

Essentials

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in this issue ...

CSS staff additions, pg. 2
ICON courses, pg. 2
increased quotas, pg. 2
file converts, pg. 1
Linux leave on, pg. 3

new lab computers, pg. 1
public port access, pg. 2
software changes, pg. 3
terminating services, pg. 3
vista, pg. 3

Up For Renewal: 1245 and Elder, Hering Lab Computers

As part of our annual renewal cycle, we have received 48 new computers for the College computer labs. 33 of these new machines will be used to upgrade 1245 SC, the Henry Computer Aided Engineering Classroom. (1245 SC will be closed so that CSS can do the upgrade this summer.) Fifteen will be used in the Elder and Hering labs.



These new computers are Hewlett-Packard model XW4400, with one dual core 2.4 GHz CPU and 4 GB RAM. They will run Windows XP as the operating system.

We have also received eight Hewlett-Packard XW8400 workstations with two quad core 2.6 GHz CPUs, 16 GB RAM, and four high performance 15,000 RPM SAS hard drives configured for RAID zero. We plan to make the Linux computers available for remote graphical login using the NoMachine software.

XW4400 This arrangement will enable students to have remote access to the SUSE Linux environment and all of the

software that is available on Linux in the computer labs. Each of the eight Linux computers will be able to simultaneously support one local console user and up to seven remote users. These 8 new machines are replacing 8 older ones that could handle only four remote users.
~Doug Eltoft



XW8400

File Converters for Office 2007

In April CSS installed on all CSS-administered Windows computers the converter for Office 2007 files. CSS has not yet installed the Office 2007 applications. But college staff have received files from other people who are using this newer version of Office.

Office 2007 files are suffixed with an "x" as in ".docx" [Word] or ".xlsx"

[Excel]. With the converter installed, when you open an Office 2007 file with an Office 2003 application, you'll see the message "File Conversion in Progress". After the conversion is complete, you can edit the document as usual.

CSS expects to install Office 2007 in June.

CSS Staff Additions

50 + 50 = 100

At the beginning of April, two COE employees became part of the Computer Systems Support Staff. Bill Easton, now the father of Edison Patrick Easton -- born April 14, 2007 -- works as the college webmaster in CSS. So that he can spend more time with Edison, he has cut back to working 50% time.

Carrie Hogarty rejoined the staff as the college data manager, also working 50% time. Carrie is handling the EASY and ACE surveys as she did before, but now she is part of CSS.

The photo at right includes John Kostman and Tom Barnhart from the



the entire CSS group

Engineering Electronics Shop. Doug Eltoft is the manager of that group as well as CSS, and over the last year, Doug has worked to include EES in CSS.

ICON Courses

Just as ICON course sites are not available to students by default, once a course is active, it is available until the instructor does something to restrict access. Here's how to make a course inactive, which hides the course from the students.

1. Click **Edit Course** on your course homepage (in the *Course Tools* box at right).
2. Click in the *Active* box to remove the checkmark.
3. Click **Save Changes**.
4. Click **Go to Course** (upper-right).

If you want to retire the course from ICON, please [send email](#) or call me at 335-5121.

~Diana Harris

Increased Quotas

In late March, CSS increased home directory and mail quota for all CSS accounts. The new quotas are listed below. If the amount that CSS allocates is not sufficient for your needs, you can buy additional storage space at a cost of \$10.00/gigabyte/month.

Home Directory

The new quotas are:

students, student orgs.	1.5GB
faculty and staff	3GB
class accounts	1.5GB
non-engineering students	500MB

Mail Quota

New mail quotas are:

students	120MB
faculty & staff	500MB

Public Ports: Access Changed

On 29 April CSS changed the requirement for accessing the public wired ports in the Seamans Center. The settings to make on your Windows computer are now similar to the settings used for wireless access: use Protected EAP and get your certificate from Thawte. Details for setting up your Windows computer are at our [web site](#). As with access to the wireless network, you can use either your engineering account ID or your Hawk ID, which is an Iowa domain account.

As with all CSS services, if you have questions or problems, please see the consultant in 1253 SC, 335-5055.

This change to the public ports was part of a network shuffle that was mostly completed on April 9. If you have IP-based firewall rules, please talk to CSS for the new subnet numbers.

Try our [wiki](#)

Software Changes

Minitab 15

Minitab 15 is available, however Minitab now requires that we run our licenses through a license server for the Minitab 15 version. For this version and moving forward we are delivering this software off of ITS's [Virtual Desktop Citrix](#) service on Windows computers.

Maple 11

Faculty and staff can install this newest version of Maple on home Linux and Windows computers. More information on our [Maple](#) web page.

Windows Vista

CSS plans to install the Microsoft Windows Vista operating system, the next version of Windows, in fall 2008. (ITS plans to install Vista in the ITCs at the same time.) Though we won't deploy Vista for more than a year, we may put a couple Vista machines in the labs for people who want to see and try the Vista interface.

Do not turn off or reboot Linux workstations in the labs. Please report problems to the CSS consultant who can fix the problem or tell you how to fix it. These are multi-user machines, so turning the workstation off could kill other users' login sessions.

Terminating Services: Grade and login-pa

Grade

As announced before, CSS will remove the grade program, which runs only on Unix workstations, at the end of this spring semester, specifically on 21 May 2007. If you want students to submit homework electronically, use the dropbox in ICON, the university's course management system. Each Engineering course has an ICON course site created before the beginning of each semester. For help with ICON, talk to Diana Harris, 335-5121.

login-pa

The PA-RISC workstations, the oldest Unix machines we own, have been available only for remote login for several semesters. At the end of May, the remaining PA-RISC machines will be removed. You will no longer be able to connect to login-pa.engr.uiowa.edu at that time. Since 2003 CSS has been purchasing and using Unix workstations with a new processor. Software vendors have upgraded their packages to run on Windows (predominantly) or newer processors. Thus, we are retiring those old machines.

If you have comments or questions about either retirement, please call CSS at 335-5171.

Essentials is a publication of Computer Systems Support (CSS) in the College of Engineering at the University of Iowa. **Essentials** is published during the year whenever there is sufficient news to report to the user community. You have permission to re-print all or part of this newsletter for nonprofit purposes if you 1) acknowledge this source, and 2) send a copy of your publication with the reprinted material to: Newsletter Editor, College of Engineering, Computer Systems Support, 1256 SC, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242.

Back issues and the current issue of this newsletter are on-line:

<http://css.engineering.uiowa.edu/news/essentials>

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

Web Sites

This newsletter is published first to the CSS web pages at

<http://css.engineering.uiowa.edu/news/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>

Hours

Computer Labs — The Hering (1220 SC) and Elder (1231 SC) labs are open 24 hours/day, 7 days/week except for maintenance. With an access card, you can enter the building and the labs after the building closes.

Consulting, 1253 SC — M-F 8am – 5pm

CSS Main Office, 1256 SC — M-F 8am – noon, 1-5pm