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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 period 1/29 through 3/4:

[Security home](#)

Out of 74 million messages processed:

- 22 million accepted (29%)
- 360 thousand allowed through a block by the user (0.5%)
- 31 million blocked (41%)
- 228 thousand blocked by the user (0.3%)
- 7 million rejected by system (relay denied or unknown/inactive user) (9%)
- 14 million deferred (greylisting/rate-limiting) (19%)

INTERNET PASSWORD UPDATE.

Between February 9 and February 23, just fewer than 37,500 people changed their Internet passwords. Twenty people won a 1GB flash drive simply for changing passwords during that period (they were notified via e-mail). Change your password at <http://www.umn.edu/validate>.

Network and Telecommunication Services

GOPHER CONFERENCING AVAILABLE.

Gopher Conferencing is the latest service offering from NTS. A do-it-yourself service, GO4CONF offers TC Campus staff and faculty secure and private telephone conferencing. Conferences can be scheduled in as needed or in advance and reserved. Though all campus telephones offer three-way conferencing, this service allows up to 30 people at one time. A conference is scheduled via a web site, and offers options for e-mail reminders, passwords, address book use, recording, and more. Training and information sessions are coming soon. GO4 Conferencing requires a one-time set-up fee of \$25 for a "moderator" account. To be among the first to try the new Gopher Conferencing, send an NTS request via the web www.umn.edu/nts. Direct questions to 1-HELP or e-mail cover@umn.edu.

[NTS home](#)

NET-OPS AND NTS MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE.

NTS conducts routine maintenance and updates for the telecommunications centers/rooms and services on campus. Routine maintenance includes UPS testing and system upgrades. Generally, services are conducted in the early morning and do not cause service disruptions. E-mails are sent to the NET-OPS list. If you want to be added to this list, send e-mail to listserv@lists.umn.edu and put "sub net-ops <full name>" in the body of the message.

AUTOATTENDANT SERVICES MOVE TO NEW NUMBER.

All current Auto Attendants at the University of Minnesota TC campus have been replicated and will be moved to the new voicemail system and routed to the new Auto Attendant voicemail system forwarding number, 624-0023. The old voicemail system and forwarding number (625-7500) are being retired and taken out of service. If your department manually forwards your auto attendant to the 612-625-7500 number and you have not been contacted by NTS or have questions or concerns, please call 1-HELP (301-4357) or contact LIVE HELP (on the NTS web site).

GOOD-BYE USENET.

The central USENET News service (news.umn.edu) was decommissioned as of March 1, 2007, due to lack of use. Free alternatives include Google Groups and ugroups.com, and there are several for-pay servers that deliver various features (examples: increased article retention, bandwidth quotas) at various price points.

Academic and Distributed Computing Services

RETURNING COURSE! VISIO 2003: CREATING BASIC DIAGRAMS.

Are you looking for an easier way to create flowcharts, organization charts, and other diagrams? Microsoft Visio makes these tasks a snap! Go to <http://uttc.umn.edu> to sign up for this short course and learn how you can use Visio for visual diagrams.

[ADCS home](#)

NEW LEARNING BYTE! UMCAL: GROUP SCHEDULING.

Scheduling a meeting with a large number of participants doesn't have to be difficult! Learn UMCAL tools and tricks that can speed up scheduling group meetings and ease the frustration of finding available times. Search for "Learning Bytes" at <http://uttc.umn.edu> for more information.

MICROSOFT VISTA AND OFFICE 2007.

The U of M anticipates Microsoft Vista Upgrade and Office 2007 media will become available to students in May through the Microsoft Campus Agreement program. Students must be enrolled in at least one credit at the time of availability in May to be eligible to order the new software. Please see the UCS website (www.umn.edu/ucs) for updates as they become available from Microsoft.

ADCS SOFTWARE LICENSE PROGRAM.

Remember that ADCS takes advantage of bulk software licensing and wants to pass the benefits on to you! For a complete listing of software that we have available for license please see: <http://www1.umn.edu/adcs/site/list.html>. Looking for Microsoft licenses specifically? Go directly to this site to see what we have available for departmental purchase: <http://deptsoftware.umn.edu>. Questions or comments regarding Software Licensing at the University of Minnesota can be directed to software@umn.edu or 612-625-2310.

Digital Media Center

MARCH 7 TEL SEMINAR: MEETING THE MILLENNIALS HALFWAY.

Panelists will discuss how podcasting provides students with increased control over their learning environment; facilitates deeper learning; and provides access to subject experts and virtual field experiences: March 7, noon - 1:30 p.m., 402 Walter Library, also Webcast live and later podcast. See: <http://dmc.umn.edu/series/spring07.shtml>.

[DMC home](#)

MARCH 8 SHORT COURSE: USING BLOGS AND WIKIS TO ENHANCE LEARNING.

Participants can explore how blogs and wikis can be used to achieve learning goals for research, reflection, writing, and collaboration in a 3-hour seminar. The fee is waived for eligible faculty members. See: <http://uttc.umn.edu/training/courses/description.jsp?secName=TEL131>

MARCH 30 WORKSHOP: GETTING BEYOND COVERING CONTENT.

Larry Michaelsen will demonstrate a Readiness Assurance Process for developing students' higher-level thinking and problem-solving skills and will familiarize participants with a small-group based instructional format, Team-Based Learning: March 30, 9 - 11 a.m., Mississippi Room, Coffman Memorial Union. Registration required: <http://www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/Page6747.aspx>.

APRIL 5 TEL SEMINAR: ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL DESIGN.

Panelists will discuss principles of universal instructional design (UID), the benefits and challenges of using technology to address diverse learning needs, and classroom applications of UID: April 5, noon - 1:30 p.m., 155 Peters Hall, also Webcast live and later podcast. See: <http://dmc.umn.edu/series/spring07.shtml>.

APRIL 11 ETF MEETING: BEST PRACTICES OF BLOGS AND PODCASTS.

At the next Educational Technologists Forum (ETF) meeting, campus multimedia designers and developers will socialize and discuss "Best Practices of Blogs and Podcasts": April 11, 3 - 4:30 p.m., 402 Walter Library. See: <http://dmc.umn.edu/etf/schedule06.shtml>.

APRIL 16, 17 CONFERENCE: WIRELESS CITIES . . . COMMUNITIES OF INTERESTS.

Educators, researchers, project coordinators, funders, community activists, and policy-makers will discuss the implications of wireless communities at a conference held on campus. Keynote speakers have now been announced. To register: <http://dtc.umn.edu/cgi-bin/wirelesscities/index.php>.

APRIL 23 CONFERENCE: ENHANCING STUDENT LEARNING.

The ADT, Bush Foundation, CTL, and DMC invite University of Minnesota system faculty, instructional staff, and graduate students to engage in a conversation about the research and practice of teaching. Keynote: "Confessions of a Converted Lecturer," by Dr. Eric Mazur, Harvard University. See: <http://www.adt.umn.edu/conference07/index.html>.

UNICORNS, NET GENERERS, AND OTHER MYTHIC CREATURES.

The myth of Net Generation students is that "they know everything about technology." But data collected by J.D. Walker and his DMC research and evaluation team suggests there's a lot students don't know that could affect their performance in technology-rich environments. See: <http://dmc.umn.edu/projects/walker/>.

DMC, FACULTY, AND COMMUNITY RESEARCHERS AWARDED \$20,000 GRANT.

The Institute for Advanced Study awarded an interdisciplinary group of scholars and community leaders a grant to form a collaborative that will investigate on-line social networks. Membership is open to interested faculty and graduate students. Contact Christine Greenhow (greenhow@umn.edu) and see: <http://ias.umn.edu/collaboratives.php>.

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