



News from IT, September 30, 2005

Classroom and Lab Security a Serious Issue: Last fall, an entire classroom cart system was lost to theft one piece at a time. This fall, a new flat-screen monitor is missing from a supposedly secured computer lab. Given the state of the university's budget, stolen equipment and materials becomes an ever more serious issue. IT asks all faculty and staff to take an extra moment to insure that classroom and lab doors are secured when these areas are not in use. If you arrive at a classroom and find the door unlocked, please report this to Dr. Peter Keller. Missing equipment should be reported just as soon as noticed. Insuring our labs and classrooms are secured and usable is everyone's responsibility - We can't do it without your help!

Also important to note: We have recently experienced situations where someone has loaded back-leveled software locally on classroom cart systems. This has the effect of disabling the current release of served software, and potentially causes instability in other applications. Please report immediately any problems you have with cart systems or their installed software suite.

Insuring that classroom systems are intact, fully operational and stable is a high priority for us, and your cooperation is essential to our mission. Thanks!

Campus Events Calendar: The Campus Events calendar on our main web page is actually a compilation of events from several calendars maintained by different departments on campus. Academic Affairs information is added to the Campus Events calendar by Cathy Martin, x4804 and Music Events information is added by Suzy Achey, x4710. Student activities and sports events are added by Barb Morgan, x4980. If you have a correction or would like an event added, please contact the appropriate person.

Email Address Format: All email addresses for campus persons (students and employees) need to include @mansfield.edu . In the past, using Eudora, it was possible to send to the username (without the @mansfield.edu) but that is no longer an option. We can not assure that email addresses that only have the username will be delivered. If you are selecting employee addresses from the Outlook Global Address Book, the email address will be correct.

Virus Information and Virus Hoaxes: Up to the moment Virus Alerts and information is now posted in real time on the IT Division web site (<http://it.mansfield.edu>) courtesy of McAfee. If you receive an email from a friend or colleague that alerts you to a “virus”, please check with IT web site or the helpdesk before passing it along to others. Many of these chain-type emails are either hoaxes or are no longer valid. If an eminent threat to the campus community is detected, the help desk will issue an IT ALERT. For more information on virus hoaxes, check <http://www.snopes.com/computer/virus>.

Faculty Web Page Listing Is Available: We maintain a listing of faculty web pages on our web site. This listing is available from our Search and Directories page. If you would like to have your faculty web page listed here, email Suzanne Murphy at smurphy@mansfield.edu with the URL for your web page and a line or two of text describing your page. Please be sure your web page is up-to-date before submitting your information.

Palm Synchronization questions abound: Although the Associated Press reports that worldwide sales of PDAs without voice capabilities dropped over 12% last year, it appears that university staffers are bucking that trend. Whether made by Palm, HP, Dell, RIM or others, digital organizers are finding their way into more and more staffer’s pockets. With that, IT is being asked more and more questions about synchronizing PDAs to user’s university-owned computers and Outlook. And there is an assumption that IT will assist users trying to integrate their personal equipment with the university’s data systems.

A formal policy regarding support of PDAs is under consideration. Until a plan is developed and formally approved, PDAs in the hands of the general campus population remain “unsupported” by IT. That means any support you receive will be “best-effort” in nature and no guarantee of immediate response should be anticipated. In keeping with current policy, IT does not offer support for personal equipment used on the university network.

The following web site has been found to be helpful in identifying software that may be most usable when it comes to synching your particular PDA to Outlook: http://www.chapura.com/pm_ks_compare.php . Of course other software is available, and IT makes no guarantee as to the usability or reliability of ANY of it.

We have found the Dell Axim particularly easy to integrate, with its Microsoft PocketPC operating system, ability to use wireless connections and “Activesync” software for synchronization. Devices using the Palm OS, Blackberry, or a variant of Linux can also successfully integrate, with varying degrees of ease and reliability. Any PDA support we foresee offering in the future will be limited to a few specific devices and operating systems. Beyond that, it’s up to the individual to determine what PDA best meets their needs. The company’s support policies, quality of synch software accompanying the unit, or cost of third-party sync software should all be factors considered prior to purchase.

Coming soon, Email aliases: Ah, how times change. Once upon a time, we chose ‘mnsfld.edu’ as a domain name because the equipment we used to access the Internet restricted domain names to eight characters. Once restrictions on domain name length were no longer an issue, we began to advertise ourselves as ‘mansfield.edu’ to the outside world. Now, we have a relatively easy way to create similar ‘aliases’ for individual Email accounts.

Email aliases will be created two different ways:

The first alias will correct truncation of your last name. You will automatically be assigned an alias of first initial plus your full last name. For example, Dr Robert G. Rosenbloom, with Email currently

rrosenbl@mnsfld.edu will be assigned an alias of *rrosenbloom@mansfield.edu*.

Use of the alias is optional: You may choose to continue to use the Email address you use today.

A full-name alias will also be assigned to all faculty and staff, and again, its use is optional. This name will be derived from the "Preferred Listing Name" used in the HR Directory/Global Address List. This can be changed through "my.Mansfield" by clicking the "Update Your Directory Information" link.

IT will send faculty/staff an email about a week before implementation showing what their alias will be based on their preferred name, with instructions on how to update that information. We will also advise everyone after we transfer the information from the HR screens to our Email system, so there is no question what the aliases will be. Once the aliases are generated, they will NOT change even if you update that information online; you will need to contact us directly (as is the case now if someone's name changes.) For new employees, we will give them the opportunity to set their preferred name, and once done, the aliases will be generated.

The standard 8-character username will still be the "official username" in a technical sense. The "official" username is what is used to access such things as web sites, wireless, my.mansfield, Outlook Web Access, Webadvisor, etc.

If you choose to use your alias, be sure to include the "*@mansfield.edu*" domain name rather than "*@mnsfld.edu*". Feel free to use either alias on business cards, documents, web pages, etc. There should be no need to inform anyone of this "change", as your original *@mansfield* or *@mnsfld.edu* Email address will continue to work. It remains to be determined if we will use the full-name alias in the online directory for the outside world.