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TechTalk

Watch TechTalk, where
University and local experts
discuss the digital technology
we encounter in our daily
lives.

9:00 p.m.,
TPT MN channel 17
Twin Cities

- Technology and Cars,
February 5
- Digital TV and DVR,
February 12
- Computer Breakdown,
February 19
- RFID Tags, February 26
- Traveling with Technology,
March 26

View the November, 2005
to March, 2006
Season 4 schedule at
techtalk.umn.edu/schedule

Information Technology

DMC Spotlight Issue

Collaboration and Community- Building with myU

Each month, Digital Media Center (DMC) consultants publish a "Spotlight Issues" article on our web site about a current technology-enhanced learning (TEL) issue highlighted at sessions of the TEL Seminar Series, in our classes, or at our program or project meetings. This month's article is below.

The University's customizable web site, the myU portal, is being increasingly used. In the fall of 2005, nearly 58,000 people logged in over one 30-day period. On October 18, just shy of 10,000 people logged in over 24 hours. A sizable

majority of these users are students for whom customized home pages have been developed and publicized, such as members of the Class of 2009. But other students and faculty and staff members are logging in as well. The Portal is emerging as a powerful tool to facilitate a variety of administrative tasks, including those related to the strategic positioning process, search committee work, and departmental and collegiate internal communication efforts.

This is because users who don't have programming skills easily can create Portal pages for specific groups of Portal members, as well as use built-in tools to collaborate and share any type of digital file with such groups. These groups include members of search committees, colleagues collaborating on grant applications, task forces working to develop

Do you
myU?

recommendations or policies, and faculty and staff members in particular departments, schools, and colleges sharing information with their students.

For example, the search committee for the dean of the College of Education and Human Development is using the Portal as a password-protected repository of their working documents. Several task forces, including Undergraduate Reform: Writing, AHC Knowledge Management Technology, and College Design: CNR/COAFES/CHE, are posting meeting notes, background documents, and draft versions of reports in the Portal as shared resources and using other Portal tools, like the private discussion board and internal calendar, to complete their tasks.

The Academic Health Center (AHC) is using the myU home page to deliver timely, specific, and customized information to students; for example, dermatology students can access information published by the dermatology department, the Graduate Medical Education program, the Medical School, AHC, and University Relations from a single location, a customized myU home page.

March TEL seminar

Please join us to learn more about how members of the campus community are using the Portal to improve administrative efficiency, facilitate the strategic positioning process, and support the undergraduate community:

Thursday, March 2, 2006,
12:00 p.m.–1:30 p.m.
155 Peters Hall, St. Paul,
Twin Cities campus

The seminar also will be available live online via Macromedia® Breeze™. Sign up at <http://dmc.umn.edu/series/tel-seminar-breeze.shtml>.

Scott Barnard, a senior educational technology consultant at the DMC, will moderate a discussion that includes the following panelists:

- Jonathan Binks, Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, Twin Cities campus;

The Portal is emerging as a powerful tool to facilitate a variety of administrative tasks, including those related to the strategic positioning process, search committee work, and departmental and collegiate internal communication efforts.

- Bob Rubinyi, University of Minnesota Extension Service and Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, Twin Cities campus;
- Janet Shanedding, Office of Education, Academic Health Center, Twin Cities campus

Bibliography

The following readings may help you prepare for the TEL seminar.

■ Coventry, Martha. "The Digital Doorway to the U: myU Portal Eases Communication and Creates Community." University of Minnesota *UMNnews*, 21 October 2005. http://www.umn.edu/umnnews/Feature_Stories/The_digital_doorway_to_the_U.html.

Coventry explains what a Portal is and how the myU Portal works. The article includes quotations from a student user and myU sponsors and administrators, as well as links to customized faculty, staff, and student myU home pages.

■ Digital Media Center. "Using the myU Portal." University of Minnesota, 23 March 2005. <http://dmc.umn.edu/spotlight/myu.shtml>.

This information was published in conjunction with a spring 2005 TEL seminar about the Portal. It includes an explanation of what a portal is;

screenshots of customized myU home pages for extension educators and Class of 2008 students; a bibliography of articles about the use of portals in educational settings; links to related campus resources; and a link to a Macromedia Breeze Live recording of the seminar.

■ myU. “PDF Help Documents.” University of Minnesota, 2002–2005. <https://www.myu.umn.edu/metadot/index.pl?iid=411659>.

This page includes links to support documents published in PDF format that describe how to create groups of myU Portal members, set permissions for Portal pages, and set up and use Portal tools.

■ myU. “myU Help.” University of Minnesota, 2002–2005. <https://www.myu.umn.edu/metadot/index.pl?id=77358>.

This page includes links to step-by-step written instructions and animated demonstrations about how to use the myU Portal.

Campus resources

The following campus services and sources may help you further explore how the Portal can be used to support collaborative and community-building efforts:

- Meet with one of our consultants. See <http://dmc.umn.edu/consultations/>.
- Take a short course offered by the University Technology Training Center (UTTC) to learn how to use the Portal. See the Short Courses Alphabetically page at <http://uttc.umn.edu/training/courses/alphabetical.jsp#P>.
- To access customized myU home pages that have been developed for different groups of undergraduate students, see the Portals for Undergrad Students Content Provider Info page at <http://www.umn.edu/ugportal/submitcontent.htm>.

■ Scott Barnard and Christina Goodland, Digital Media Center

Portal training

For registration, a complete list of training options, and complete training descriptions see the Short Courses Alphabetically page at <http://uttc.umn.edu/training/courses/alphabetical.jsp#P>.

Portal Workshop

Spring 2006: May 2, 2006

This 2-hour course teaches participants how to use the myU web portal as a tool for effectively sharing materials and encouraging online discussions. Participants will also learn how to customize myU to their personal interests. The myU web portal has been created to foster the development of communities of learners and facilitate communications both in and outside the University of Minnesota. myU can be accessed at <http://www.myu.umn.edu/>.

This hands-on course includes the material presented in the corresponding orientation.

Portal Orientation

Spring 2006: February 7, March 8

This seminar introduces the myU web portal. The myU web portal has been created to foster the development of communities of learners and facilitate communications both in and outside the University of Minnesota. myU can be accessed at <http://www.myu.umn.edu/>.

The material presented in this orientation is also included in the corresponding hands-on workshop.

This course is available in two formats: an in-person seminar or live online. The live online format enables you to participate in the seminar from the comfort of your own desk. You can ask questions, download course materials, and even chat with the rest of the class...all without having to leave your office!

For more information on attending this course via the live online format, see http://uttc.umn.edu/training/info/live_web.jsp



Comes to the University

The search engine that's become so pervasive that it's become a verb can now help University of Minnesota users search for local information. Welcome Google. The Office of Information Technology has obtained a Google Search Appliance (GSA), and it is now available to improve the ability of web users to find relevant University of Minnesota web content.

A tool for Webmasters, too

The GSA allows use of a familiar google-like interface to search web sites at the University of Minnesota. Webmasters at the University may obtain manager accounts on the GSA to allow them to create searches limited to their web sites and results pages with an appearance that matches their web site.

GSA advantage

Many University of Minnesota web sites currently use google.com's free University Search. Our Google Search Appliance offers some advantages over the google.com University Search:

- searches may include multiple hosts (versus a single host for google.com)
- pages are recrawled more frequently to update the search index (the GSA continuously crawls the University of Minnesota web space, attempting to reindex pages twice as often as they are observed to change)
- search managers may associate potential search terms with synonyms, allowing them to suggest alternative search terms to customers.
- search managers may associate potential search terms with "keymatches." The GSA search results are based on page rank, but Keymatches allow the

search manager to return links in response to specific search terms, similar to google.com's Sponsored Links.

Coming soon to a website near you

Many of google.com's search features are available on the GSA. Search forms using our GSA are beginning to appear on web sites around the U, and University Relations plans to add a search using the GSA to the main University of Minnesota search site (search.umn.edu).

A University-wide search using the GSA is currently available at <http://umn.edu/google/search>. Click on the tips/help link for more information.

Limited number of indexed pages

Since the number of pages indexed by the Google Search Appliance is limited by our license, we have excluded some pages from our search index. Among the pages not currently indexed by the GSA are most pages with "?" in their URLs, unless requested. Sections of many sites with "?" in the URL result in infinite crawl spaces (links to the same pages are represented by a potentially infinite number of URLs).

To request that currently excluded pages be added to our search index, please e-mail google@umn.edu.

Obtain a Manager account

Manager accounts on the GSA are currently available to University colleges and top-level administrative units. Online account applications, information for webmasters and search managers, and frequently asked questions are available at our support site at <http://umn.edu/google>.

The support site also includes instructions for adding a GSA search form to your site, customizing the appearance of your search results, and excluding web pages from the GSA search index.

If you have comments or questions, please contact our Google Search Appliance team at google@umn.edu.

■ Curt Squires, Academic and Distributed Computing Services, member Google Search Appliance team

Figure 1: Screen Shot of GSA Search for “password”

Advanced Search Search Tips
password Search ADCS
Searched for 'password' Results 1 - 10 of about 333. Search took 0.15 seconds.

[Next>](#) [Sort by date](#) / [Sort by relevance](#)

Change your Internet/e-mail password	KeyMatch
Password trouble? Call 1-HELP.	KeyMatch

Choosing a Good Password
... security > **Password** Guide. Tips for Choosing a **Password**. Overview. ... Each system or application may have different **password** restrictions or requirements. ...
www.umn.edu/adcs/security/passwords.html - 27k

Welcome New Staff and Faculty
... The University creates Internet accounts for all staff and faculty. Your account won't be usable until you "initiate" it by defining a **password**. ...
www.umn.edu/adcs/welcome/employee.html - 17k - 2003-07-01

Figure 2:
Screen Shot
of GSA
Search
suggesting
alternate
spellings

Advanced Search Search Tips
irock Search ADCS
Searched for 'irock' Search took 0.38 seconds.

[Sort by date](#) / [Sort by relevance](#)

Did you mean: [iroc](#)

You could also try: [iRoc](#)

irock Search ADCS

Powered by Google Search Appliance

Update: University Data Management Services

UDMS expands capacity and services

Centralized data storage

To service increasing demand for centralized data storage, UDMS-OIT expanded its storage “footprint” from 100TB to almost 300TB in December. (A TB is approximately 1 trillion bytes; one TB equals 1,024 gigabytes.)

Disaster recovery

This increase in storage is to facilitate a number of OIT’s technology initiatives, including providing faster e-mail access, providing low-cost storage for academic and research departments, providing storage for collaborative data sharing, and to expand the storage available for disaster recovery for critical production systems, like PeopleSoft and the Library system.

Beyond data storage

The expansion is not limited to more data storage; we’re offering more services, too.

Prior to October 2005, UDMS offered direct-connect Enterprise-class storage services via one of its eight FibreChannel-equipped locations (there are at least

two on each Twin Cities campus). Now, customers can reach the same quality of storage over the new Gopher GigaNet (GGNet), which was installed over the past two years by Networking and Telecommunications Services staff.

New services which are now available from UDMS over GGNet are:

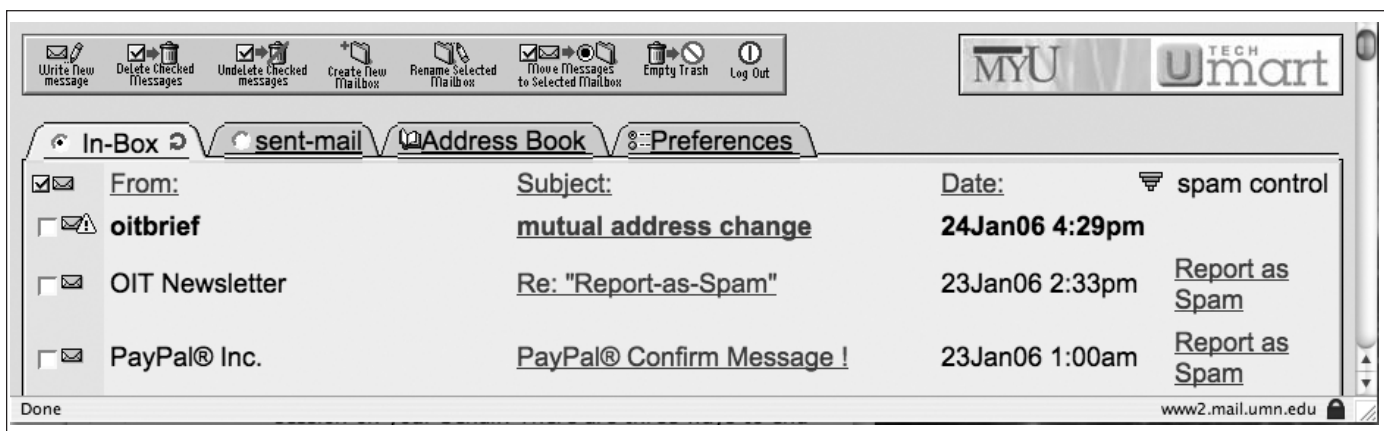
- NFS, for server-to-server shared data storage and
- CIFS, for workstation-to-server shared data storage.

By spring 2006, SAN (Storage Area Network) services over GGNet (called iSCSI) will also be available. For additional information contact udms@umn.edu.

Related newsletter articles: November 2004, New Service, New Department: UDMS; March 2005, UMSAN: Pilot to Production

■ Carl Follstad, NetBackup Service,
<https://www.umn.edu/ccu/udms/netbackup/signon/about.shtml>

WebMail Pro—Figure 1: Partial view of OIT Newsletter inbox and “Report as Spam” option



WebMail 3 is Here

As frequent users of WebMail know, a new version is available. In response to feedback from WebMail users we've been working on an update to the University's own web-based mail e-mail program for some time. WebMail 3, the new version, has a spell checker (called Noah), loads messages faster, and more; it's also kinder to the University's central e-mail resources.

Since Noah, the spell checker service, is application independent it can be integrated into other applications. You'll see Noah as part of University services and resources, such as the myU portal, WebCT/Vista, and Jabber/Chat/IM. That's good news to anyone who has to teach each spell checker they use their field's jargon and other special words.

WebMail 3 supported browsers

WebMail 3 supports these newer browsers: Internet Explorer (IE) 6+; Firefox 1.x; Netscape 7.x; Opera; Safari 1.x and 2.x. Java Scripting must be enabled for those browsers. WebMail 3 does not support older browsers, such as Netscape 4.x, Internet Explorer 5 and older, and Mac OS 10.2.8 with Safari 1.x.

WebMail 3 looks different but offers the same basic features. Like its predecessor it's not a replacement for a full featured e-mail program, but it offers an easy way to check your inbox from the Kiosks around campus or anywhere you sit down to an Internet

connected computer. (Kiosk locations at <http://lighthouse.micro.umn.edu/kiosk/>.)

WebMail Pro and GopherMail

You don't have to use WebMail 3, the new version, if it doesn't work for you. The older WebMail Pro will be available for a while. We're also testing GopherMail, which will support older browsers and will be available soon.

Junk and spam messages

You can still use either WebMail to quickly report spam or junk mail. (Eliminating the hunt for the elusive full e-mail header, a requirement to properly report spam and junk mail.) Like your personal e-mail address, the OIT Newsletter e-mail address gets garbage mail. Figures 1 and 2 give you a view of the OIT newsletter inbox and WebMail 3's "Report as Junk" link and WebMail Pro's "Report as Spam" link. Both links are on the right edge of the screen.

The past, present, and future

For an overview of e-mail and WebMail at the University pick up the February 2006 Techmart /Umart newspaper in newsstands around campus.

■ Tips from 1-Help, OIT's Technology Helpline. Access either WebMail at <http://www.mail.umn.edu>

WebMail 3—Figure 2: Partial view of OIT Newsletter inbox and "Report as Junk" option

The screenshot shows the WebMail 3 interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Mailboxes', 'Message', 'Address Book', and 'Settings'. Below this, the user is logged in as 'oitnstr'. The main area is titled 'Viewing mailbox "In-Box", page 1 of 16'. It displays a list of emails with columns for '#', 'From:', 'Subject:', and 'Date:'. The first email is from 'oitbrief' with subject 'mutual address change' and date '24 Jan 06 4:29 pm'. The second is from 'OIT Newsletter' with subject 'Re: "Report-as-Spam"' and date '23 Jan 06 2:33 pm'. The third is from '"PayPal@ Inc."' with subject 'PayPal® Confirm Message !' and date '23 Jan 06 1:00 am'. To the right of the date for the second and third emails, there is a 'Report as Junk' link. The interface also includes a 'Write a New Message' button and a 'Messages' sidebar with options like 'Check for New Mail', 'Select All on Page', 'Delete Checked', 'Un-delete Checked', and 'Move Checked to:'. The bottom status bar shows 'Done' and the URL 'www11.mail.umn.edu'.

▼ **Help**

Computer Misuse or Abuse (also see Procedure 2.8.1.1)
 • Emergency Network Help Line 612-625-0006

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

▼ **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/Umart www.techmart.umn.edu
- Computer Accommodations Program cap.umn.edu
- University Computer Services www.umn.edu/ucs
- U Libraries (MNCAT/LUMINA) www.lib.umn.edu
- UM News Server news.umn.edu

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

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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)

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Twin Cities campus address label trivia: 1st # is record #; 2nd # is your Campus Mail delivery code, http://umn.edu/lookup

Feb. 2006 v2 [pantone 295, featuring GoodDogBones]

Add (subscribe info below at ☆)

Delete/Cancel *

Change Name *

Change Address *

Change Other *

* If you cancel or change a campus address, please tell us the **Record No.** Tear off the end page and send the entire mailing label to us. Or send e-mail to: oitnsltr@umn.edu

