At its March 25 meeting with President Cavanaugh, the Learning Management System (LMS) Selection Committee tentatively selected Desire2Learn as the LMS system to replace Prometheus for UWF. The Committee and ITS are still subjecting the system to various tests, including verifying its ability to import textbook publisher content that is formatted for Blackboard or WebCT.

We currently plan that the system will be hosted at an external site rather than at UWF. At present, we do not plan to renew our Prometheus license when it expires on June 30; rather, the Committee has determined that the migration to Desire2Learn should begin with summer term courses. Approximately fifteen summer term courses currently rely on Prometheus and would be affected.

For more information about Desire2Learn, see http://www.desire2learn.com. For more information about the LMS Selection Committee, please contact the committee chair, Dr. Gary Howard.


We have renewed our Microsoft Campus Agreement site license for another year; however, there are some changes in the licensing that will affect UWF, primarily in two areas.

First, Microsoft has altered the work-at-home rights, whereby faculty and staff may utilize the site license on their personally-owned computers for university-related business. Microsoft now has different media for the work-at-home software, which comes on CDs that cannot be duplicated, and that limit the number of software installations to two per CD. Under the new license, faculty and staff are explicitly prohibited from using the university CDs and university license key on their personally-owned computers. ITS is working with the UWF bookstore to have the work-at-home CDs – which are priced at a minimal charge of around $4 per disk – sold in the bookstore for faculty and staff. Under the new license, the Library and ITS are expressly prohibited from duplicating or loaning university CDs to employees for their home use.

The other change is in the version of Visual Studio covered by the license, which is now the academic version, rather than the professional edition. ITS is working with lab managers to insure that the images on computer lab workstations are changed appropriately.

ArgoNet II will be released on April 30.

The next version of the ArgoNet environment for UWF will be released on April 30, with the deployment of ArgoNet II. All ArgoNet services – including ArgoNet-enabled computer labs and related services such as central disk storage – will be unavailable from 9:00 AM on April 29 until 8:00 AM on April 30, as the conversion takes place.

The purpose of ArgoNet II is to prepare for a flexible computing environment where resources can be utilized from a variety of locations – including broadly on the Internet and via wireless networking – rather than being limited to UWF computer labs.
The major changes in ArgoNet II include the following:

- Novell is replaced by Microsoft Active Directory Service (ADS). ADS will be the foundation for allowing flexible control of access to information technology resources across the University.
- Novell is also replaced as the central file and data storage platform.
- Users will have a new web interface to manage all of their ArgoNet accounts and related settings.

The biggest change in ArgoNet II comes in the new central file and disk storage environment, called ArgoFiles. ArgoFiles will include a web interface, providing users with easy access to their "home" and "web" ("H:" and "I:" drives) from anywhere on the Internet. The standard disk quota on student accounts is being doubled, to 200 MB. Faculty and staff accounts will have a disk quota of 500 MB; department and organization accounts will have a quota of 1 GB. ITS will be putting a mechanism in place for department and organization users to "rent" additional disk space above the standard quota, and these quotas will be annually reviewed by the Information Technology Committee. ITS will also create a mechanism for students enrolled in specified courses to have larger-than-normal disk quotas, if needed by a course.

ITS has been working closely with the computing Local Support Providers (LSPs), especially those who manage computer labs, to prepare for the conversion. LSPs will now be able to integrate their servers, labs, and other resources into the ADS environment. ITS will enable LSPs to specify and use groups of user accounts (for example, "all psychology students"), so that students will be able to access both university and departmental resources using their ArgoNet account.

For more information on ArgoNet II, see the project’s information in ITS Online at http://nautical.uwf.edu/utility/itsweb/main.cfm?action=projects_636.

In March, the major focus of the Banner project was training. The Coordinating Committee finished defining project teams and procedures, and also attended the annual SCT Users Summit. System analysis is now underway in both the Human Resources and Finances areas.

An internal project kickoff meeting will occur on April 17 for all personnel directly involved in the project, including "interested parties" (such as college business managers) who will be heavily affected by the project. A university-wide project information meeting is planned for the fall.

Team assignments, steering and coordinating committee meeting agendas and minutes, and the unfolding project calendar are all posted on the project web site at http://uwf.edu/uwfbanner.
National LambdaRail and Florida LambdaRail

UWF continues involvement with the National LambdaRail initiative, which is an effort to bring an extremely high bandwidth network infrastructure to Florida's universities. UWF is one of nine Florida universities currently participating in National LambdaRail. The local extension of National LambdaRail, known as Florida LambdaRail, will expand UWF's Internet connectivity by 500%, and will also provide connectivity to Internet2 and other research networks.

Wireless Networking

The wireless networking pilot project in the Library entered production on March 12. UWF library patrons may now use their own wireless laptops and PDAs in the library, or check out laptops available at the library circulation desk.

Two of the colleges have submitted their classroom wireless project proposals, and preliminary facility needs analyses and designs are in progress.

Plans are still underway to pilot wireless access to the southside dorms in ResNet following a summer term installation of equipment. Wireless networking projected from the Library will also be used to serve some booths for Festival on the Green this month.

Wireless equipment based on the new 802.11a, or "A" standard, is now being released by vendors. The "A" standard increases wireless network bandwidth from 11 Mbps to 54 Mbps. ITS will soon be testing "A" standard equipment at UWF.

Michael Dieckmann