

# Weber State University's IT'S NEWS

a monthly publication of the WSU Information Technology Division

# UPDATE



## Lynx Self-Service & INB Upgrade Over Fall Break

The WSU LYNX system is being upgraded to Banner Release 7.5 to provide additional features and functionality. **LYNX administrative systems will be unavailable during Fall Break from Friday, October 19 through Sunday, October 21.**

## Weber.edu Advanced Search

By Peter Waite, Web Development

Can't find what you are looking for? The Web Development team recently upgraded Weber.edu's Advanced Search tool to use Google's Custom Search tools.

What does this mean? The Advanced Search uses Google's famous search methodology and index of all university web content on weber.edu to help you better find even the most obscure web page. It presents search results in a familiar, easy to read format. Advanced Search, in combination with Basic Search and the A-Z Index, provide multiple and intuitive ways to help you find what you are looking for. You can access Advanced Search by clicking the "Search" link on the WSU homepage, or go directly to the website at <http://apps.weber.edu/AdvancedSearch>



## Microsoft Vista

By Russ Paige, Computing Support Services

As of today, there are some compatibility issues with Microsoft Vista and the WSU environment. One such compatibility issue is the Novell Client used to connect the desktops with servers. Novell's Vista client is still in beta version, not yet ready for release to the public. There are other issues with different software packages and MS Vista.

With this in mind, WSU is not ready to adopt MS Vista as the "campus standard operating system." However, testing will continue and when the compatibility issues are resolved we will then be ready to select MS Vista as the operating system of choice. We are confident that this will occur in the near future. We are predicting that the summer of '08 will be a good time to start implementing the change to MS Vista. Until then, it is our recommendation that the campus stay with MS XP to avoid certain known problems with MS Vista.

New computers are being delivered with MS Vista already installed. If you wish to use WindowsXP instead, please contact Computing Support. For those who stay with the Vista system, we will try to support these computers on a 'Best Effort' basis.

## Telecommunications going paperless!

By Tricia Porter, Telecommunications

Telecommunications is pleased to announce that we have joined forces with other Weber State online reporting services, and your Telephone

Departmental Usage Report is now available online in the eWeber faculty and staff portal. This new service means no more bulky paper reports through our campus mail system. We will be sending a monthly e-mail reminder to the designated department contact(s) to let you know when your monthly report is ready. The timeliness of reporting is one of the best benefits of this change, as well being easy to read and access at your convenience.

Reports (Crystal) can be accessed through the eWeber portal by adding the channel for Crystal. Once in Crystal, verify that you have the Telecommunications - Campus Access folder. If you need help using Crystal Reporting tools or adding the channel in eWeber, contact the IT Service Desk at ext. 7777. If you do not have the Telecommunications - Campus Access folder please contact Tricia Porter (ext. 7155) to have the folder access created.

Step-by-step instructions on how to access reports are given here: [http://departments.weber.edu/it/telecom/Billing/billing\\_instructions.htm](http://departments.weber.edu/it/telecom/Billing/billing_instructions.htm)

## Windows/Mac Licensing

By Shelly Belflower, Technology Services

With the new hardware changes in Apple's Mac computers, end users can now install both the latest Mac OS and Windows OS. These new changes, however, can complicate the cost issues for end users. Anyone on campus purchasing a Mac computer that intends to run both the Mac OS and Windows will be charged a Microsoft Bundle Charge of \$85 by Technology Services. This charge applies to all new computer

purchases running Microsoft products, specifically any that will install and run a Windows Operating System. Faculty and staff who plan to install both operating systems will need to use one of the following special software to set up their computer. **1) Bootcamp software which comes with Apple's Mac computer**, may be used. It allows the user to select the operating system when the computer is started, or **2) Parallels software which will allow users to run Windows at the same time as the Mac OS**. Computing Support Services has purchased extra copies of Parallels at a volume discount price, which are available on a "first come, first served" basis. Please call the IT Service Desk for more information at 626-7777.

## Novell GroupWise and Performance

By Stephen Cobb, Systems & Network Management

The WSU GroupWise post offices have been running on aging machines for several years now. These machines were underpowered for today's high number of eMail messages with only six machines dedicated to mail delivery. We are pleased to report that The IT Division has replaced these machines and has added two additional machines for a total of eight. Each of the new machines is five times more powerful than the best machine being replaced.

The new GroupWise hardware is in place and the migration of the post offices to the new equipment has been successfully completed. We will closely monitor the performance of GroupWise on the newer/faster machines through the month of September.

Please be alert to any issues that may arise as an inherent part of this new technology deployment and call x7777 to report any service abnormalities. The WSU Service Desk has new

tracking and organizing software that assists IT in isolating problems and coordinating efforts to improve service. Thank you for your help in this critical effort!

## Video Conferencing has expanded its Boundaries

By Bob King, Multimedia Services

Video conferencing has been around for over thirty years bringing people together with two-way visual image and audio. Higher Ed in the state of Utah has always been very active in providing video conferencing capabilities. In the beginning, microwave systems were incorporated and each facility had to have a tower and microwave dish installed. Then fiber optics came into the scene and made it more cost effective to participate in video conferencing. Both technologies had limitations and communicating outside Utah was very rare.

With the development of the Internet network, its expanding bandwidth and standards like (H.323), live audio and video can be transmitted easily. All educational institutions within Utah and most educational institutions throughout the U.S. and other countries have a connection to the Internet. Now there are no distance limitations and video conferences can occur with other locations around the world.

MultiMedia Services in Lampros Hall has this technology in place and uses it for traditional distance learning classes offered to specific locations. Morgan has a satellite campus and Weber offers traditional courses to that location. Currently this semester, Psychology 2000 is offered through this venue.

Through this tool we have the ability to bring guest instructors or field experts to a class via video conferencing. Dr. Sline in Communications had a nationally recognized author talk with his class on ethics in journalism. An

instructor can have classes interact with other classes at other institutions. Both Visual Arts and Teacher Education departments have had students collaborate with students at other institutions across the country to bring a broader perspective to what the students learn.

If you would like more information, contact Bob King at extension 6865 for e-mail [rking@weber.edu](mailto:rking@weber.edu).

## Faculty Technology Menu

May we suggest...



Used by thousands of institutions in over eighty countries, Turnitin's comprehensive plagiarism prevention system lets you quickly and effectively check all of your students' work in a fraction of the time necessary to scan a few suspect papers using a search engine.

In the best implementation of the system, students and instructors will use Turnitin as a part of their drafting process. Ideally, before the student turns in an assignment, an instructor will ask (or require) each student to submit it to Turnitin.com to generate an "originality report," which the student could then use to ensure that the document is cited as appropriately.

In other words, we encourage instructors to use Turnitin.com as a part of the writing process—and therefore as part of the learning process—and not as some final way to "catch" the student. In fact, we hope that Turnitin.com would never be used as a trap. For more information, see <http://weber.edu/turnitin>