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Reduced prices



University Computer Services (UCS) has reduced its prices of used computer equipment available for sale to the U of M community. All computer equipment is tested by UCS consultants and comes with a 30 day warranty.

For a list of refurbished computer equipment currently for sale, see the UCS web site at www.umn.edu/ucs and click on "Used Computer Equipment."

All computer equipment is on display in the UCS showroom at 2218 University Avenue, on the East Bank Campus. For more information or directions, call 612-624-4800.

UMN

■ Renee Rivers, UCS

Information Technology

Tech Talk provides digital technology information for Luddites and Techies

"Technology today is everywhere, from electronic dispensers that automatically deliver soap to the global positioning display in your SUV to the cells phones that take moving color pictures and act as video phones," according to Susan McKinnell, host of the new television show, *Tech Talk*.

You might be a self-proclaimed Luddite who sees these technologies as an invasion of dangerous, unblinking red- and green-eyed HALs. On the other hand, you might be an aspiring or bona fide techie who pictures these devices as friendly machines that will help us explore strange new worlds and go where no one has gone before. Or, you might be someone in between: an occasional cell phone user and web surfer who finds these technologies to be sometimes challenging and mysterious. Whatever your level of technology literacy, the producers of *Tech Talk* have designed the show to give you "insight into the technology we use everyday."

Premiere episode

For example, on the show's first episode which aired on July 6 at 7:00 p.m. on Twin Cities Public Television Channel 17 (the Minnesota Channel), guest expert Mark McCahill, the director of the University Technology Development Center, Office of Information Technology (OIT), University of Minnesota, and creator of Gopher, a precursor to today's web browsers, explained the different ways you can connect to the Internet and described how the Internet works in analogies that the most inexperienced computer user can understand. Information is passed along in a kind of "bucket brigade" from computer-to-computer in a series of intermediate steps, he said, and without security measures, connecting to the Internet does expose you to new dangers:

<http://www.techtalk.umn.edu>

“When you connect, one thing to think about is you’ve gone from having your computer being out in the woods, not talking to anyone, to being in the big city . . . and now it’s a little bit different. You probably want to pay a little bit of attention to security, just like if you move to the city, you probably want to have locks on your door.”

McKinnell and McCahill also demonstrated products and techniques that are probably new to even many experienced Internet users, such as how to trace the path a message you sent took to get to its destination and how different kinds of Internet connections actually effect web page downloads.

Professor Arthur Harkins, author of numerous recent articles on the economy, society, and computing in the future, then went on to describe how the Internet and related technologies are changing the way we live, and how wireless and voice technologies will support and improve human life in many of the ways of which true techies dream.

McKinnell also reviewed key information, including definitions of “tech terms” like server, modem, and download as well as McCahill’s advise about how to choose an Internet service provider; she concluded the program with a “For Your Files” segment.

Next episodes

New episodes in the same format will be broadcast at the same time on channel 17 each Sunday night for 12 weeks. McKinnell, a Minnesota native and technology specialist from the University’s Academic and Distributed Computing Services (ADCS), a unit of OIT, will interview technology experts and researchers from in and outside the University about everything from online services to digital cameras to computer breakdown, plus demonstrate related hardware and software, and end by reviewing “For Your Files” information.

Producers

Shih-Pau Yen, University deputy chief information officer, OIT, conceived the idea for the program. He originally wanted to feature the computer short courses that ADCS and the Digital Media Center (DMC), another unit of OIT, offer each semester to students and faculty and staff members. The program later evolved into a talk show format with a little “show and tell” about hardware and software tools

Air Dates	Tech Talk Topic
TPT channel 17, Sunday nights	
July 2003	
● 6	Connecting to the Internet
● 13	Virus Protection
● 20	Digital Photography
● 27	E-mail
August 2003	
● 3	Browsing the Web
● 24	Computer Breakdown
● 31	Online Services
September 2003	
● 7	Security & Privacy
● 14	Online Learning
● 21	Digital Music
● 28	Computer Games
October 2003	
● 5	Cell Phones

such as computer hard drives, digital cameras, MP3 players, WebCT course management software, and Internet browsers.

Tech Talk is shot in a studio on campus and at other technologically innovative places on and off campus, such as the University’s telecommunications hub and the Usability Services Lab in Walter Library. It is produced by the staff of OIT, the College of Continuing Education, and University Relations. The producer, Susan Tade, is a media producer at the DMC.

Companion web site

Viewers can ask questions about the show topics and find a wide variety of additional information on a companion web site at <http://www.techtalk.umn.edu>:

- an episode schedule
- guest expert biographies
- “tech term” definitions
- “For Your Files” information
- links to resources related to each topic
- streaming video of each episode after it airs
- the guest experts’ answers to viewers’ questions

■ Susan Tade, Christina Goodland, Digital Media Center, J. R. Eckert, University Relations

Microsoft

Campus-wide Campus Agreement



Academic and Distributed Computing Services (ADCS) has entered into a system-wide Campus Agreement with Microsoft Corporation. All campuses of the University of Minnesota are included in this agreement.

Through the terms of this agreement the most popular of Microsoft's software offerings may be used on any computer that is owned by the University of Minnesota. The list contains nearly 100 separate offerings and currently includes the following products:

- Windows upgrades (you must have previously purchased a Microsoft operating system for the computer to take advantage of these upgrades)
- Office XP Standard and Professional Editions for Windows
- Office 10.0 for Macintosh
- Front Page 2002 for Windows
- Publisher 2002 for Windows
- Core Windows Server Client Access Licenses (CAL)
- SQL CAL
- Visual Studio.net Enterprise for 32-bit Windows

You may use these or any older versions of the licensed software.

Obtaining the software

Distribution of most of this software is done through a web page. You can download images of the installation CDs to burn copies for use within your own department. Information about the agreement and how to get the installation media is available at <https://www.umn.edu/adcs/campusagreement/index.html?arg=30>

If you hope to use the software in a language other than English, read the footnotes to distinguish between products described as "All Languages" and those labeled "English/MultiLang."

Benefits of this agreement

The system-wide Campus Agreement provides several features:

- The licensed software is available for use on all computers at the University of Minnesota.
- Accountability for software licensing is simplified as a result.
- Upgrades are automatically available and may be used as they become available.
- Downgrades (e.g., older versions) are also fully licensed.
- The University of Minnesota saves on licensing costs.

Software not covered by this agreement

Licensing for products such as MS Project, Visio Professional, and others will be handled either by separate Campus Agreement subscriptions or through the Academic Select program that has been in place since mid-2002.

Information about both of these programs can be found here: <http://www.umn.edu/ucs/Microsoft/Microsoft-Dept.htm>.

Questions

This agreement is available now to all departments and colleges within the University of Minnesota system. Questions about this program can be directed to software@umn.edu.

■ Phillip Kachelmyer, Deborah Bangs,
Software License Program

<http://www.umn.edu/ucs/Microsoft/CampusAgreement.php>

At Your Service

Automatic alerts of relevant new journal articles delivered to your e-mail box

Nancy K. Herther, University Libraries, <http://www.lib.umn.edu>

Current awareness services are research services that deliver information, which you have targeted as critical, directly to you. These are now often available, freely, as saved searches that you can “pull” out of the database, on-demand, yourself; others are “pushed” to you on a regular basis, automatically, through your e-mail service.

In the June issue of this newsletter, we promised that if you used the Current Contents database AutoAlert service, you would save time, save money by being able to cancel personal or departmental duplicate journals, and save energy by having the tables of contents or key citations to new research delivered to your e-mail address. Have you given it a try yet? (The June article is available here: http://www.umn.edu/oit/newsletter/03/0603_itn/libr.html.)

“What information consumes is rather obvious: It consumes the attention of its recipients. Hence, a wealth of information creates a poverty of attention and a need to allocate that attention efficiently among the overabundance of information sources that might consume it.” ☞ Herbert Simon, economist

Are you ready for more, wonderful, time-saving, research-enhancing services from your library system? In this issue we will look at even more ways to help you with your research!

“In your thirst for knowledge, be sure not to drown in all the information.” ☞ Anthony J. D’Angelo, *The College Blue Book*

We all need to be aware of the research around us, not only in the core journals for our fields but also in those gray areas that surround our daily research. With libraries spread all over campus, information all over the web, and journals all over the academic map, users often feel set adrift. Not any more! Through the University Libraries, any campus user — faculty, staff, or student — can design their own current awareness service and have relevant, new bibliographic citations to key literature delivered to their e-mail address, generally on a weekly basis.

Sound too good to be true? Current awareness services (also called automatic alerts or selective dissemination of information services) are on the rise. Many of the core databases that the Libraries subscribe to today include these services as a part of the basic service for which we pay. In this issue we will look at the AutoAlert services available through the Ovid-mounted databases here on campus.

“It is a good morning exercise for a research scientist to discard a pet hypothesis every day before breakfast. It keeps him young.” ☞ Konrad Lorenz (1903-1989)

What is OVID?

Ovid Technologies, Inc. is a software company specializing in the development of text retrieval applications and search interfaces for journal indexes like MEDLINE and other databases. Ovid provides a single, powerful, easy-to-use search interface that allows you to search many key databases, especially in the areas of basic science and clinical literature. Using the Ovid system via the web has the added benefit of an integrated, hyperlinked environment; you can link directly to selected electronic journals from a MEDLINE search or link from a cited reference in a full-text article to a CINAHL record.

“As a general rule the most successful man in life is the man who has the best information.” ☞ Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881)

An AutoAlert search involves developing a search, saving it, and having it automatically run whenever the database is updated in order to give you the most current literature in your areas of interest. An AutoAlert search allows you to keep up with new research developments as they are published. While Current Contents is the database most often used for an AutoAlert search, you can set up an AutoAlert in any of the OVID databases.

“Everybody gets so much information all day long that they lose their common sense.” ☞ Gertrude Stein (1874-1946)

What's available?

Here on campus, we have a variety of databases available, through Ovid, for developing AutoAlert Services. They are listed here.

■ **AMED (Allied and Complementary Medicine Database)** is a unique bibliographic database produced by the Health Care Information Service of the British Library. It covers a selection of journals in complementary medicine, palliative care, and several professions allied to medicine.

■ **BIOSIS Previews** is the world's most comprehensive reference database for life science research. It covers original research reports and reviews in biological and biomedical areas. Coverage includes traditional areas of biology, such as botany, zoology, and microbiology, as well as related fields such as biomedical, agriculture, pharmacology, and ecology. Also included are interdisciplinary fields such as medicine, biochemistry, biophysics, bioengineering, and biotechnology. Nearly 5,500 serials are monitored for inclusion. In addition, the database covers content summaries, books and meeting abstracts, papers, and posters.

“All our science, measured against reality, is primitive and childlike – and yet it is the most precious thing we have.” ∞ Albert Einstein

■ **CINAHL: the Cumulative Index to Nursing & Allied Health** database provides authoritative coverage of the literature related to nursing and allied health. Virtually all English-language publications are indexed along with the publications of the American Nurses Association and the National League for Nursing.

■ **Ei Compendex* Plus** provides abstracts and full bibliographic citations for worldwide engineering and technical literature and encompasses all engineering disciplines as well as related fields in science and management. The records in the database are drawn from over 2,600 published journals, conference proceedings and individual conference papers, technical reports, monographs, and other materials.

■ **Health and Psychosocial Instruments** provides ready access to information on measurement instruments (i.e., questionnaires, interview schedules, checklists, index measures, coding schemes/manuals, rating scales, projective techniques, vignettes/scenarios, tests) in the health fields, psychosocial sciences, organizational behavior, and library and information science.

■ **INSPEC** is produced by the Institution of Electrical Engineers and provides access to the world's leading scientific and technical literature in physics, electrical engineering, electronics, communications, control engineering, computers and computing, and information technology.

■ **International Pharmaceutical Abstracts** provides worldwide coverage of pharmaceutical science and health related literature from 1970 to the present; it is updated monthly. Comprehensive information is included for drug therapy, toxicity, and pharmacy practice as well as legislation, regulation, technology, utilization, biopharmaceutics, information processing, education, economics, and ethics as related to pharmaceutical science and practice.

■ **MEDLINE** is produced by the U. S. National Library of Medicine; the MEDLINE database is widely recognized as the premier source for bibliographic and abstract coverage of biomedical literature. MEDLINE encompasses information from Index Medicus, Index to Dental Literature, and International Nursing, as well as other sources of coverage in the areas of allied health, biological and physical sciences, as well as humanities and information science as they relate to medicine and health care, communication disorders, population biology, and reproductive biology.

■ **PREMEDLINE (PREM)**, the National Library of Medicine's (NLM) in-process database for MEDLINE, provides basic information and abstracts before a record is indexed with MeSH heading(s) and added to MEDLINE.

■ **PsycINFO (Psychological Abstracts)** covers the professional and academic literature in psychology and related disciplines including medicine, psychiatry, nursing, sociology, education, pharmacology, physiology, linguistics, and other areas. Coverage is worldwide and includes references and abstracts to over 1,400 journals (and many dissertations) in over 30 languages and to book chapters and books in the English language. Over 50,000 references are added annually. Popular literature is excluded.

“It is a very sad thing that nowadays there is so little useless information.” ∞ Oscar Wilde (1854 -1900)

■ **EBM Reviews: ACP Journal Club** — consists of two journals: *ACP Journal Club*, a publication of the American College of Physicians, and *Evidence-Based Medicine*, a joint publication with the British Medical

Journal Group. The editors of ACP Journal Club screen the top clinical journals on a regular basis and identify studies that are both methodologically sound and clinically relevant. They write an enhanced abstract of the chosen articles and provide a commentary on the value of the article for clinical practice.

■ **Journals@Ovid FullText** is an aggregate of hundreds of scientific, technical, and medical journals from over 50 publishers and societies.

“Basic research is what I am doing when I don’t know what I am doing.” ∞ Wernher von Braun (1912 -1977)

OK. I’m sold. How do I get my own autoalerts?

Here’s how to develop your own, private subject profiles for your own AutoAlerts:

“Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge? Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?” ∞ T. S. Eliot (1888–1965), *The Rock*

1. Go to the Libraries web page and select the database that you wish to search:
<http://www.lib.umn.edu/articles/indexes.phtml>
2. You will get a general screen. Click on **Start Ovid**. Once you get to the Ovid screen, you will be asked to enter your University of Minnesota InternetID and password. Next comes a transition screen with useful information and news. Click on **Continue**.
3. Enter the search strategy you want to save. When you are satisfied with your search strategy, click on **Perform Search**.
4. Underneath the search history box on the Main Search Screen, click on the blue **Save Search History** link.
5. On the Save Current Search screen, select as an **AutoAlert (SDI) Service** under Save Search.
6. Enter a name for the saved strategy file and any comments you wish to make about the strategy. Then fill out the other sections of the form. If you forget to fill in some key information, you will be prompted by the computer to fill the information in correctly.
7. Click on the **Save Search** button, and you will return to the Search History screen and see a red message showing that the search has been saved.

Thereafter, every week when the database is updated, your search strategy will automatically be re-executed; and the results sent to you via e-mail.

“Knowledge is of two kinds. We know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find information on it.” ∞ Samuel Johnson (1709 -1784), quoted in *Boswell’s Life of Johnson*

What if I want to change my alerts?

If you decide to cancel the service or change your strategy, this can easily be done by going back into the database, clicking on the **Saved Searches** button (beneath the Search History box) and either:

- Click on **Delete Search(es)** to delete the saved search and end the service.
- Or, click on the **Run Search(es)** button to re-execute your search and make changes to the search. Go through the **Save Search History** process again.

“I find that a great part of the information I have was acquired by looking up something and finding something else on the way.” ∞ Franklin P. Adams (1881 -1960)

Wait! My favorite databases aren’t here

Never fear. In upcoming issues of the newsletter we will cover how you can do automatic alerts through tens of other databases here on campus. No research or researcher has been overlooked!

“If we knew what it was we were doing, it would not be called research, would it?” ∞ Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

Can’t wait until the next newsletter? Feel free to contact any reference desk staff member or your subject specialist for personal assistance. (For a complete listing of selectors consult this web site:
<http://www.lib.umn.edu/about/selector.phtml>)

“Because he did not have time to read every new book in his field, the great Polish anthropologist Bronislaw Malinowski used a simple and efficient method of deciding which ones were worth his attention: Upon receiving a new book, he immediately checked the index to see if his name was cited, and how often. The more ‘Malinowski’ the more compelling the book. No ‘Malinowski,’ and he doubted the subject of the book was anthropology at all.” ∞ Neil Postman

■ Send communications about this column to:
Nancy K. Herther, Social Sciences Bibliographer,
170b Wilson Library, n-hert@umn.edu; 612-624-2020



Don't hide this treasure

The University of Minnesota is a treasure to this state. It benefits not only those students who attend the University but also every citizen of this state. It's important that we do not hide this treasure, especially during budget tight times. We need to help every citizen realize the value of this University. If we don't, we will continue to fall victim to the state's budget crisis, with more budget cuts and increases in tuition likely in our future.

We must find fun and creative ways to share the wealth of knowledge that the University brings to Minnesota. *Tech Talk* is a good example. *Tech Talk* is a television program created by the Office of Information Technology for the purpose of making the rapid advances in information technology easier for everyone to understand. With *Tech Talk* we are taking the knowledge and expertise that the University has in the field of information technology and making it available to the citizen of this state in an entertaining, user-friendly format.

Tech Talk is economical too! We already have the knowledge experts; and since we're using the existing infrastructure of television to provide this content, our costs are minimal.

As a land grant institution the University is called upon not only to serve its students but also every community, family, and citizen of the state of Minnesota. Since television is the most popular and reliable means of reaching people, it makes sense to use it. Television programs like *Tech Talk* provide a means for the University to directly benefit the citizens of our state in a cost effective manner, and

Tech Talk gives us the opportunity to make known in a broader way the treasure that this University truly is to this state.

The University has expertise in many areas, such as agriculture, economics, business, political science. These treasures of knowledge can benefit the citizens of our state. Our challenge is to find ways to share this knowledge so that it will be interesting and informative to the general public. *Tech Talk* is one way that we are sharing the treasure of this University.

T*ech Talk* will air for the first time on Sunday, July 6, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. on TPT Channel 17. The program will cover topics such as virus protection, digital photography, and online security and privacy. The first topic we'll cover on July 6 is "Connecting to the Internet." I hope you will tune in and tell others about *Tech Talk*.

During these budget tight times we need to let the treasure of this University shine. With *Tech Talk* we are reaching out to our community; we are enabling the citizen of this state to benefit from the wealth of knowledge that the University has; and we are reinforcing the fact that this University has value not only to the students who attend here but for every citizen in this state.

For more information about *Tech Talk*, go to the *Tech Talk* web page at <http://www.techtalk.umn.edu/>.

■ Shih-Pau Yen, Academic and Distributed Computing Services and Networking and Telecommunications Services

The views expressed in this column are the personal opinion of the author and not the official view of the Office of Information Technology.

▼ **Help**

- Computer Misuse or Abuse (also see Procedure 2.8.1.1)
 - Emergency Network Help Line 612-625-0006
 - Non-emergency, e.g., spamming abuse@umn.edu

1-HELP 612-301-4357

Dial 1-HELP. Listen to the voice menu list of options.
Press the number of your desired option.

- Technology Help www.umn.edu/adcs/help

▼ **Modem pool for active UM accounts**

Internet/PPP: up to 53kps if v.90 612-627-4250
(56k K-flex, Flex56, X.2 protocols are unsupported)

▼ **Quick Guide**

- Internet/Email account options www.umn.edu/validate
- Office of Information Technology www.umn.edu/oit
- One Stop Services onestop.umn.edu
- Techmart www.techmart.umn.edu
- Computer Accommodation Program cap.umn.edu
- University Computer Services www.umn.edu/ucs
- MNCAT/LUMINA (Library) www.lib.umn.edu
- UM News Servers news.umn.edu

Associate Vice President and
Chief Information Officer, Steve Cawley 612-625-8855

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**Complete subscribe/unsubscribe details at:
www.umn.edu/oit/newsletter/subscription.html**

- Quick guide: the subscriber information we need for paper copies mailed to a UM campus mail address is listed below.

If you use a campus mail address, you will receive your paper copy sooner and will save us money.

1. the recipient's name
2. the recipient's department
3. the departmental mailing address (note: this address is usually different from your personal office address; the Campus Mail section of your on-line directory entry lists your campus mail address)
4. your campus delivery code — if you know it (we can look it up; we need it because the newsletter is a bulk mail item)

Newsletter subscription information and archives at www.umn.edu/oit/newsletter

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July, 2003 ver2

Add

Delete/Cancel *

Change Name *

Change Address *

Change Other *

* If you cancel or change a campus address, please tell us the **Rec#**. Tear off the end page and send the entire mailing label to us. Or send e-mail to: oitnsltr@umn.edu

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