

# Essentials

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## Changes in the Labs: New Equipment, New OS

**T**his summer CSS will replace old Windows computers with new computers, 50 running Windows XP and 10 running Red Hat Linux. The new computers are HP xw4300s with a dual core Pentium 4 3.2 GHz chip, 2GB memory, USB2 port, DVD burner, and Firewire PCI card. The DVD burner will write to dual layer DVDs, which cost more but store twice as much data as a normal DVD (8.5GB vs. 4.7GB). The USB, Firewire, headphone, and microphone ports are all on the front panel of these new computers.

None of the 60 new machines will include a floppy disk drive. We have not seen much use of the floppy drives recently; many files are too small to fit on a floppy.

All of the new computers can run either with Windows or Linux, so if we need more of one sort of OS, we can reload the new machines with the appropriate OS and software.

By the end of the summer, all the computers in Elder and Hering will have flat panel monitors mounted on adjustable arms.

Read more about Linux on the next page.

## System Downtime Sunday, 3 July

CSS needs to make changes in the server room, so the file servers, applications servers, and mail server will all be unavailable from 7am-5pm on Sunday, 3 July 2005. During the downtime you cannot read your mail, login to the engineering network, or access files in your home directory. You can work on your local computer using software that is locally installed.

If you have questions about this downtime, please call the CSS consultant, 335-5055.

## Webmail: Newer Version

**O**n Sunday, 3 July 2005, CSS will install a newer version of the web-based email client Webmail. We tested this version in April and think that we've solved the problems that users found for us. The user interface is more elaborate than the current version, and when Webmail opens, you see the start screen from which you can choose to go to your Inbox, your calendar, or set session-wide options.

When using Webmail, please logout of Webmail before closing the browser. If you do not logout of Webmail, your session with the mail server is kept open for 60 minutes, even though the browser is closed. That open session is a security hole that invites an unscrupulous person to exploit.

## Please Welcome Red Hat Linux

### This Summer

Because software vendors are decreasing their support of Unix applications running on HP-UX, the College will shift its workstation software in the coming months and years to running Unix applications on Linux. Starting this summer, CSS will install at least 8 Linux computers in the Elder and Hering labs as well as supporting 10 Linux machines in an ECE lab. As mentioned in the article "Changes in the Labs", the computers running Linux will be the same sort of computers that run Windows. So you know what sort of machines you are sitting at, the Linux workstations will be labeled "Linux," just as the Windows computers are labeled "Windows."

The initial Linux environment includes some very cool games, the web browser Firefox, email, and many open source applications. For purchased software we have Linux licenses for Abaqus, Fluent, Lab-

VIEW, LaTeX, Matlab, Mathematica, and TecPlot; those applications will be installed first and others will follow as Linux versions become available.

Linux is an uncertified Unix kernel variant that, together with many pieces of open source software, provides an open source Unix environment. CSS has been developing our Linux environment for several years. When it became clear that CSS would support Linux in several labs, we considered offerings by several companies that sell Linux versions. Because the University made a financial commitment to supporting Red Hat Linux on campus, the college will also use Red Hat's version. Red Hat provides drivers, patching, and technical support that results in a stable production environment.

### The Future for (HP) Unix

The HP-UX Itanium workstations in the lab will remain for a couple years,

but their PA counterparts, which you access only remotely using login-pa.engineering.uiowa.edu, will be retired and that service discontinued. Users who have compiled software for the PA-RISC environment will need to re-compile that code for either the Itanium or the Intel Linux environment.

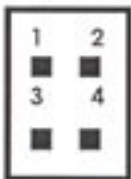
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**CSS mission:** to provide a secure and productive computer environment that supports the ability of the College of Engineering to achieve its educational mission.

### On-line Forms

In the past when you wanted to request an additional network connection or have a file restored, you had to come to the consulting office, 1253 SC, and find and complete the appropriate form. Now CSS has put those forms on-line so that you can request and submit them whenever you are at your computer. Find the CSS [on-line forms](#), the new [network connection](#) request form, and the [file restore](#) form.



### Spam, Junk, Deleted Items: Changes to Email

Email that is in your Trash folder for 7 days is automatically deleted after that span on time. If you have created a mail folder named "Spam", messages there are also removed after 7 days. On 5 July 2005 CSS is extending that service to folders named Junk (Eudora, Mozilla, Thunderbird), Junk E-mail and Deleted Items (Outlook).

If you retrieve messages in existing Junk or Deleted Items folders, be aware that messages will stay in those folder for only 7 days beginning 5 July. To store messages indefinitely, move them to a different folder. You may need to modify filters you have created if you want to store messages in a folder that will not get cleaned out regularly.

#### Web Sites

This newsletter is published first to the CSS web pages at  
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