

# Weber State University's IT'S NEWS

a monthly publication of the WSU Information Technology Division

# UPDATE



## From the desk of Don Gardner...

Let me take this opportunity to thank the university community for the support you have provided me as CIO of Weber State University. After thirteen years in that role, I have accepted a new position as Associate Vice President for Academic Technology at California State University Long Beach (CSULB), beginning February 1.



I was not seeking to leave WSU when a professional recruiter let me know of the CSULB opportunity. Eventually I emerged as a finalist and decided to accept their offer and finish my career in California.

I will miss working with all of you. WSU Information Technology has come a long way since 1994 when the position of CIO was created. With your support and cooperation, Weber State has emerged as a leader in online education in the State and in other IT areas as well. Best wishes for continued success in your many important endeavors. Go Weber!

**Thank you, Don!!! We appreciate your efforts to escort WSU into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century!!**



## Power Shut-down Alert

By Stephen Cobb, Systems and Network Management

The WSU Facilities Management Division, over the last several months, has been constructing a new chiller for campus air conditioning needs. A power outage is required to begin the process of bringing this new chiller on-line. **On Sunday, January 20th, beginning just after 12:00 am, all systems will be taken down as a precaution. We expect all systems will be back online by 8:00 am that same morning.** The reason for the general shut down is concern that the Data Center's UPS (uninterrupted power supply) system may not hold during this outage. As most of you are aware, (see article on reverse page "A Little Power Please") the ongoing project to upgrade the UPS systems has had to be postponed several times. We anticipate the current UPS deficiencies will be corrected by sometime in February.

## iTunes U Coming to WSU

By Craig Gundy, Emeritus Professor, Health Sciences

In 2004, Duke University gave each incoming freshman an iPod preloaded with orientation material, an academic calendar, and other resources. Students could download additional course-specific material from a special website that looked like the iTunes Music Store. Today that "special

website" is known as iTunes U and is available to virtually all institutions of higher education, free of charge for up to 500 GB of storage space.

Though faculty at Weber State have been using podcasts and other electronic course materials for years, and the availability of iTunes U will make this process even easier. For students it uses the familiar iTunes interface that they prefer. The process will be easier for faculty and staff because WSU is installing a system that will automatically prepare, manage, and distribute their audio, visual, and PDF content.

Once published, students can access material either via RSS subscription or directly from a Mac or PC using the free iTunes software or any other RSS-capable program. They can watch or listen on the computer, or can download files for use on an iPod or certain other portable electronic devices. Instructors can edit content using the same kind of interface, and can allow students to upload their own files for class review. Instructors can restrict access to content or make it public.

We hope to make our iTunes U site available this spring, and we're currently forming a committee to manage the project. For more information, email Craig Gundy ([cgundy@weber.edu](mailto:cgundy@weber.edu)).

## Vista Upgrade

By Gail Niklason, WSUOnline

A service pack upgrade to the Blackboard Vista system over the holiday break has resolved several important issues for users. Faculty and

students of the online system can now upgrade to the latest version of Java. And instructors can now easily accept the latest version (2007) of Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint documents from the online system. Other enhancements included in the upgrade streamline administrative functionality. The upgrade, along with the enhanced hardware configuration installed by the Systems Management team late fall semester 2007, will provide a robust, stable environment for our online users.

Say 'good-bye' to Sunday morning maintenance! The Vista database administration team has implemented a new backup tool that eliminates the need to take the system down to run backups. While periodic maintenance of other systems may impact the online system, those outages will be scheduled in advance and will be kept to a minimum. Notification of scheduled outages will be provided as an announcement in the Blackboard Vista system.

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### **There is No Such Thing as a Private E-mail**

**By Julie Park, Information Security Office**

Technology has made it possible for people all around the world to communicate with each other through e-mail for purposes such as research, education, business or enjoyment. With concerns ranging from privacy, security and confidentiality it is more important than ever to understand and observe the appropriate way to communicate and interact with others using e-mail over the Internet, also referred to as Netiquette (network etiquette).

It is the responsibility of all university employees to ensure private sensitive information about a student, employee, donor or business partner does not fall into the wrong hands.

Therefore, never send an e-mail that contains private sensitive information such as a social security number, credit card number, or other personally identifiable information that could result in theft of someone's identity.

Everyone should remember that somewhere in the world there is a person (usually a hacker) who could read your e-mail if he/she tries hard enough. Consequently, there is no such thing as a private e-mail.

Before you send an e-mail, ask yourself, "if this was my personal information, would I be sending it in an e-mail?"

For more information about what type of information is public or private go to <http://departments.weber.edu/iso/DataClassification/UnderstandingPublicPrivate.htm>

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### **A Little Power Please**

**By Stephen Cobb, Systems and Network Management**

Over the past several months, electrical power has become a high demand resource in the Data Center. As the requirements for new systems and larger systems have grown, the increase in CPU, memory, and disk space has pushed us to the edge of our ability to meet the needs for power consumption.

To resolve this, the State of Utah DFCM has opened a project to upgrade electrical power provisioning to our Data Center. This project will more than double our capacity and provide complete redundancy in the electrical supply to our systems and network equipment.

Positive Power was selected as the contractor to do the upgrades and installation of new equipment. Weber

State expected to require a power outage as part of the process. Positive Power elected to use a new type of circuit breaker (I-Line) that can be installed "Hot"; meaning the power can continue to flow as the new power sources and lines are brought into use. We are making every attempt to combine the power outage required by FM with the Data Center's UPS upgrade.

Once the new power is connected and available there will be small outages to move each system to the new power sources. This will be coordinated with each department around campus individually to select the best time and date to make the change. The good news is that there is no need for a complete Data Center shut down to improve our electrical power supply and provide future growth capability for Weber State University.

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## **Faculty Technology Menu**

May we suggest...

### **Information Literacy Training for your class**

Information Literacy (IL) is the ability to effectively identify, find, evaluate and use information for academic success and lifelong learning. Learn more about the WSU IL Program and collaborative initiatives through the website: <http://library.weber.edu/il/default.cfm>

**Ask a librarian** to teach a session on library and Internet research tools and strategies for your students.