

ITDS ongoing projects and planned summer upgrades

Upcoming Changes:

Conversion to Active Directory

We began this project last summer. To date we have converted four of the five colleges. We will be concentrating on the last college and the administrative offices. We are targeting December 2005 as a completion date for this project. As a refresher, some of the positive highlights of this project are listed below:

Network space for employees

As a part of the upgrade in services, we will be offering 150M of network space for employees to store work related and personal documents. Users can find this space on their u:\ drive in My Computer after the conversion to Active Directory. Files saved in the u:\ drive will be stored securely, backed up nightly and available at any on-campus PC to which you have logged into Active Directory.

Directory and File structure change, the structure matches the university

In previous years, network accounts, servers, and files have been designed around buildings on campus. This led to problems maintaining accounts as we didn't know when people moved jobs, buildings, or responsibilities. Also, it's difficult to determine what level of access someone should have based on the old structure. Our new design will follow the organizational structure of the University. There will be six organizational units, one for each college and one for administrative offices. Under each unit there will be folders for each department.

This new structure will allow us to easily determine what level of access a person needs to network resources, and allows us to better meet the needs of our users.

Web space for all Employees

Web space has always been available for employees on campus, but it usually required additional assistance from ITDS for users to get their homepage setup. Previously, the employee's homepage was only available through the department where a user worked (<http://www.english.eku.edu/staff/bobsmith>) and therefore was difficult for a student to find if he didn't know where his instructor worked. When an instructor moved to a different department, his webpage did not come with him unless he requested assistance.

We aim to address this issue by implementing a single area for all employee personal sites at ECU. After the conversion to Active Directory, all employee web pages will be located in a central location under <http://people.ecu.edu>. For example, John Smith's webpage would be located at <http://people.ecu.edu/smithj>. This will allow John to change positions within ECU and never have to move his webpage. Additionally students will have one place to go and look for their instructor's webpage.

Student web space quota will also increase to 50MB over the summer.

Managed Antivirus software

In the past few months, a number of employees have been affected by computer virus outbreaks. As a response to this we will provide a solution that allows us to apply anti-virus signature updates automatically to everyone's PC.

Security updates

Another initiative to defend against computer virus outbreaks is to make it easier for users to keep their Windows software up to date. Microsoft releases security updates on a regular basis for Windows 98, 2000, and XP. These security updates help prevent computer viruses from taking advantage of Windows vulnerabilities. As a response, we will update the users' PC's by applying pre-approved security updates.

Further step towards Single Sign On

One aim of ITDS is that users have both more security and an easier time accessing the resources we have made available. Currently, users must remember at least four different user account/password combinations to function at EKU:

Banner Account (access to enter grades, run reports, update information)

Email Account (email access)

Novell Account (file access . . . Q drive, W: drive)

Voicemail Account (access to check voicemail)

These accounts share little in common, and are problematic in that they all have different purposes and expiration of passwords. Our conversion to Active Directory means that users have one less account to remember. After the conversion, your PC login will be the same as your email account and will give you access to your network resources. The Novell account will no longer be required. We are not currently planning to include Banner and Voicemail for the Active Directory project.

Backup software upgrade

As a part of the Active Directory conversion we are consolidating our backup solutions for the file servers and email systems. This will allow us additional flexibility in regards to data retention periods.

Migration of University Forms to Web

All forms currently accessible through the Q: drive will be made available via the web.

Email Updates:

Mailbox Storage Quota Increase

We have purchased additional storage capacity for the faculty/staff email servers which has allowed us to increase each faculty and staffs mailbox storage quota from 75mb to 150mb.

Anti-Spam Trial

On 4/19/2005 our server side anti-spam software for the students, faculty, and staff on was activated. We hope this solution will reduce the amount of spam that everyone gets daily.

Network Updates:

Wireless Project:

We are in the process of implementing wireless in several of the classroom buildings, Keen Johnson, Powell, and the Student Services Building . We hope to have this supplement to the rest of the network in place by the end of the summer. Once implemented, users should be able to access it in any place in the building. The eventual goal of this project is to get wireless available in all locations on campus.

Internet 2

Internet2 is now operational and available to the campus community. Internet2 is a high speed network that connect universities, corporate, and government research entities together for ease of collaboration. The purpose of it is to allow people to collaborate quickly whether it be video conferencing, access to super computers, or access large amounts of data. No special equipment is required to use Internet2 but it is only available if you connect to another Internet2 site.

Network Building Upgrades

Along with wireless, we are also upgrading the network in some buildings this summer. Memorial Science and Moore buildings will be rewired and the network hardware will be upgraded also. The Dizney and Wallace buildings will also receive network hardware upgrades. This will allow users to operate at 100 m/bits instead of 10 m/bits.