AHS Network Gear Updated

Some of the network hardware that allows each PC in AHS to connect to the campus network, and eventually the outside world, has reached the end of its useful life. “End-of-life” for network gear does not mean that the equipment is breaking down or has become non-functional. Several factors contribute to hardware being classified as end-of-life. As with all electronics equipment, vendors are constantly improving performance and offering new features and improved reliability, which we can take advantage of by moving to new hardware. Also, for economic reasons, vendors discontinue older hardware which means we can no longer get service contracts, firmware patches, and parts.

This year, IST offered matching funds to each Faculty which has allowed us to offset a significant amount of the cost required to do the upgrades. IST identified the HP ProCurve 2650 as the replacement and HP is also offering a trade-in incentive to further offset costs.

The new hardware will increase our connection capacity in all areas of the building as well as improve performance by taking advantage of fibre optic uplinks that are now in place, but not being used by our current hardware switches. The first phase of the upgrade was completed in January 2008, and the second phase will replace eight additional switches that will become obsolete this year. The cutovers are being done before 8:30am in the morning to minimize downtime. Upon completion, this upgrade improves network reliability and serviceability as well as adding additional capacity for network connections in our wiring closets.

UW Wireless Upgrade

The UW wireless network is currently being upgraded across campus. Improvements to the on-campus wireless network once the new hardware is installed include greater reliability and capacity, and perhaps most importantly, seamless roaming between buildings without the need to re-authenticate. Over 600 wireless access points and eight Network Authentication Appliances will be replaced with an integrated commercial solution from Aruba Networks. The first phase is expected to be completed by fall 2008. An additional 100 access points will be deployed at a later date to improve indoor coverage in problem areas on campus, and later, additional phases will add outdoor coverage. Users may experience brief outages as new equipment is switched in. You can monitor the progress of the campus upgrade by checking http://ist.uwaterloo.ca/ns/uw-wireless/.
Did you know that PowerPoint has an option called "PowerPoint Presenter Mode"? This mode allows you to view a screen on your laptop that is different from the one being displayed on the data projector. It can show you, among other things, the slide, the upcoming slide, your notes, and a timer. For details on how to do this, check out this link:
http://www.ahsco.uwaterloo.ca/faq/pptpres.html

Heard about Microsoft’s Office Suite 2007? Want to know what’s new and better about popular components like Word, Outlook, and PowerPoint?

But are you concerned about adopting and learning another new version of software you use every day?

Naturally, with any new release, there is always a period of adjustment as we learn how to take advantage of the new features and its "look and feel”.

AHS Computing can help.

Back by popular demand, AHS Computing is repeating this seminar series based upon each of the components in Microsoft’s Office Suite 2007. Each seminar will focus on a separate component and highlight its new layout and features, and also offer tips on how to take advantage of its more familiar and favourite functions.

The seminar series will run over consecutive weeks beginning in May:

- Outlook 2007 -- Thursday, May 1st
- Word 2007 -- Thursday, May 8th
- Excel 2007 -- Thursday, May 15th
- PowerPoint 2007 -- Thursday, May 22nd
- Publisher 2007 -- Thursday, May 29th

Time: 11am - 11:45am    Location: BMH 3119

To sign up for the components of interest or for the entire series, just go to the website below and select the seminars you plan to attend:
http://www.ahsco.uwaterloo.ca/signup.html

We are quite excited about this series of seminars because we believe it provides a better way of introducing the components of the new Office Suite 2007. We hope you are excited about it, too.

For more information check out:
http://www.ahsco.uwaterloo.ca/news/

AHS Computing’s Digital Camera

For the past few years, AHS Computing has had a Nikon CoolPix digital camera available for loan to associates in AHS. A Canon G9 digital camera has recently been purchased to replace the (held together by tape!) old camera. The G9 offers 12.1 megapixel resolution, 6X optical zoom, macro focus capability, full auto or manual exposure control, and the ability to save raw (uncompressed) image files. Several presets also are available including: Sports, Night Snapshot, Kids & Pets, Indoor, Foliage, Snow, Beach, Fireworks, Aquarium, Under Water, Portrait and Landscape. A large, bright LCD panel offers image preview and accurate viewing when composing pictures. A viewfinder also is available. A USB cable connects the camera to any Windows or Macintosh computer for downloading of images. The built in flash offers good coverage with an available hot shoe to take advantage of Canon’s line of fully automatic accessory flashes. Contact Craig McDonald if you are interested in a quick tour of the cameras features.