# Major Information Technology Initiatives

## UWF Information Technology Strategic Plan
The University Planning Council’s Information Technology Committee (UPC-IT) presented a proposed *UWF Information Technology Strategic Plan* to the Council on May 15. The Council approved the plan. The plan outlines six strategic goals for information technology across the University, with near-term and mid-term priorities identified for each goal.

Information Technology Services (ITS) has adopted the six strategic goals of the Plan as the guiding strategic goals for the ITS department.

The Information Technology Strategic Plan is available in UPIC, in NAUTICAL, and at the ITS Online web site at http://nautical.uwf.edu/utility/itsweb/main.cfm?action=Plans_3860.

## Student Access to Technology Fee
The UPC-IT Committee presented its proposal for a Student Access to Technology Fee to the University Planning Council on May 15. The Council approved the proposal. At present, however, actions of the Florida Legislature prevent implementation of a student technology fee.

## Learning Management System (LMS)
As contract negotiations with Desire2Learn continued, UWF began implementation planning for the system. The Center for University Teaching and Learning (CUTL) hosted Desire2Learn training for the faculty participating in the summer faculty laptop program. ITS hosted Desire2Learn training for system administrators and helpdesk staff.

The Florida Virtual Campus finalized a Desire2Learn licensing agreement on May 20th; UWF will license Desire2Learn under the terms of that agreement, with additional provisions specific to UWF. A system implementation team has been formed, co-lead by Sylvia Maxwell and Melanie Haveard. The team includes college system administrators, CUTL staff, Library staff, and ITS.

Current timelines call for a test Desire2Learn system to be available on June 13; a production system on June 23; and a full-featured production system with UWF-requested customizations on July 31. UWF's Prometheus license will expire on July 31.

## Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System
The Banner project gathered momentum in May, with ongoing training and consulting sessions. The project management team completed several key project plans and documents, and created a Data Standards Committee to interface with other areas of the University regarding data formats and coding standards related to Banner. The Finance System team concentrated on developing a final implementation strategy and developing a revised chart of accounts for UWF. The Human Resources System team worked on a variety of data issues. For more information, see the May project status report on the UWF Banner Project web site at http://uwf.edu/uwfbanner.
National LambdaRail and Florida LambdaRail

In May, the Florida LambdaRail LLC company was officially formed as a consortium of eight public and private universities in Florida, including UWF. Florida LambdaRail (FLR) is a member of National LambdaRail Inc., a 501(c)(3) compliant corporation that exists for the purpose of building a national high-speed research and education network. UWF’s membership in FLR was made possible by funding support from the UWF Foundation.

In the months ahead, FLR will build a state-wide high-speed network linking the eight member institutions; the initial phases of this network are scheduled to become operational in December 2004. The FLR network will provide its members with high-speed connectivity to the National LambdaRail network, Internet2, and the commercial Internet. FLR member institutions may sponsor associate members, who can contract for services from the FLR network.

At UWF, as funding permits, our network backbone will be upgraded to accommodate the 10 Gbps (gigabits-per-second) bandwidth provided by FLR. Selected building networks will be upgraded to 1- and 10-Gbps connectivity to meet the needs of UWF researchers requiring high bandwidth capacity. UWF’s current Internet bandwidth is 21 Mbps; the FLR bandwidth is approximately 476 times greater.

Other News

FIRN2

Effective July 1, the Florida Information Research Network (FIRN) will be outsourced to a commercial network operated by Hayes, known as FIRN2. UWF gains access to the Internet via FIRN, and will now be served by the FIRN2 network.

In the outsourcing contract for FIRN2, the network needs of UWF and Florida Gulf Coast University – the only universities using FIRN for Internet access – were overlooked. In May, UWF obtained a commitment from the Department of Education to fund UWF’s and FGCU’s basic FIRN2 use for the next fiscal year. However, UWF must pay for Internet bandwidth use beyond the minimum amount of 12 Mbps provided by DOE, and must also pay to maintain equipment used to connect to FIRN2. ITS has contracted with FIRN2 for 21 Mbps of Internet bandwidth for UWF; the increased costs related to FIRN2 use for UWF will amount to approximately $24,000 in the 2003-04 fiscal year.

We hope that by the start of the 2004-05 fiscal year, the FLR network will be providing UWF’s Internet connectivity, in place of FIRN2.

ArgoMail System Problems

In May, electrical problems in the Building 79 data center led to equipment failures in the faculty/staff email system. This created a one-day outage, and led to several subsequent email problems. For full details, see the article in ITS News at http://nautical.uwf.edu/utility/itsweb/main.cfm?action=article_4116.
Gramm-Leach-Billey Act

On May 23, the initial provisions of the Gramm-Leach-Billey Act took effect. This Federal Trade Commission Rule – also known as the Safeguards Rule – requires financial institutions to maintain the security and confidentiality of customer records. The FTC has determined that universities fall under the definition of “financial institutions” in their activities of extending student loans and financial aid.

A multi-department team headed by Betsy Bowers, Associate Vice President for Internal Audit and Management Consulting, is coordinating UWF’s response to the GLB Act. This team is reviewing controls and procedures related to the security of student financial information in both electronic and hardcopy formats, to ensure the University is in full compliance with the Act.

Classroom Projector Security

In May, another classroom technology projector was stolen from a UWF classroom. This brings the total of stolen projectors to seven thus far in the 2002-03 academic year.

ITS is retrofitting projectors in ITS-supported classrooms with improved physical security controls. As funding permits, projectors are also being connected to a security monitoring network that will sound alarms with Campus Security when a campus projector is disconnected from the network.

FACTS Project

In May, UWF completed delivery of a web-based admissions application that is interfaced to the Florida Academic Counseling and Tracking for Students (FACTS) system, completing UWF’s requirements for Phase IV of the statewide FACTS system project. UWF will now begin the mandated work on FACTS Phase V, which includes articulated 2+2 degree evaluation processing and electronic processing of transient student forms.

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