IT PROS IT UPDATE

| Partner Success | New & Newsworthy | Project Progress | Security Spotlight |

April 2022

PARTNER SUCCESS

The Departments of Animal Science and AgriLife Extension released a Livestock Syndromic Surveillance mobile app designed to prevent the spread of infectious disease among livestock. The app and corresponding web portal, created by the Division of IT, allow veterinarians in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona to report and track the spread of diseases.

The 40th Anniversary of The Big Event was a major success. The division helped the Big Event team with necessary communication resources, including a call center software platform.

Finishing touches are being placed on a new mobile-friendly Meal Plan Tracker for the Department of University Dining. The Division of IT redesigned the application and it will begin accepting orders in the fall semester.

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

Nash Higgins was hired as the 5G Network Architect for Texas A&M University. Higgins has worked in wireless communications for over 35 years, including more than 20 years with Verizon, serving in both network engineering and operations leadership roles.

The IT Alerts website and the Texas A&M Virtual Private Network (VPN) connection page were updated to be more user-friendly. It is now easier to subscribe to Enterprise IT Alerts and troubleshoot VPN connection problems.

The Trans-Texas Videoconference Network (TTVN) is now the [Trans-Texas Digital Network (TTDN)](#). The network serves the campuses and agencies of the Texas A&M University System.

Security changes are being made to FAMIS as part of the roadmap to launching the new platform. Anyone having trouble connecting should ensure they have the most current version of OpenText Host Explorer (15.05 with Service Pack 8) installed. Entire Connection Software is no longer supported and should be removed.

Director of Information Technology for Texas A&M Health Josh Kissee spoke on the "[Cloud + Sensitive Data: A Recipe for Success or Imepending Doom](#)" for the [Texas A&M Cybersecurity Club](#). Club officials say they hope to collaborate with other campus IT employees to become more knowledgeable in the field.

PROJECT PROGRESS

Microsoft will soon require Modern Authentication for access to Microsoft 365. Approximately 7,000 accounts need to transition to Modern Authentication. A communication campaign is underway encouraging all campus members move to Modern Authentication by May 17. The Division of IT disabled Basic Authentication for anyone not currently using the protocol on April 12.

To unlock Microsoft 365's full suite of features, Public Folders, Autodiscover Record, Distribution Groups and Mail Flow will be transitioned to Microsoft 365 in the coming weeks. A detailed timeline will be released soon.

On May 31, the Texas A&M instance of Qualtrics will disable the option to sign in using the Qualtrics login and only offer the SSO (NetID@tamu.edu) login option. If you are using a shared account or one not linked to a NetID, ask your Qualtrics administrator about changing ownership of the account or contact the [Software Center](#) for more information. **A [Q&A session will be held via Zoom](#) at 10 a.m. May 2.**

AWS Direct Connect and Azure Express Routes are in operation, replacing the virtual private network that initially connected local networks and those [cloud environments](#).

The [STAR-STRIDES](#) implementation is set to complete by the end of April. This is a new AWS environment specifically for researchers holding active NIH grants. STRIDES features discounts for AWS services and provides additional shared open-data repositories along with training for principal investigators.

SECURITY SPOTLIGHT

Associate Director of Security Operations Chris Wiley [was named a mentor](#) for the [Multi-State Information Sharing & Analysis Center (MS-ISAC)](#) Leadership Mentoring Program. Mentors guide cybersecurity pros as they become the next generation of leaders.

The [United States government](#) warned all businesses, government entities and institutions of higher learning to remain vigilant as world conditions warrant a heightened cybersecurity state of alert. The division asks you to immediately report any suspicious email or cyber activity to Help Desk Central by calling 979.845.8300 or emailing helpdesk@tamu.edu. Concerns are forwarded to the cybersecurity team for investigation and follow up.

To increase security and privacy, Microsoft Teams users not managed by an organization are now blocked from initiating communication with Texas A&M users. Such communication is still possible if the Texas A&M user initiates it.

Texas A&M Health has created a process and [accompanying webpage](#) for Texas A&M Health members who are scheduled to travel internationally—especially to export-controlled countries—for requesting loaner laptops. Equipment loans provide secure, standard functionality and software for traveling abroad with a lowered risk of exposure or loss of important university data.

[Back to top](#)

CONTACT US

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