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Inside UW-IT News: UW-IT 2012 Annual Report, Plan for ultra-high-speed broadband networks in Seattle, and more...

Alexis Raphael <alexis@u.washington.edu>   Fri, Dec 14, 2012 at 2:24 PM

INSIDE UW-IT NEWS | DECEMBER 14, 2012

UW-IT's 2012 Annual Report highlights our key efforts and collaborations

UW-IT's second Annual Report, released to our staff and the UW community last week, shows how the work we do is making a difference across the UW, enabling people to be more productive and effective. "UW-IT is my backbone," said Chemical Engineering Professor Jim Pfaendtner in the advancing discovery profile. "I wouldn't look anything like I do today without its support." Read about how our cutting-edge resources support his and others' scientific research, as well as four other feature stories on improving the student experience, UW business for the 21st century, fostering collaboration, and service improvement.

In her introduction to the report, **Kelli Trosvig** provides an overview of the work UW-IT accomplished this year and says "…we will continue to leverage the power of technology to drive positive and transformative change—enabling people throughout the University to extend and deepen their impact." You can share the link to the report with your colleagues at the UW and elsewhere. New this year is an ePub version of the report.

City of Seattle, UW, and Gigabit Squared announce partnership to develop ultra-high-speed broadband network

The City of Seattle, the UW, and broadband developer Gigabit Squared announced a partnership yesterday to pilot ultra-high-speed broadband and wireless networks in 12 Seattle neighborhoods under the Gig.U initiative. UW-IT and the City of Seattle are freeing up excess dark fiber from our city-wide fiber partnership to support this effort. Over the past year, the UW has worked with the City to make this plan happen, with the aim of stimulating business opportunities in this region, and driving innovation in critical areas such as health care and education. Read more about the partnership.

Users move to new Deskmail servers that perform better, reduce bottlenecks

As part of a continuing service improvement, UW-IT is currently moving users to new Deskmail (UW Email) servers designed to have much better input/output performance, a major bottleneck for users. Over 38,000 UW clients forward their email to Deskmail, and this move will put Deskmail on new virtual servers that allow maintenance and repair with

no visible downtime for users. This is a collaborative effort by members of a variety of Computing Infrastructure teams, as well as Customer Service & Support.

Hyak in the news

Hyak, a shared high-performance research computing cluster managed by UW-IT, is featured in the December issue of *Perspectives*, the UW Arts & Sciences newsletter. The article highlights Hyak's financial model, which allows researchers purchasing nodes on Hyak an alternative to deploying and operating their own high-performance systems. "When you need more computing than you paid for, it's available," explains UW-IT research consultant **Chance Reschke**. "When you need less, someone else can use it." Read "Computing with Hyak: The Power of Sharing."

Taking steps now to enable the upcoming Office 365 integration

To enable the upcoming Office 365 integration with the UW Windows Infrastructure (UWWI) NetID domain services, the mail attribute for all UWWI user accounts will be changed to <uwnetid>@uw.edu. This will be done during Winter Quarter break. UWWI provides authentication and authorization services for all active UW NetIDs, and much more, and this behind-the scenes change will provide a mechanism to enforce uniqueness, preventing multiple users from having the same email address. UW-IT will begin offering the Office 365 cloud-based communications and collaborations suite to the UW community in Spring Quarter, starting with email and calendaring. This work is being done by our Identity and Access Management unit.

Content curation brings workshop students the best resources

The Learning Technologies student workshop team is moving from creating new content for their technology workshops to collecting or "curating" excellent external content that is already available online. This curation model allows the team to avoid the constant updates necessary when creating curriculum for rapidly changing modern software packages. **Cody Stebbins**, Web development instructor, says, "By outsourcing the creation of educational content to experts in the area and guiding clients through its use, I can ensure that the curriculum provided is relevant and high quality without extensive effort." Current top Web sites and blogs such as Reddit, Pinterest, Boing Boing, and Lifehacker focus on similar models of curation. By adopting and adapting their models, curation is helping UW-IT to discover and use the best content resources.

Mobile-friendly user interface for "weblogin"

A mobile-friendly version of the UW NetID "weblogin" user interface will be deployed on **December 18**. It uses responsive design to make the site change size appropriately for different mobile devices and tablets. This iteration also refreshes its look while preserving the recognizable login screen of the original Web design. This work was a collaborative effort by designers, engineers, and quality assurance staff in Computing Infrastructure and Academic & Collaborative Applications.

REMINDER

2012 Organizational Pulse Survey
Please take the survey by **December 31, 2012** here:

https://catalyst.uw.edu/webq/survey/hbrough/186641

Kelli's Brown Bag Lunch Forum

January 11, 2013

Noon-1:00 p.m. in UW Tower, Visitor's Dining Room

CacTools Web access will be closed effective January 1, 2013
Questions or concerns about this? Send email to cg-request@uw.edu

Please send comments/suggestions any time.

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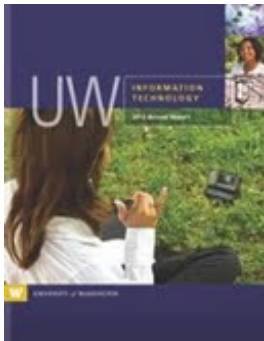

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