

TLTR UPDATE

News from the Teaching and Learning with Technology Roundtable
Saginaw Valley State University

March 2006

HOT SPOTS ON CAMPUS

by Brian Mudd

SVSU Faculty should know that many students with wireless cards in their laptops can now access the campus network and Internet from various "hot spots" across campus.

All wireless service areas are 802.11b compatible at 6Mbps. Users must log in each time to authenticate their accounts. The wireless network also requires WPA Wi-Fi Protection Access security encryption on all antennas. The intent is to provide complete security for users' ID's and passwords. Instructions on how to implement the security protocols are available at http://www.svsu.edu/support/index.cfm?doc_id=4189.

Locations include all floors of the Zahnow Library, the Alumni Lounge, and the RfOC dining area. Regional Education Center "hot spots" include the RERC, the Apple Slice, and the atrium. A map of locations is to the right.

Wireless devices are registered to Campus Manager as if they're on SVSU's data network for Residence Halls (ResNet). Eventually, once CISCO resolves software issues on its antennas, IT Services will begin broadcasting two service set identifiers (SSID's).

"Right now we have only about 85 registered users on campus," notes Ken Schindler, Executive Director, Information Technology Services. Technical support is dealt with on a "time available" basis as there are also numerous wired ports and open computer labs made available to students.

Support for setting up wireless access on student laptops can be reached at the IT Support Center Help Desk x 4225.



● - Campus Internet Hot Spots

KEYS FOR AV CABINETS BEING PHASED OUT

by Brian Mudd

By the end of Winter 2006 semester, faculty will no longer have to scurry to find a key to access AV equipment in classroom security cabinets.

They will, however, need to remember their own personal security code.

In an effort to make accessing VCR's and DVD players in classroom cabinets easier, special electronic touch panel codes are being phased in this semester throughout campus. All 30 or so "basic" technology classrooms should be equipped by the end of the Winter term, notes Brian Mudd, Manager, Instructional Center.

"This is patterned after a similar arrangement that has worked well at Central Michigan University," Mudd explains. "The same AMX control panel which the professor uses to turn on the projector and operate the DVD player is used to gain access to the equipment." The locks also keep the cabinets secure in the event of power failure.

Instead of inserting a key to open the cabinet, users will now proceed directly to the touch panel, where a button labeled "OPEN CABINET" will appear in the lower left. Pressing this button will take the instructor to a keypad where he/she enters a personal four-digit code, followed by "ENTER." Faculty will be notified via email when the

classrooms they teach in are so equipped. The passcodes should work in any classroom in which the professor teaches, and are expected to remain the same each year for as long as the instructor is employed at SVSU.

Faculty with inquiries regarding the new system should call x 7468 or x 7475 for assistance.

TLTR Update Newsletter

Editors	Brian Mudd
Design/Typist:	Debbie Newton
Contributors:	Brian Mudd
	Deb Roberts
	Brandon Roth
	Janice Wolff

SECUREXAM

by Deborah Roberts

SVSU is piloting Securexam software which allows faculty members to test their students in an SVSU computer lab. Tests can be loaded in Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel or Blackboard format and will not allow the student access to other software applications, files or unauthorized Internet sites.

Securexam locks down the Windows operating system on the student's computer, allowing access only to a modified version of Microsoft Word, Excel, or Blackboard. Students now can prepare better exam answers that are easier for faculty to grade, and faculty will not need to worry about students cheating using their computers.

If you are interested in using SecurExam or want to learn more please call the ITD Lab, 964-7471, to set up an appointment.

Classroom Performance System Demonstration

Friday, March 31st 10:00 am
Alan W. Ott Auditorium
Regional Education Center

- See new products being unveiled this summer!
- See how portable CPS systems work with laptops
- See how other colleges are integrating this technology into their courses!

NEW STAFF TO ASSIST WITH TECHNOLOGY

by Brian Mudd & Janice Wolff



Ashley McConnell is the new part-time Classroom Technology Support Specialist in the Curtiss Instructional Technology Center. Ashley began work in the Winter 2006 Semester.

Ashley's primary responsibility involves assisting faculty in late afternoon and evening with classroom technology issues related to "smart" podiums, projection systems, and laptop usages.

Ashley can also assist faculty in the ITD Lab with Microsoft products such as PowerPoint, Excel, and Word, and Adobe Products such as Macromedia DreamWeaver and Photoshop. She also enjoys assisting users

with web and graphic design projects. Ashley will receive her Bachelor's degree from Saginaw Valley in May in Graphic Design.

Ashley's regular hours are Monday thru Thursday, 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. To contact her, please call the ITD Lab at x 7471.

We also welcome Trent Milligan, new part-time Technology Support Specialist in the STC in Zahnnow Library. While he is new to that particular space and role, Trent is quite at home at SVSU, holding an undergraduate degree in history with a minor in management. He is also an ITD lab alum, having worked there for three years with Deb Roberts.

Previous related work experience is his role with KCLICK program, an after school program whose mission was to help students with

Survey Measures SVSU Student Tech Proficiency

by Brian Mudd

Over 160 SVSU faculty representing 30 academic departments responded to an online survey earlier this semester pertaining to the level of student technology skills in their classes. The survey was developed using REMARK software and initiated by the Student Technology Issues' Action Team. Survey data was compiled by Student Technology Center Coordinator Tammi Waugh and Professor Deb Huntley.

Of the respondents, 52% were full-time faculty while 47% were adjunct. The survey asked respondents to differentiate their answers between students in 100-level versus upper division courses. Faculty reported that while nearly three-quarters of their students demonstrated acceptable levels of word processing skills at all levels, their students often appear much less prepared for assignments involving presentation and spreadsheet software.

While about 80% of faculty felt students at all levels understood how to properly email attachments, nearly a third described their students as "not proficient" in understanding differences in file types. There was also concern expressed regarding students' ability to understand what constituted legitimate web research versus general web surfing. Only 54% of the faculty responding felt students in freshmen-level courses could understand the difference; the rankings improved only marginally for upper level students. Similar percentages reflected a general lack of understanding regarding copyright laws.

The survey also garnered feedback on faculty perceptions of the Student Technology Center, now wrapping up its third year of operation. Nearly half the faculty (46%) responding felt the STC had been a helpful resource to their students outside the classroom, while almost 20% felt the STC's in-class instructional sessions had proved beneficial. Faculty familiar with STC operations were most likely to rate the Center as "helpful."

The survey was administered between January 27th and February 12th. Analysis of the data will continue by the TLTR during the next several weeks to determine how to assure necessary student technology proficiency.

learning software and other technologies. Trent's current role in the Student Technology Center involves work with assessment, interaction with students, and hands-on instruction for technology needs. Just recently, Trent helped a student with a senior project that involved the production of a DVD.

He invites students and instructors to stop by either the Student Technology Center or his office, where he would be happy to answer technology questions. His hours are noon to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, with extended hours on Tuesday evenings until 7:00 p.m.

