

News from IT, January 2007



We're Back! Sorry for the delay in getting the *News* out. It's been a busy time for your IT team over the past month or so! In brief, here's what's been happening:

- Projection in Elliott classrooms has been upgraded and all projectors replaced with the latest and greatest technology.
- Projection capabilities were added to the Elliott business lab.
- Ten new seats were added to the Math/CIS lab, Elliott 207.
- Conventional classroom technology and projection has been built-in to the new Planetarium in Grant.
- Wireless access points were added to the Allen Hall lecture lab, the new Planetarium, Straughn Auditorium and Steadman Theater.
- Cleanup or complete software rebuilds were performed on computers in all labs and classrooms.
- A major build-out of CATV capabilities in Kelchner Center was performed to accommodate new video feeds to the cardio room.
- Internet Explorer version 7.0 was rolled out to the campus.

All this in addition to the usual moves/adds/changes, software upgrades, trouble calls, internal planning, external project coordination, and between-semester tear-down and rebuild of student accounts. In other words, there was no moss growing on this group over the holiday break!

Rollout of IE7 “breaks” ESS: HR’s new Employee Self-Service System was found not to be compatible with Microsoft’s latest version of Internet Explorer. This caused IT to place our IE7 rollout on hold for well over a month while the problems within ESS were identified and a schedule developed for repair. We have been advised that ESS will be taken out of service on February 2 at 0800, returning as an IE7-compliant application on February 5 at 0800. Temporary work-arounds have been tested allowing access to ESS, however they involve utilizing browser software not officially supported by IT. If you have a question about your employee information between now and February 5, please contact HR. If your need for access to ESS is critical for your job performance, call the HELP line and your building technician will assist you.

IE 7 is supported by Blackboard, but you will need to make some adjustments to your home computer’s settings – Click on this [link](#) for important information. Campus computers will have these adjustments made through Novell when IE7 is installed and the computer is rebooted.

Please note that Internet Explorer (IE) is the only browser fully supported for Blackboard use.

IT believes you may still find minor compatibility issues between web sites you may use and IE7, though we are not aware of any critical problems at this time. Most sites have worked diligently to ensure compatibility with Microsoft’s new product.

Blackboard Update: Students can access their Bb username & password along with all other account information using the “My Account Info (student login)” under the Quick Links on MU’s home page.

Faculty passwords are the same as last term. Since fall 2006 all passwords have a special character included. If you questions or did not use Bb last term, you may contact [Tamela Bastion](#) for assistance.

Student email accounts in Bb will include the @mounties.mansfield.edu this term. Please advise your students to login to their Mounties accounts regularly for important messages. Accounts not used will eventually go inactive, resulting in important messages bouncing. Remember: University policy is to use the university-sanctioned Email system as the method of Email contact for students. IT asks instructional staff to direct students to: <http://it.mansfield.edu/FAQs/junkMailHelp.cfm> for important information on how to ensure that critical campus correspondence does not end up in their Junk Mail folder.

New version of Turnitin (plagiarism checker) for Blackboard now available: After taking a step backward and using the old version of Turnitin in the fall term, Turnitin finally resolved issues with their program code and provided us with a new version - 2.1.0 - for this term. You can now proceed with Turnitin assignment setup in Blackboard.

If you have not used Turnitin in previous terms, and would like an overview, please schedule a training session with [Tamela Bastion](#).