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Issue : January 9, 2008

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The **UM Tech Brief** is a resource for University of Minnesota technical support staff and department and unit decision makers.

Security and Internet Services

SPAM AND VIRUS STATS.

For the month of December:

[Security home](#)

Attempted 118 million
Accepted 23 million (20%)
Blocked 70 million (59%)
User Unknown 14 million (12%)
Grey listed 11 million (20%)

Unauthorized access 43 million (62%)
Spam source 5 million (7%)
Dynamic 4 million (5%)
Insecure 13 million (19%)
Protocol Violation 2 million (3%)
DNS problems 3 million (4%)

Anti-virus software caught 4283 messages.

Network and Telecommunication Services

WIRELESS UPGRADE.

OIT obtained Board of Regents approval to upgrade the University's campus wireless network service using a network solution provided by Trapeze. This new wireless network, which runs on 802.11n technology, introduces technological improvements in security, central management, network management tools, guest access, and more. The scope of the project is "replacement only," meaning that OIT only intends to replace all existing access points across campus. Attend a Town Hall meeting to learn more; view pertinent details at <http://www.umn.edu/wireless>.

[NTS home](#)

INFOBLOX CUTOVER.

This spring, NTS is cutting over its IP management from QIP to an Infoblox appliance-based solution, using the Service Gateway as the user interface. Infoblox has been providing DHCP services to campus Residence Halls since the beginning of fall semester. NTS is excited to begin using this tool for campus-wide IP address management, and to take advantage of the additional features and functionality that Infoblox offers. NTS will provide hour-long training sessions both before and after the cutover, beginning the week of January 14th-18th. For up-to-date information, visit the NTS website at <http://www.umn.edu/nts>.

NEW YEAR'S DAY OUTAGE.

A campus-wide telecommunications outage occurred during the transition from December 31, 2007 to January 1, 2008, due partly to the failure of the Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) devices that Networking and Telecommunication Services (NTS) uses for emergency power. Most systems and networks recovered within 15 minutes, and the remainder on New Year's Day.

NTS identified a software defect, and determined that the UPS devices initiated a restart at midnight that triggered their failure. Steps have been taken to ensure that it does not happen again. NTS apologizes for any inconvenience this has caused and asks that any issues related to this outage be reported to 1-HELP on Campus (612-301-4357).

Academic and Distributed Computing Services

ON-DEMAND TRAINING: YOU DECIDE WHEN AND WHERE!

January cold keeping you from getting the computer training you need? UTTC has you covered! We have on-line, self-paced learning materials that you can view when, where, and how often you like. Go to <http://uttc.umn.edu> and click on 'Tutorials.' Current topics include Gopher Messaging, Microsoft Office 2007, Moodle, M Key, myU Portal, NetFiles, UMChat, UMCal, and WebVista 4. Put away the gloves because you won't even have to go outside!

[ADCS home](#)

WEBVISTA: JANUARY TRAINING.

WebVista is course management software used to create, organize, manage, and host password-protected web-based learning environments. If you're totally new to WebVista, attend the "Instructor Orientation" on January 31 for an overview of features, tools and support. If you're ready for hands-on practice building a basic site, enroll in the January 17th "WebVista 4: Creating Basic Course Web Sites" course. For experienced users, an online overview of what's new in WebVista 4 is available to watch at any time. See <http://uttc.umn.edu> for details on all spring semester WebVista training options.

NEW INFECTION ALERT: FAKE CODECS.

This holiday season, fake codecs for video players were among the biggest computer threats. Folks downloading codecs needed for video players found themselves victim to viruses, malware, and the like. (A codec is software that is used to compress or decompress a digital media file, such as a song or video). Please keep your computer safe! Our Safe Computing web site offers the latest news, links, and assistance for keeping your computer clear: <http://safecomputing.umn.edu>.

Digital Media Center

ACTIVE LEARNING GENERAL PURPOSE CLASSROOM INITIATIVE.

Several faculty are participating with OIT and the Office of Classroom Management in a yearlong pilot project to investigate the ways in which changed space and technology can impact higher level teaching and learning practices. Read the Spotlight Issues article "Active Learning (Flexible) Classrooms: An Innovative Partnership Project": <http://dmc.umn.edu/spotlight/active-classrooms.shtml>.

[DMC home](#)

TEACHING IN AN ACTIVE LEARNING CLASSROOM.

Find out how and why Professors Maria Gini (Computer Science and Engineering) and Jennifer Gunn (History of Medicine) are teaching in the EE/CSci 2-260 active learning classroom. See the Exemplary Projects article "Live-wired Flexible Classrooms Energize Teaching and Learning": <http://dmc.umn.edu/projects/gini/index.shtml>.

REMINDER: GET READY TO TEACH WITH TECHNOLOGY.

DMC/ADCS staff members can help instructors and their assistants prepare to teach with technology this spring, but time is of the essence! Meet with consultants, hire video experts, get training, and more. Call 612-625-5055 (Minneapolis) or 612-625-8030 (St. Paul); or send e-mail to <mailto:dmc@umn.edu>.

UPCOMING TECH TALK EPISODES.

Our sixth season continues in the new year on TPT Minnesota Channel 17, Sundays at 9 p.m.: January 13, Technology and Renewable Energy; January 20, New News Tools; and January 27, Technology That Keeps You Healthy. For more information and to view past episodes, see: <http://techtalk.umn.edu/>.

ELI WEB SEMINAR JANUARY 14.

Sign up in advance for the Educare Learning Initiative (ELI) Web Seminar, January 14 at noon, to hear Gardner Campbell (ELI Advisory Board member and Professor of English) discuss the emergence of Web 2.0 and what it means for teaching and learning. For more information and to register: <https://www.educause.edu/ELIWEB081>.

ST. PAUL STUDIO OPEN HOUSE JANUARY 30.

Stop by the DMC studio in 69 McNeal Hall, St. Paul, on January 30 between 3-4 p.m. Enjoy refreshments, tour the suite, ask questions about evaluating learning outcomes, or share your plans for teaching with technology! For more information, call 612-625-8030, or send e-mail to <mailto:dmc@umn.edu>.

SPRING TEL SEMINAR SERIES.

Join us at the spring Technology-enhanced Learning (TEL) seminars, 12-1:30 p.m.: "The Secret of My (Simulated) Success" (February 6, 101 Walter Library), "Presenting Scenarios and Telling Stories with Online Video" (March 5, 101 Walter Library), "Authentic Learning with Online Video" (April 3, 105 Cargill Building), and "Insights from the DMC/OIT Faculty Fellowship Program" (April 23, 101 Walter Library). See: <http://dmc.umn.edu/issues.shtml>.

ETF DATES SET FOR SPRING.

Mark your calendars for the spring Educational Technologists Forum (ETF) sessions on February 13 and April 9, 3-4:30 p.m., 402 Walter Library. Check the Web site at <http://dmc.umn.edu/etf>, or call 612-625-5055 for information about topics and presenters.

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