

News from Campus  
Technologies, January, 2008



Welcome back, everyone!

While you were away: CT put the finishing touches on several projects over the holiday break. Here are the highlights:

Classrooms in Butler, Decker, and Grant received new projection. The new projectors are set to operate at ~ 2700 lumens; bright enough to be used in a fully lit room in most circumstances. Allen Hall projection was updated with low-mileage projectors removed from other areas.

Grant Science received upgrades to teaching stations; Dell model 370 computers replaced obsolete GX-400's.

New Lenovo computers installations were completed in the Art Lab, Allen Hall, the Doane Center 24-Hour Lab, the Math lab in Elliott, the History and Political Science lab in Pinecrest, the Psychology Lab in Hemlock, and the large general-purpose classroom in Butler G02.

New scanning equipment was installed in the Allen Hall Art Lab.

Flat-panel monitors were provided for the general-use PC's located in Jazzman's, Alumni Hall Student Center.

Datatel Release 18 has been implemented and the Web and Applications Development teams have been cleaning up bugs related to changes brought about by this release. We are now moving forward with new items that were held awaiting completion of this project. This marks the end of a 9-month project cycle that required new hardware, software, and database design for the university's Student Information System.

Mobile Printing is now available all over campus. A student may work on a paper in their dorm room and send the print request to any campus Print Cost Recovery Station.

A project was completed with the cooperation of WETM –TV, Elmira, to install a campus weathercam. You can now see live pictures of the campus and Mansfield borough originating from Butler Center on WETM's local news and weather programs.

The Faculty instructional technology survey completed in December has been reviewed, resulting in CT staff assigned to follow up on individual survey comments, suggestions, and wish list items.

**Major Changes to Telephone Services to Begin:** Also completed over the holiday break, a request-for-proposals was sent out to interested vendors requesting a methodology and providing equipment for major upgrades to the university's telephone system. Our current telephone system was installed in January, 1987, and when the upgrades are complete in the summer of 2010, the campus will have merged its voice and data networks, and telephone services will all be network-based. Phone and voicemail service to the resident students will be discontinued effective at the end of the current semester. New phones and switching equipment will be initially installed for the new South Hall, where Facilities and CT staff are awaiting a Certificate of Occupancy. They will perform installation of data and communication wire and cable throughout the spring term, followed by new services for the rest of the campus, to be brought up building-by-building.

Installing new voice services in our buildings will require a significant amount of work as each is surveyed and upgrades to the network infrastructure, power, and wiring closets are performed with the end result that each workstation location will be capable of supplying voice services as well.

RFP responses are being analysed at this time, and a bid award will be announced within the next few weeks.

**Equipment Thefts Continue:** CT was advised shortly before semester startup that two projectors were missing from Elliott Hall. Projection and other equipment had been removed from locked rooms within a locked building, apparently during off-hours. Campus Police continue their investigation. On the second day of classes, a flat-panel computer monitor was reported stolen from the Library. We in CT are frustrated and saddened by these events. We remain hopeful that someone noticed unusual activity and will come forward with information leading to the arrest of the perpetrators. We encourage the campus community to help us by calling campus police with any information you may have regarding these equipment losses. For now, used equipment, recently removed from service in other areas, has replaced the stolen items.

CT would like to reiterate the need to have everyone do their part to make the campus safe and secure!

- Lock and latch classroom doors when you leave. *Every time.*
- Report any unlocked doors you find to Peter Keller.
- If you see **anyone** carrying equipment out of a building, GET INVOLVED! Ask them who they are and what they're doing. If they're performing legitimate maintenance, they won't mind you asking. And if you don't feel comfortable asking, call campus police immediately and report the incident.

**CT welcomes Todd Seibert:** The newest addition to the CT family is Todd Seibert. Todd is a 2004 graduate of MU, was a student technician during his undergraduate days, and has returned to the campus after a stint with North Penn Telephone in Roseville. Todd is an IT Generalist, currently assigned to Allen and Belknap Halls. Welcome back, Todd!

**CATV Improvements slated for the Residence Halls:** Blue Ridge CATV and Residence Life, with CT providing coordination services, will soon offer digital and premium channels to our resident population. Improvements made to our infrastructure over the past few years have made the transition to digital service possible, and the nature of the service means that Blue Ridge can provide, at an additional charge billed directly to the requestor, premium services including HBO and Cinemax. We expect these services to be available within the next few weeks. Stay tuned!

**North Hall to receive networking upgrade:** During the spring term and into the summer, CT will be working with the North Hall library to replace ageing network switch gear with new equipment designed with improved security in mind. The new switch gear will allow implementation of user authentication, such as is required in our residence hall networks, limiting use of most library workstations to Mansfield staff and students. A few workstations on the second floor will remain open for anonymous public use.

**CT's Data Center to be upgraded:** A major upgrade to the Data Center in Memorial Hall, providing much needed upgrades to power and air conditioning capacity is planned for completion this summer by MU Facilities staff. Funded by the Strategic Projects Initiatives, these upgrades will bring temperatures in the Center back to safe levels plus allow operations to continue even if the main power to the building fails. Services provided by the CT division have expanded exponentially since moving to this facility in 2001, which has resulted in electrical and cooling service loads far in excess of the building's original design.

In a parallel move, in an effort to ensure business continuity and disaster preparedness, CT is moving some backup equipment to the old Alumni Hall computer room, where it all started... Air conditioning and generator power are available in this space and by providing some duplication of equipment there, we can ensure the campus that reasonably rapid recovery in the event of a catastrophic loss of the Network Operations Center will take place.

Talks are also ongoing with a sister school to house a small amount of equipment there that could ensure a continued network presence in the event a large-scale disruption of services were to occur to the Mansfield area.