Texas A&M Information Technology

IT Update

November 2016

New & Noteworthy

- **Texas A&M IT has completed the first phase deployment of new security services and a 100-gigabit per second, next generation firewall at the campus border.** In the first day of operation, the new services blocked more than 48,000 infected files from being downloaded, identified more than 1 million hosts scanning the campus network, and blocked more than 200,000 unique IP addresses. Currently offline for final configuration, the new firewall is expected to be in full production before the winter break.

- **Texas A&M network records were broken this month!** In 24 hours, 183,452 unique users moved 44.57Tb of data, peaking at 9.42 Gbps.

- **AT&T is expanding coverage of their cellular signal on the Texas A&M campus.** Work will start in late 2016 with a planned on-air date of April 2017.

- **The Texas A&M TTVN WebMeeting service (ttvnwebmeeting.tamu.edu) is scheduled for decommissioning on December 17, 2016.** The limited number of current users is insufficient to warrant the resources needed to maintain it, and many System users have moved to the WebEx platform. All other TTVN services will continue without change.

- **To celebrate National Cyber Security Awareness Month this October, Texas A&M Information Technology raised the bar again with a new cyber security campaign:** Football Fever. In just two weeks, more than 9,000 players fought their way through Texas A&M's football schedule by identifying phishing attempts in hopes of taking the Aggies to the championship!

- **A new Motorola MotoTRBO radio platform is deploying to the Texas A&M campus next month.** Join the system for less than $5/month in service charges. Radios are ideal for your unit if communication is required when cell service is down, your location has limited cell service, you regularly host events, or you are responsible for services related to emergency response. Contact radios@tamu.edu or (979) 845-8300 for details.

- **The December 7 IT Forum will feature our CIO M. Dee Childs, VP for Information Technology, and Dr. Barbara Abercrombie, VP for Human Resources and Organizational Effectiveness.** Dr. Abercrombie will speak on the challenges of recruiting, engaging and retaining IT employees.

- **CIO, M. Dee Childs, and Associate Director of IT Security, Tom Golson, were both invited to speak at the EDUCAUSE annual conference.** Dee Childs led a pre-conference seminar on "Building Blocks for an Effective Information Security Strategy." Tom Golson participated on a panel, "Balancing Security and Access: Pivotal to a Better Educational Experience."

- **Remember, Texas A&M IT provides computer repair service for university-owned computers, printers and peripherals.** We are an authorized warranty service provider for Dell, Apple and HP

university-owned computers and offer extended warranty contracts on most university-owned equipment. Many desktop computers are covered for as little as $1/month. Contact pcrepair@tamu.edu or (979) 845-8591 for more information.

Project Progress

- Infoblox, the new DNS system that will replace NIM, is scheduled to launch the week of December 19. The test system is now available and users have been notified to test their data. Additional information about Infoblox is available in the [Knowledge Base](#).

- **New Cisco VoIP campus customers include the Division of Student Affairs IT and Engineering Technology and Industrial Distribution**, for a total of 1,700 new users on the platform.

- **Texas A&M IT is working to provide better segmentation between wireless and campus network traffic.** Efforts are underway to re-engineer traffic flow between wireless networks and hosts on the campus network. Changes should be implemented over the winter break.

- **Remember, the new risk assessment process is no longer "seasonal." Colleges and divisions should start the risk assessment process as soon as practical to allow maximum time and flexibility in completing assessments.** Fall training for division risk assessment coordinators is complete and a webinar version will be published soon. Additional training classes will be held in early spring. The Archer/SPECTRIM tool is available for all who have attended a training. Questions about the risk assessment process should be directed to ra@tamu.edu.

Pilot Projects

- **The Texas A&M Laserfiche Shared Service is assisting in a joint project with System Offices, Texas A&M Kingsville and Prairie View A&M University to pilot a new contracts management system.** Developed using the latest release of Laserfiche 10.1, this pilot leveraged out-of-the-box Laserfiche business library modules for contracts management and incorporated TAMU-specific customizations developed by Texas A&M IT and Laserfiche Professional Services.

- **Texas A&M IT is building a web application for Texas Water Observatory to run reports, charts and data downloads.** Data will be collected by field observatories in the Brazos River corridor using observational platforms and near real-time sensors for better understanding of hydrologic flows across natural and manmade reservoirs and is critical for understanding and modeling water sustainability in Texas.

CONTACT US

Please send feedback and questions to Texas A&M IT Product Strategy and Communication at tamu-it@tamu.edu.