

Essentials

What is *Essential*?

In the last issue of the newsletter (*Discover*) from the computing support group (formerly known as ICAEN), I noted that we had changed our name. Because we are now the College of Engineering Computer Systems and Support, or CSS if you like abbreviations, it seemed appropriate to rename the newsletter as well.

One of the names we almost settled on was Engineering Systems and Support, ESS. We added "Computing" to better describe the area of our work. Nevertheless, I decided on *Essentials* as the newsletter name back when ESS was a possibility. Most of what gets published here is essential to understanding and effectively using the computers in the College of Engineering. So the name *Essentials* remains.

This newsletter is published several times during the academic year when there is important and accumulated information. If you prefer to read things a day or so sooner and on-line, read this on the web at css.engineering.uiowa.edu/documentation.

If you have suggestions for articles, questions about how to use the computers and software that CSS supports, or information of general use to the College, send me email (diana-harris@uiowa.edu) or campus mail at 1253 SC or call me at 5-5121.

Read on.

~ Diana Harris



New Name, Location, Facilities

Welcome to the College of Engineering Computer System and Support (CSS) laboratories. All the CSS labs are now located on the first floor of the new wing in the Seamans Center. These labs are operated and maintained by CSS. The staff at CSS has worked very hard preparing these laboratories for you to use.

At the conclusion of the spring 2000 semester, Elder and CAE Labs were put into storage while the new 1st floor labs were being prepared for occupation. The Engineering Electronics Shop installed the fiber optic and camera security systems. CSS, the department formerly known as ICAEN, continued operating Hering Lab and the remote labs as well as installing new networking gear into the new wing, testing the lines, and managing network moves for faculty and staff.

Server Room Moves in First

Early in June the CSS server room was moved from its temporary home in the Mechanical Engineering wing to the ground floor of the new

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wing of the Seamans Center; it became the first operational room with electricity and air handling in the new wing. (At last, a reason to air condition the building.) You can see the servers and related equipment through the observation windows of G511 in the new wing of the building. For reference, the server room is across the hall from the Biomedical Engineering departmental office and near the center staircase exit to Madison Street.

This summer the CSS staff and student consultants cleaned and prepared the east laboratory, 1220 Seamans Center. Each workstation was thoroughly cleaned and cabled on the new Hayworth desk system. We installed the final pieces of the fiber security system and positioned the digital cameras. Electricity to the south end of room 1220 SC was turned on 7 August 2000. The lab was tested for a week while the CSS system administrators updated the software and operating systems.

A Busy August

On August 14th Hering lab was closed and moved into storage. At 7:30am that day, CSS unveiled the College of Engineering new east lab, which is open a 24 hours/day, 7 days/week.

During the weekend prior to classes, we installed and testing computers in the general-assignment classrooms 1505, 2217, 2229, and 3505 SC. On Monday, 21 August, CSS debuted the Engineering Computer classroom, room 1245SC, 32-seat, hands-on instructional classroom. CSS now supplies in-house technical support for all five rooms from 8 am to 5pm; ITS handles after hours support for the general assignment classrooms.

On 5 September 2000, CSS will open part of the new west computer lab in 1231 SC. This lab adds 30 of the fastest computer workstations to the network. When everything is completed in that west lab, over 150 workstations will be available in the 1st floor labs.

Open Labs More Comfortable

When you visit the new labs, notice that we eliminated the entry door. The labs provide an open environment with large windows, six-foot

aisles, and more desks positioned for easy access. The rooms were designed for greater individual comfort. The lighting is 60% indirect, reflecting off the ceiling to reduce glare on the screens. The airflow has been balance for slightly positive pressure to reduced dust in the room. Splitting the labs into sections will help reduce ambient sound. The entryway affords a place to talk and pick up output from the printers, which are now in an area separate from the computers.

Windows (the Glass Kind)

These labs are highlighted by large expanses of windows, providing great visibility. When walking through the entryway, you can easily find an open computer workstation, teammate, or friend by quickly glancing through the windows separating the two halves of the room.

The Bad News

The labs are not lunchrooms; these are computer labs. Food and drink tend to destroy computers and make the labs unpleasant for other users. Remember: **No Food, No Beverages.**

The Good News

CSS offices are currently located on the first floor just down the hall from the labs. Go to the CSS main office, 1256 SC, to pick up your Engineering password and add money to your print quota. Take computing questions and problems to the CSS user consultants, in 1253 SC. The consultants will not do your homework, but they can help with computer problems, answer email questions, add paper to the printers, and fix the printers.

~ Chris Fomon



Class Accounts Forum Nets Communication Pilot Project

Faculty who attended CSS's first class accounts forum last spring requested an easy, automated way to send email to everyone in a class. As the number of email clients diversifies and entering freshman come with already established email addresses, it becomes increasingly difficult to create and maintain an accurate automated email list for classes. Some of you have experienced this difficulty when sending mail to an engineering account only to have it languish away unread because the recipient was not using their engineering account and was unaware of how to forward mail to their preferred account. [Note: we have account management tools on our web page that make it easy to forward your mail! Go to imap.engineering.uiowa.edu/mailtools]

In response to this request, we decided to initiate a pilot project to test out the listserve concept for class accounts to see how faculty and students like it and if it will serve the purpose of communicating important information to all class members. If you are unfamiliar with a listserve, it works like this: all class members subscribe to the listserve established for their class. The instructor (or owner of the list) sends a single message to the list and all those subscribed to the list get a copy of this message. Each student must subscribe to the list using their preferred email account. At the end of the semester we delete the list membership to start fresh for the next class.

We currently have 5 classes participating in the pilot and we could accommodate 5 more test classes. If you are interested, please call (5-5754) or send me email. We'll take the first 5 requests. We ask only that you actively use the service and provide us feedback over the course of the semester.

~ Susan Beckett



Where to Find Us

In July the Computer Systems and Support (CSS) offices moved from the 3rd floor of the old building to the 1st floor of the new building. We are in offices along the second hall, thus the "2" in the room numbers.

You'll find Susan Beckett and Jim Cramer in 1248 SC; the CSS Main office (Doug Eltoft, Sheila Arndt, Meghann White) in 1256 SC; Chris Fomon, Dave Funk, and Matt McLaughlin in 1249 SC, and CSS User Consulting, David Grimmer, and Diana Harris in 1253 SC. The east computer lab is in 1220 SC.

How to get here: If you enter the south door off Capitol Street (entrance 10), descend to the bottom of the staircase. Follow the hall in front of you (**west**) until you reach the end of the hall. To get to the CSS offices, turn **left (south)** and go down the hall until you are nearly at the end. To get to the lab, turn **right (north)** and go down the hall until you see computers behind the lab windows.



Going on Vacation?

This summer I asked a colleague here how she like using Netscape Messenger for mail. She was satisfied except that it didn't have a vacation program. A vacation program allows you to write a message to is sent to everyone while you are away; those messages usually say something like, "I'm out of the office until 21 August 2000. Your message has been received. I will respond to your mail when I return." I replied that CSS had written a vacation program that can be used with any mail client (such as Netscape, Eudora, or Pine) that you use on the Engineering network.

To find and use this program, go to <http://imap.engineering.uiowa.edu/mailtools/index.html> and selection "vacation."

This page contains other useful utilities. You can find out how much of your mail quota you are using, forward your email to another account, and change your Engineering account password. Try all the possibilities.

~ Diana Harris

Authenticate First

Recently we have detected attempts by unscrupulous persons (spammers) to abuse our SMTP mail server (third-party mail relaying). [What is an SMTP mail server? it is the computer that send outbound mail to the Internet. SMTP = Simple Mail Transfer Protocol.]

As this kind of abuse could result in our mail server being black-listed and cause our users difficulty when sending mail to remote sites, we installed an authentication system on our SMTP server ("smtp.icaen.uiowa.edu"). This authentication system makes it possible for legitimate users to send mail from anywhere in the world while protecting your service from the bad guys.

If you see the following error message when you try to send mail, you are not authenticated.

550 Access denied, authentication needed, see <http://imap.icaen.uiowa.edu/smtpauth.html>

To authenticate, simply connect to your Engineering email account and check for new messages **before** you send mail. When you connect you must provide your login ID and password, which authenticates you.

If you use a dial-up net service and your ISP uses dynamic IP addressing, they may give you a different IP address each time you connect. If so you will need to authenticate each time you want to send mail. We apologize for the inconvenience, but there is no easy work-around. Some mail clients, such as Eudora, have a built-in feature to automatically check-before-send. If your mail client has such a feature, activate it and you won't get the above message again.

If your Engineering email is forwarded to another system, you must still connect to your Engineering mail account to use the Engineering SMTP server.

All College of Engineering workstations and computers administered by CSS are automatically authenticated. If the machine that you are using has a hostname that ends in ".icaen.uiowa.edu" or ".enr.uiowa.edu", you do not need to worry about this issue.

Summer Unix Software Upgrades

Over the summer, we installed a number of upgrades to our Unix commercial software suite:

Mathematica release 4.0.2 replaced release 4.0.

Release 8 of SAS replaced release 6.12.

DADS 9.51 replaced release 9.5.

The following releases were upgraded to the default release, the version you get when you select **Comm Apps** | **Software-Package**. The most recent prior release is also still available for each of these packages.

Ansys 5.6

You can ignore the libGL ERROR you will see if you run the interactive version. Select **Comm Apps** | **Ansys** | **Other Versions** | **Prior release** to run release 5.5. NOTE: Pro/E connection is not available with the 64-bit version of Ansys. For details about this release, see www.ansys.com/Products/ANSYS56/whatisnew

Pro/Engineer 2000i

Select **Comm Apps** | **Pro/Engineer** | **Other Versions** | **Prior release** to execute Pro/E 20.

Mentor Graphics D.1

Select **Comm Apps** | **Mentor Graphics** | **Other Versions** | **Prior release** to execute Mentor C.4.

~ Susan Beckett



If you have questions or need help, call the CSS user consultants, 335-5055, or come to the consulting office in 1253 SC. For mail client information, check out the CSS Email web page at <http://css.engineering.uiowa.edu/email>.

~ Dave Funk

Ask Diana

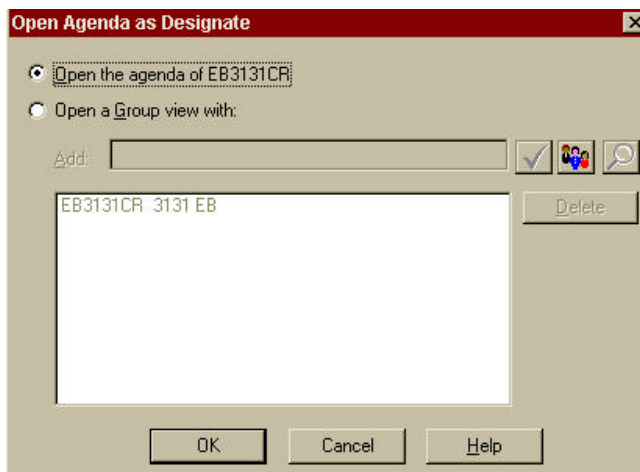
This summer I was making the rounds to gather information about the newsletter. In the one office, since I was there, MG (not her real name) asked me a question about CorporateTime, the calendar and scheduling software that is available campus wide. I gave her the answer. Then she suggested that I include in the newsletter a column with questions from users and answers from me.

Okay. Here is the column. If I get more questions, I'll continue publishing the answers here. If you are too shy to ask in person, send me email (diana-harris@uiowa.edu).

Q: I am FT's designate. [A designate can create meetings for another person.] When I add meetings to FT's calendar, why do they also show up on my calendar?

A: If you actually login as FT's designate, meetings you set for FT will **not** appear on your calendar unless you are invited to attend the meeting. In this case MG had opened her own calendar and added a meeting for FT and OP, but because MG added the meeting to her calendar, MG is invited and sees the meeting on her calendar.

To work as a designate, once CorporateTime is running, go to **File | Open Agenda | An Agenda As Designate | Open the Agenda of _____**. You'll see a dialogue box that lists the person (people) who have set you as their designate.



Select the person you want to work as; in this example FT. Now when you create a meeting,

that meeting will appear on FT's agenda as well as on the agendas of other people invited to the meeting. The information about that meeting will include that it was Proposed by: MG (see this from **Edit | View Meeting | General** tab).

When you return to your own agenda, FT's meeting will not appear.

Note that you cannot set yourself as another's designate. If FT wants you to be able to add meetings to her calendar, she adds you as her designate (**Options | Access Rights | Designate** tab).

~ Diana



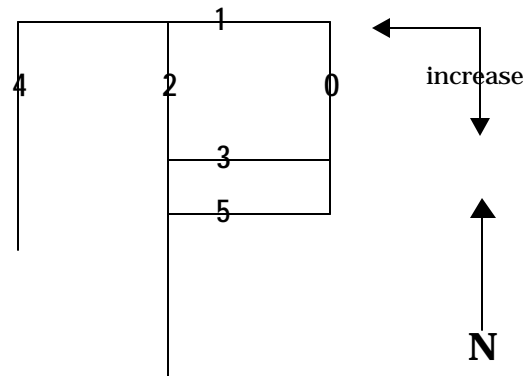
Room Numbering in SC

Confused by the room numbers in the new building? They are easy to understand once you know the pattern. The Seamans Center is numbered like streets on a grid; think New York City. Room numbers have four digits: F H XX. **F** is the floor: G, 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5. **H** is the hall. Even halls, 0, 2, 4, run east-west; odd halls, 1, 3, 5, run north-south. **XX** is the room designator with numbers increasing as you move south or west. Even numbers are on the north and east sides of the hall.

For example, the Computer Systems and Support office is in 1256 SC. 1 indicates the first floor, 2 indicates the second east-west hall counting from the east. 56 is an even number, so the room is on the east side of the hall, left as you walk south.

See the drawing below for the hall numbers in the Seamans Center.

~ Doug Eltoft



Use These Resource Names Now

The College of Engineering Computer Systems and Support group (née ICAEN) isn't the only new name you need to know. When we changed from ICAEN, we also changed several resource names. Here's a list of the new and old names. You'll want to make these adjustments.

Use	New Name	Old Name
telnet	login.engineering.uiowa.edu	login.icaen.uiowa.edu
incoming mail server	ldap.engineering.uiowa.edu	ldap/ldap4.icaen.uiowa.edu
outgoing mail server	smtp.engineering.uiowa.edu	smtp/smtp4.icaen.uiowa.edu
home page on WWW	css.engineering.uiowa.edu	www.icaen.uiowa.edu
email to consultants	consultant@engineering.uiowa.edu	consultant@icaen.uiowa.edu
send a suggestion	suggestion@engineering.uiowa.edu	suggestion@icaen.uiowa.edu

Using the Directory to Look for Email Addresses

Some of you still have old Omail-style names in your address book. You can tell which names those are because when you send mail to them, the mail is rejected as undeliverable. Remove those names from your address book. If you are using Netscape or Pine, when you search the Engineering directory for an address, enter the individual's name; you don't need to enter their email address. If the directory lookup is not working, contact the user consultants, 5-5055, for help configuring your email client to access the directory.



Computer on Wheels (COW)

Do you teach in a classroom that doesn't have a computer but you need one? There is a computer on wheels (COW) in this building. To reserve it, call Reva Elder in Space Planning, 250 USB, 5-2571. Reva can check out to you a key to room 3329 SC where the COW is stored.

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Computer Lab Hours

East (1220 SC) and West (1231 SC) labs are open 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. If you are in the Seamans Center before it closes, you can use the computer labs after the building closes.

Web Sites

This newsletter is published first to the CSS web pages at <http://css.engineering.uiowa.edu/documentation/essentials>
The CSS pages are found at <http://css.engineering.uiowa.edu>
The College of Engineering pages are at <http://www.engineering.uiowa.edu>
The University of Iowa pages are at <http://www.uiowa.edu>