UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

One Stop | Directories | Search U of M

Current Issue

Archive

About

Contact the Tech Brief

Subscription Info

OIT Home

UM TECH BRIEF

Archive: November 2, 2005

No contacts? No links? No problem: send your inquiries and comments to oitbrief@umn.edu. Please feel free to send us feedback at any time

---

Security and Internet Services

Security home

SPAM AND VIRUS STATS
In October, 2005 central e-mail spam controls blocked 10,861,175 messages. Anti-virus controls blocked an additional 29,307 messages.

STORING PRIVATE UNIVERSITY DATA: RISK ASSESSMENT
Do you frequently or occasionally store private University data, such as patient health information, legally protected student data, and credit card information? If yes, review the risk assessment questions on Safecomputing: http://safecomputing.umn.edu/safepractices/riskassess.html.

FCC SAFETY NET WEBSITE
A new website called "OnGuard Online: Your Safety Net" has been set up by the Federal Trade Commission to provide information to consumers about Internet fraud, securing computers, and protecting personal information. See http://onguardonline.gov.

BOT HERDER SUSPECTS NABED BY DUTCH POLICE
Did you know? "Botnets are considered one of the most serious security threats on the Internet. These botnets are typically rented out to relay spam and launch phishing scams, which attempt to steal sensitive personal data for fraud. Botnets have also been used in blackmail schemes against targeted online businesses." See October 10, 2005 news items from CNET news.com: http://www.zdnetasia.com/news/security/0,39044215,39276456,00.htm.

JUSTICE! HACKERS JAILED
United Kingdom hackers were jailed for global computer worm. See October 7, 2005 Computerworld story: http://www.computerworld.com/printthis/2005/0,4814,105247,00.html.

WEB DEFACER SENTENCED, FACING DEPORTATION
An October 26, 2005 SecurityFocus news brief states: "The U.S. sentencing guidelines takes into account his prior criminal history and the financial impact of the crime." See http://www.securityfocus.com/print/news/11350.

Network and Telecommunication Services

NTS home

DNS SERVICES MOVE ON NOV 10
The network authoritative Domain Name Service (DNS) servers will be upgraded and moved to a new class of hardware to prepare for the eventual deployment of DNS by IP Anycast. Expect no system outage; this move is done as an overlay with the existing server. NTS is moving authoritative and cache name services (128.101.101.1, and 9 and 134.84.84.84 respectively) in preparation for a split of authoritative and cache services.

ABOUT CALEA, A FEDERAL ACT
The Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA) is a Federal Act, passed in 1994, requiring providers of commercial voice services to engineer their networks to assist law enforcement agencies in executing wiretap orders. (2004 court approvals for wiretaps across the country: 1,712 regular court approvals; 1,754 approvals from Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.)

CALEA AND ISPS: NEW COMPLIANCE BY 2007
In August, 2005, in response to a request by law enforcement, the FCC voted to extend CALEA to include Internet Service Providers (ISPs). Under this new revision, colleges and universities must comply with VoIP (Voice over IP) from and to the public internet services. Full compliance with this act is required by May, 2007.

CALEA AND THE U OF M
The recent Twin Cities campus network upgrade makes it easier to comply with the new FCC ruling. Now all NTS managed networks across campus have the same network equipment and are state of the art. A viable solution and response to law enforcement inquiries is being reviewed by NTS design and engineering staff.

NETWORK UPGRADE ON NOV 12
The next scheduled network upgrade is on November 12, at 6:00 AM for a telephone rewiring upgrade affecting Lyons-MTRF, CMRR, Integrated Waste, Buckeye Lot, and TransitWay.

NETWORK OUTAGES AND UPGRADES: KEEP UP TO DATE
NTS e-mails notifications for any network or telephone outage on campus as soon as they occur. Notices are also e-mailed in advance of prescheduled upgrades or outages. These notices are sent to subscribers who have registered with NTS. Sign up at https://adcsweb.micro.umn.edu/notification/index.asp.

SECURITY, DIVERSITY, REDUNDANCY
NTS is completing the first phase of installing more fiber cable on campus to provide for security, diversity, and redundancy for business continuation on the Twin Cities campus. The new cabling will add fiber to the interconnected campus via the Como Avenue and Printing Services area and the St. Paul Campus. The project is scheduled to end in the summer of 2006.

GOPHER GIGANET: FINAL CELEBRATION
On October 12 the final celebration of the Gopher GigaNet completion was shared with campus network administrators and all staff and faculty who assisted NTS with the entire project - from planning to installations. All were given a presentation of future services NTS is preparing. The Power Point presentations will be here: http://www.umn.edu/nts/projects.

Academic and Distributed Computing Services

ADCS home

RUN WINDOWS UPDATE IMMEDIATELY
We expect to see a fast-spreading worm similar to Blaster. Until updated, computers running Windows XP, Windows 2000, and Windows Server 2003 are vulnerable to an attack that could allow someone to take control of the computer, without the user's knowledge, via the Internet.

SSL: END OF NOVEMBER DEADLINE
We're nearly there. By the end of November all central e-mail accounts will be moved to the secure servers! If you're not using SSL, convert now. Generally, converting is simple: check a few boxes and type a number or two in your e-mail program's settings area. Troubleshooting assistance is available from 1-HELP (612-301-4357) and http://www.umn.edu/securecom.

MAC OS 10.4 AND SYMANTEC ANTIVIRUS
Symantec AntiVirus 10.0 for Mac OS X is available for use on computers owned by the University and for personal use with one restriction. For their personal machines current students, staff, and faculty can use either Symantec AntiVirus for Windows or Symantec (Norton) AntiVirus for the Macintosh. See http://www.umn.edu/adcs/software/security.

GOT WORMS? ETHERNET ACCESS TURNED OFF?
If you cannot access the Internet because your computer is infected, you must clear the infections from your machine to regain access. Today's infections can be complex. If you have one virus or worm, you probably have several; consider reformatting and reinstalling. More information on Safecomputing: http://safecomputing.umn.edu.

NEW COURSE: WEBCT VISTA COMMUNICATIONS TOOLS
Looking for ways to make teaching with WebCT Vista more interactive? Vista has several tools for setting up online communication between yourself and your class members, or between class members themselves. This new course will teach faculty and course designers how to use announcements, the calendar, discussions, mail, chat, and the whiteboard. See http://uttc.umn.edu.

BRAND NEW: LEARNING BYTES EXCEL COURSES
Is your data boring? Confusing? Impenetrable? Are you having trouble simply manipulating data in Excel? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then check out two of our new Learning Bytes seminars for Excel 2003: Chart Fun-damentals and Data - From Here to There. In the process, pick up keyboard shortcuts and mouse maneuvers. See http://uttc.umn.edu.

BRAND NEW: LEARNING BYTES POWERPOINT COURSE
Have you ever fumbled with PowerPoint when giving a presentation? Then this mini-course is for you! Learn how to use PowerPoint's built-in tools for running a more effective presentation. When you're up in front of a crowd, knowledge is confidence. See http://uttc.umn.edu.

BRAND NEW: LEARNING BYTES WORD COURSE
Are you spending too much time formatting and reformatting Microsoft Word documents? Frustrated? Bored? Drastically reduce the amount of time it takes to format documents by using Styles. Never heard of 'em? This class is for you! See http://uttc.umn.edu.

Digital Media Center

DMC home

NOV 6 TV SHOW: TECH TALK SEASON 4 BEGINS
Learn about things like home networking, blogs, and robotics, and see digital cameras, portable computing devices, and some of the other newest and coolest technological gadgets available. Watch Tech Talk on Sunday nights at 9:00 p.m. on TPT channel 17. See http://techtalk.umn.edu/schedule/.

DEC 7 SEMINAR: SHAPE AND SUPPORT LEARNING COMMUNITIES
In the "Using Technology to Shape and Support Learning Communities" seminar, panelists will discuss how technology can be used to facilitate the community-building process, from conducting needs analyses, to planning activities, to assessing student work: DEC 7, NOON-1:30 PM, 402 WALTER. The seminar also will be broadcast online. See http://dmc.umn.edu/series/fall05.shtml#3.

DEC 8 MEETING: EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGISTS FORUM
Hear how advanced Vista developers use SCORM to record grades of Flash modules and seamlessly integrate multimedia into their course sites: DEC 8, 3-4:30 PM, 402 WALTER. See http://dmc.umn.edu/etf/schedule05.shtml#2.

The URL of this document is http://umtechbrief.umn.edu/05/tb1105/tb1105.html
E-mail UM Tech Brief website comments to oitbrief@umn.edu