many other issues beyond the news of what's happening in our division. We want the *News* to be topical and as useful to everyone as possible. If you have comments or suggestions, send them to wphillip@mnsfld.edu. We'd love to hear from you!

Remember: Back issues of the *News* are available at:

<http://it.mnsfld.edu> .