

# Weber State University's IT'S NEWS

a monthly publication of the WSU Information Technology Division

# UPDATE



## We are Thankful for all of you!

### Single Sign On (SSO)

By Julie Park, Information Security Manager

Weber State has implemented Single Sign On (SSO) which allows you to login to multiple services using the same username and password. When logging into some service such as eWeber you will only need to log in once using your Wildcat Username (formerly known as Wildcat ID) and password. The WSU on line services that are now available with SSO include:

- eWeber Portal
- Crystal Enterprise Reports
- Lynx Self Service
- GroupWise (Web Access)
- Wildcat Mail
- Wildcat Cash
- WSU Online / Vista
- On line testing (ChiTester)
- Novell Client
- GroupWise Client

Although SSO is convenient there are also security issues to consider in a SSO environment. Your Wildcat Username and password are the keys to all your online resources. Once an end user has entered their Wildcat Username and password they are authenticated and granted access to

everything listed above (and more), making the security of your password extremely important. It is your responsibility to ensure all appropriate steps are taken to secure your Wildcat Username and password. "Easy to guess" or "weak" passwords are the main way hackers gain access to system information. Keeping your passwords safe and "hard to guess" is critical to ensure that your identity isn't stolen and another person cannot access your on line Weber resources.

The University's Information Security Policy (PPM 10-1) provides information about the Wildcat Username password you choose:

- It must be at least 8 characters in length. (Longer the better).
- Change your password(s) often, at least every 90 days.
- Passwords used for University services such as eWeber must be unique to Weber and not the same as a passwords used for personal accounts (banks, g-mail, and credit cards).
- Never share your password with anyone.

Choose a password that is easy for you to remember but hard for someone else to figure out. To make your Wildcat Username password even more secure users should use upper and lower case letters, a number and a character or symbol. For example, you might say, "I like to play both Soccer and Tennis." Create a password from that statement:

(I)like (2)to (p)play (b) both (S)occer (&) (T)ennis. >> I!2pbS&T

## e-Commerce (Electronic Storefronts) Now Available for Campus Departments –

By Jean Fruth, Assistant CIO

Hosting a workshop, conference, or meeting or have products to sell? Does your organization need the capability to collect money through a web-based storefront?

Weber State is pleased to announce the availability of WSU Marketplace, an efficient and professional solution that makes it easier for students, alumni, colleagues and friends to do business with your department or organization in an online environment. The WSU Marketplace provides a framework for departments, with the assistance of your Marketplace division contact, to set up and maintain your own web-based 'store'. This tool provides your organization all that is needed to accept real-time, secure and encrypted online payments in the form of credit card or electronic check.

WSU Marketplace Division Contacts:

Student Affairs – Dave Taylor  
Academic Affairs – Clayton Anderson  
Information Technology – Jean Fruth  
University Relations – Carol Ruden  
Administrative Services – Mark Read

This e-Commerce tool provides departments the ability to manage the content, look and feel of the website as well as the ability to monitor orders, inventory, and purchases. It uses the familiar shopping-cart theme so it's easy for 'buyers' to browse, buy and pay for products, events, services. Finance Services will assist with reconciliation and processing



revenue distribution to appropriate departments.

For more information, contact your Division Contact listed above

## Weber State Network Engineer Interviewed in *Network World*

Systems & Network Management

Weber State University was recently mentioned in two separate *Network World* articles entitled "13 Free Tools Ease IT Management" and "Freeware: Here, There and Everywhere." These articles include an interview with Weber State Network Engineer, Tristan Rhodes. Rhodes provides insight on some of the useful open source tools that are being used at WSU. These free tools allow the networking team to provide a stable and high-performance IT service to students, faculty, and staff. All of this is accomplished without purchasing expensive software licenses.

Here is a snippet of the interview:

-- Why did you start using ZipTie? What problem were you looking to solve?

**We have over 700 network devices across our campus. We need to know what devices are plugged into our network and what the configurations of those devices are. If a device fails, we want to have a configuration backup available so that we can quickly replace the device. schedule configuration backups of those devices.**

-- What about ZipTie would you recommend to others?

**Ziptie is very easy to install, it supports multiple device vendors, and it runs on multiple operating systems. If you get involved in the ZipTie community you will quickly**

-- Do you use other open source or freeware applications? If yes, which and why?

**Yes, we use a large number of open source network management and security tools. Our CIO, Don Gardner (CIO), has been very supportive of open source adoption at WSU.**

## How Much SPAM? (Be thankful you aren't getting more!)

By Gursharan Singh, Systems & Network Management

At Weber State, approximately 500,000 -600,000 messages are received per day. Of those, approximately 300,000 messages are SPAM. We are also fighting almost 120,000 harvest attacks (viruses to steal e-mail addresses) per day.

In just a few years, unsolicited commercial e-mail, also known as spam, has gone from being a minor nuisance to a major economic and social issue. According to many estimates, it now represents as much as three quarters of the world's e-mail traffic. Processing and managing spam creates costs that are ultimately paid for by businesses and personal e-mail users.

Today spam is a household word, since 70-80% of all email traffic is spam. Spam is usually illegal not only because of the means used to advertise the goods, but also because the goods and services being offered are illegal in themselves.

Harvested address spam is probably the most common type of spam. The spammers use a computer system to check almost every website on the internet. It looks at the code of every web page, it looks for the '@' symbol. When it finds that symbol it knows it's found an email address. It then collects either side of the '@' symbol to capture your email address and add

it to the spammers database of millions of harvested addresses.

## Faculty Technology Menu

May we suggest...

### Educational Technology Specialists

Technology Services has redesigned the STCs' program to form the Educational Technology Specialists program, under the direction of Judy King, IT Education & Communication Coordinator.

The ETS can come to your office to work with you on your own computer, work with you on your own laptop in the Faculty/Staff Computer Lab (Lampros 215) or on the machines in the Lab, both PC and Mac. These student workers have been trained on a wide variety of campus computer applications used for instructional or office productivity. These include: FrontPage, Word, PhotoShop, PowerPoint, Excel, GroupWise, WordPerfect, Publisher, Dreamweaver, and WSUOnline Designer.

To make a request for assistance, please call the ETS Office (LP 216) at 626-7563.

## Coming Next Month!

Is Santa bringing down the network on Christmas??!?!?!?