Cloud-based Undergraduate Email

In May 2013, with the support of the University Committee on Information Systems and Technology (UCIST), and the Computing Technology and Services Committee (CTSC), Information Systems & Technology (IST) started an investigation into potential use of cloud email services for undergraduate student email.

After conducting a survey of preferences, participating in a student consultation organized by the Student Success Office, consulting with a number of campus committees, and performing a Privacy and Security Impact Assessment with the Secretariat, IST recommended moving undergraduate student email to the cloud in November 2014 (See: Daily Bulletin article, November 11, 2014).

A Cloud-based Student Email Project has been created to:

- Identify and document undergraduate student email requirements;
- Generate an RFP;
- Recommend a cloud service provider for undergraduate student email

A project team is now being assembled. Cassie Bechard will represent AHS on this committee. An RFP will be struck by June 2015 and sent to various e-mail providers (Microsoft, Google, etc.) Submissions and presentations will be held in the July/August time frame and a provider will be recommended by August 2015.

Cloud-based undergraduate student email will:

- Enhance the technological solutions available to current and future undergraduate students thereby facilitating/empowering their collaborative work.
- Ensure the sustainability of the technology environment to support undergraduate email services.
- Cloud-based student services have the potential to allow the University to be responsive to increased demand for our services while ensuring that our technology environment is available, responsive, recoverable, and compliant.

New Innovations in Learn

IST recently announced several new add-ons/enhancements to Learn:

- Adobe Connect - a web conferencing and collaboration service, integrated with LEARN. "Rooms" show up in the course, to deliver course materials (instructor with presentation), office hours, etc. They can be recorded.
- Turnitin - a plagiarism detection and education tool. A Turnitin dropbox can be added in a LEARN course, and assignments are uploaded for checking. Note: Instructors MUST indicate in their syllabus that they will use it.
- Maple TA - a quiz system based on the symbolic and computational Maple system. Quizzes are added in LEARN, with the actual quiz taken on the Maple TA server, marked there, and marks automatically sent to LEARN.
- Clickers - an integration allows the instructors to upload clicker responses to LEARN's gradebook. It's not dead easy to set up the first time!

For more information contact: Christine Zaza, zaza@uwaterloo.ca, x37808.
AHSCO Update

AHS Computing is working on a number of significant projects as part of our Annual Operations Plan for 2015. Highlights include:

- Investigation of an nVivo Server for AHS researchers and graduate students
- Testing/deployment of Windows 10 where appropriate
- Implementation of System Centre Endpoint Protection as a replacement anti-virus software
- Continued provisioning of Research Disk space to Faculty Research Groups

SCCM Deployment in AHS is progressing well. Recently, we have configured Common Applications (including Java & Adobe Reader) for automatic updating.

This has been a major step in the deployment of software to ensure that packages are kept current and secure. Extensive testing is done on campus and with our internal Vanguard group in AHS.

Keep checking your inbox for update announcements including the deployment of SCEP (System Centre Endpoint Protection) as a replacement for SEP (Symantec Endpoint Protection), commonly referred to as Anti-Virus software.

We are working diligently to remove all remaining Windows Server 2003 servers from operation. Currently, there are 2 in operation. Both have been scheduled to be retired before the end of life date of July 14, 2015.

Negotiations with our on-campus partners continues on a series of Service Level Agreements (SLA) for resources that are widely used in AHS. These include Connect and Research Disk Space.

Across campus: with the impending departure of current IST CIO Dave Wallace, it has been announced that Bruce Campbell has accepted the Provost's request to serve as interim CIO. This appointment will commence on July 1, 2015. Bruce will serve as the interim CIO until this role is filled permanently.

If you find our publication useful or have suggestions please let us know.

Crossing a Border: do you give up your Password?

In early March of this year, Alain Philippon, 38, of Ste-Anne-des-Plaines, Que., refused to divulge his cellphone password to Canada Border Services Agency during a customs search at Halifax Stanfield International Airport. He's been charged under section 153.1 (b) of the Customs Act for hindering or preventing border officers from performing their role under the act. M. Philippon intends on contesting the charge in court. At the moment, this question has not been litigated in Canada; this could be a landmark case.

If asked for a password to an electronic device, what would you do?

AHS Computing is recommending that you:

1. Do not risk going to jail
2. Login for the agent; hopefully that is enough
3. If they insist on the password, do it. Change your password at the first opportunity. Inform the University Secretariat immediately on returning to Canada.

As always, change your passwords frequently and do not use the same one for other resources. This will help mitigate the impact of such an event.

Undo & Redo

Keep checking your inbox for update announcements including the deployment of SCEP (System Centre Endpoint Protection) as a replacement for SEP (Symantec Endpoint Protection), commonly referred to as Anti-Virus software.

We are working diligently to remove all remaining Windows Server 2003 servers from operation. Currently, there are 2 in operation. Both have been scheduled to be retired before the end of life date of July 14, 2015.

Negotiations with our on-campus partners continues on a series of Service Level Agreements (SLA) for resources that are widely used in AHS. These include Connect and Research Disk Space.

Across campus: with the impending departure of current IST CIO Dave Wallace, it has been announced that Bruce Campbell has accepted the Provost's request to serve as interim CIO. This appointment will commence on July 1, 2015. Bruce will serve as the interim CIO until this role is filled permanently.

If you find our publication useful or have suggestions please let us know.

iPhoto

Apple has been including iPhoto with their O/S for quite some time. It does a great job of automatically downloading and sorting digital photos. iPhoto has some simple editing tools and lots of options for creating slide shows and publishing photo books. Aperture is Apple's upgrade to iPhoto and can be purchased through the App Store. Aperture offers more professional editing tools. Apple has discontinued development of iPhoto and Aperture. Both continue to be compatible with Mavericks and Yosemite. Photos is the replacement for both and due to be released very soon (early 2015). As Craig McDonald from AHS Computing says, "I have 10,000 photos currently in an iPhoto library. I was going to upgrade to Aperture, but I will now wait for Photos to be released. Reviewers have described Photos as a "Prosumer" (professional + consumer) level product. That sounds right for what I need."