IT PROS **IT UPDATE**

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New & Noteworthy	**Project Progress**	**IT Governance**

August 2020

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

The Secure Technologies for Aggie Researchers (STAR) platform launched with nearly 40 principle investigators as pilot participants.** Onboarding began July 21 following Amazon AWS training and continues through August. Training opportunities, a dedicated website and additional announcements will be released soon.

On September 1, 2020, Apple, Google, and Mozilla browsers will no longer accept SSL or TLS certificates with a lifespan longer than 398 days. Whether using cert.tamu.edu, Sectigo, InCommon or any other providers for certs, expect changes soon. Sectigo multi-year certificate approvals end on August 18. Cert.tamu.edu will only approve 1-year certificates after that date.

President Michael K. Young discusses the impact COVID-19 will have on education and society in general on "Technically Speaking TV," airing on KAMU-TV in August. Assistant Provost for Academic Innovation Jocelyn WIdmer, Ph.D., Vice President of Information Technology and Texas A&M Chief Information Officer Dee Childs, and Director of Statewide Client Services Serge Razafindrakoto join the discussion and address how the university handled the rapid transition to online classes. The episode will be available on the Division of IT's YouTube channel.

Under direction of the Senior Vice President for TAMU Health, the Division of IT is rolling out COVID-19 testing sites through Texas. The Division also worked closely with contact tracing leaders to optimize the COVID-19 reporting form.

The Division of IT worked with the College of Pharmacy in Kingsville and the Coastal Bend Health Education Center in Corpus Christi to prepare for Hurricane Hanna. The group enacted business continuity readiness across systems, networks, endpoints and audio/video equipment.

Telecommunications is simplifying billing by integrating base charges for many telephone services into a single charge.

PROJECT PROGRESS

AppArmor is now in place as Code Maroon's new vendor for the emergency notification system. The Code Maroon website is being updated as new features are made available.

The Emerging Technologies Building, Mitchell Physics Building, and Mitchell Institute Buildings have transitioned from Legacy VoIP to Cisco VoIP. This covered a total of 230 phone numbers. Other buildings will be converted in FY221.

The Division completed 14 networking projects in response to COVID-19, including three outdoor initiatives. Seventeen additional upgrades and installations were completed across campus.

As part of the implementation of Microsoft 365, Texas A&M Exchange and Exchange Online are now working together as a hybrid and authentication uses Azure Active Directory (Microsoft 365). The Division of IT will work with departmental IT staff to plan email account migrations to the cloud environment.

IT GOVERNANCE

IT Governance assures technology aligns with the outcomes required by Texas A&M University for successful fulfillment of its mission.

Architecture & Infrastructure Committee

The AIC is reviewing the Request for Information responses for the Next Generation Aggie Network. The committee also created an Azure

subcommittee to identify the various use cases and infrastructure needs to support the Azure platform, which is part of the Aggie Innovation Platform.

Enterprise Applications Committee

The [EAC](#) submitted its Service Catalog Recommendation report to the Strategic IT Committee (SITC) in June for feedback. The File Sharing and File Management task force completed its recommendation report and will present it to the SITC at their August meeting. The EAC also created a task force to provide an overview and summary of the extent to which the campus community (faculty, staff, and students) uses digital signature tools. The subcommittee will compare features of the various tools and make recommendations on how to integrate the use of these tools throughout the University.

Research & Innovative Technologies Committee

The [RITC's](#) Long-Term Research Storage Task force researched Long-Term Research Storage solutions for the University. The task force presented its recommendation report for the creation of a hybrid, on-premise and public cloud data storage system to the SITC in June.

Teaching & Transformational Learning Technologies Committee

The [Office of Academic Innovation](#) requested the [TTLTC](#) research the various captioning tools currently being used on campus. The TTLTC distributed a survey to collect the data and submitted its report to Dr. Jocelyn Widmer and to the SITC in June.

Strategic Liaisons

The [Strategic Liaisons to the CIO Committee](#) is reviewing University sustainability efforts and will prepare recommendations for sustainability efforts to the Division of IT.

CONTACT US

Please send feedback and questions to the Division of IT at tamu-it-coms@tamu.edu.