How Does the New Weber.edu Affect Your Web Site?
By Kathy Edwards, University Communications

The new University Web site, launched in February, provides a fresh look and new templates for University Web pages.

If your site was created in the University's content management system called Site Manager, it should have converted to the new template automatically. The text and images on your site will not change unless you go in and change them manually. If you need a refresher on how to use the software, sign up for a Site Manager workshop through Training Tracker in the Faculty/Staff eWeber portal.

Now is a good time to convert your Web pages to Site Manager if you have not already done so. All sites built in Site Manager will update automatically any time there is a change to the University Web site templates.

If you want a more customized template, the Web site team has developed options to meet a variety of information needs. Some templates house more links, others have room for more images.

Although the Web Management Committee recommends using Site Manager, Web pages with dynamic content such as forms and database-driven sites may need to be created outside the Site Manager. A new html template that matches the University template is available at http://weber.edu/webguide. Click on the "Template for External Web Applications" link. Users will need to load their content onto the new template.

The History of Weber Internet Services
Provided by Roy Stock, Garth Tuck and Judy King

Internet services at Weber State began with the Communication Arts & Technologies (CATS) Department in 1994 under the leadership of Alan Livingston (Director) and Roy Stock (the first University Webmaster) assisted by student workers Jeff Willden and Garth Tuck. The first University Internet content included the entire University catalog of departments and courses. The CATS department not only created and managed the University's primary Web site, but spearheaded the creation of WSU Online and began supporting a web server for use by University faculty in creating Web sites supporting their curriculum. The first web sites were brought up on Apple Servers, where FrontPage was the development tool of choice because of its seamless integration with Apple web servers. When Windows FrontPage was announced we began to move much of the user development to a Windows server supporting both the Apple and windows users of FrontPage. The Mac version of FrontPage was discontinued after the '98 version.

It was in 1998 when the University developed an official Web site with a graphic design company by the name of Summus, featuring a wide shot of campus across the top and purple/yellow colors. In 2001, the consulting firm Lippman Hearn was employed to design a more dynamic website with templates that could be used by various college department websites in order to provide a uniform design through the University's Web. A content management system was integrated into the Web services tools and was setup on public servers, not associated with the FrontPage server software. One of which was the "WWW" server, the primary public web presence. The naming conventions were established to match the sub-webs organization determined by the Web Management Committee such as: faculty.weber.edu, staff.weber.edu, colleges.weber.edu, students.weber.edu, departments.weber.edu, organizations.weber.edu, etc.

The FrontPage server software (a TCP/IP application) functioned well for years in serving the web needs of the campus; however, developing technologies were not supported in that environment. The security in some of the "FrontPage extensions" functions made it necessary to shut down Discussion Groups (Summer 2007) and several other options in order to protect the University's webs.

The needs of the campus have grown tremendously in the past ten years. The ability and responsibility to support these functions in a secure environment for Higher Education have made it necessary to consider restructuring web services. The decision was made in May of 2007, not to outsource these services. Instead the IT Division is seeking to

replace the hardware and software for the web servers and provide a more stable environment for those using a variety of desktop software applications to development HTML, ASP.Net, Coldfusion or PHP code.

Envisioning the Future of Web Services
By The Web Support Team

Recently, Microsoft has discontinued development of the FrontPage desktop software that connects to the server allowing a direct and immediate upload of files. Microsoft will discontinue support of FrontPage 2003 on April 14, 2009 including the server software side of the application. The IT Division is proactively seeking a replacement system to continue supporting the University's Web sites in a secure and efficient manner. It is imperative the system be able to provide for new technologies necessary for faculty and student (classes) web development needs. A web support survey was recently sent to those who currently hold a web server account to determine what features are necessary to continue providing efficient web services to meet campus needs.

The Web Support Team has been asked to create a proposal for rebuilding the service and the purchase of new hardware that would accommodate functionality needed for Student web sites as well as faculty demands. The proposal will establish a Service Level Agreement (ITIL) to demonstrate obligations between IT Departments and web developers. Many web developers on campus need a broad spectrum of format and coding options as well as access controls.

The Web Support Team draft proposal is being prepared for IT Council and the Web Management Committee to consider. The ultimate goal of this Team is to find solutions that would enable the use of varying technologies and put a more focused emphasis on providing the right tools for our campus web service customers.

WSU Online Legacy and the Future of Content Repositories
By Gail Niklason, WSU Online

The original WSU Online program, now referred to as the 'legacy system,' relied heavily on web authoring applications. Because of the availability, familiarity, and general ease-of-use, most faculty course developers made use of Microsoft's FrontPage program for content generation. FrontPage supported the use of embedded file links that were utilized to present course materials in a logical, easily navigable format. Indeed, content for WSU Online courses was stored on a central server that also stored other web page content; these became collectively known as the 'FrontPage Servers'.

In 2002, WSU Online migrated course content to WebCT Vista, an enterprise course management system (CMS). With the ability to utilize tools built in to the CMS, faculty reliance on web authoring programs such as FrontPage and Dreamweaver was minimized. WSU Online best practices recommends that content be presented in html (browser) format for uniform access across browsers and operating systems. A simple html editor is all that is required to develop and maintain content in the (now) Blackboard Vista system.

Why do I need anti-virus software?
By Julie Park, Information Security Office

Anti-virus software keeps the university safe from dangerous viruses (man-made programs or a piece of code that causes an unexpected, usually negative, event). Viruses can destroy a desktop personal computer (PC) or server and threaten the identity of those whose private information may have been located on the compromised PC or server.

Anti-virus software detects and prevents virus infections. It is also effective at removing viruses if your PC is already infected. It works by scanning a computer's memory and disk drives for viruses. If it finds a virus, the application informs the user and cleans, deletes or quarantines any files, directories or disks affected by the malicious code.

WSU's Information Security Policy (PPM 10-1) helps make sure the university's systems and networks are adequately protected. The policy states, "All desktop systems and servers that connect to the network must be protected with an approved licensed anti-virus software product that it is kept updated according to the vendor's recommendations."

WSU owns a University license for the McAfee VirusScan Enterprise, which is managed by the ePolicy Orchestrator (ePO) Agent. The ePO Agent should be installed on all faculty and staff workstations. To check to see if the ePO Agent is running on your machine, simply follow the instructions below:

In a Windows XP environment
In the bottom right-hand corner of your computer screen, in the Windows system tray, there should be a red "M," the McAfee logo. By right-clicking on the "M," an icon with "ePolicy Orchestrator Agent" should appear.

In a Mac environment
Click on the "system" icon, select "applications," then select "utilities." The "ePO Agent Configurator" should be visible in the "utilities" menu.
If you don't have the ePO Agent installed on your workstation, the IT Service Desk can help you install it. Call ext. 7777 for assistance.

When in doubt, always err on the side of caution, and do not open or download any questionable files or email attachments.