

IT PROS IT UPDATE



February 2019

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

Due to demand, the West Campus Data Center (WCDC) has installed four new pods or containers, providing space for 40 racks. Two additional pods will be ordered soon.

Networking is starting the second phase of residence hall upgrades, including six buildings and one complex. Five academic buildings will also be upgraded.

Three strings of 40 valve-regulated lead-acid (VRLA) sealed batteries replaced Teague UPS-A wet cell batteries in January. The batteries will require less maintenance and have pressure release valves that automatically activate to release hydrogen gas pressure.

Telecommunications will soon be the first area to transition from PCR COMIT to the new PCR-360 software for billing. Division of IT personnel are training on the system, which may be rolled out to other areas.

Microsoft is [sunsetting Windows Server 2008R2](#) and [ending extended support for Windows 7](#) in January 2020. All affected machines must be upgraded as Security Controls prohibit unsupported operating systems from using the Texas A&M University network.

PROJECT PROGRESS

Only two months left before Duo NetID Two-Factor Authentication is mandatory across the Texas A&M campus. The enrollment deadline for all undergraduate students is February 18. All graduate students will be Duo-required on March 18 and all faculty and staff on April 15.

The Division of IT is deploying Centrify to all division Mac workstations for policy management and installing JAMF Pro for Mac patch management. Thycotic Privilege Manager is also being installed on all division workstations.

The Health Science Center Help Desk completed its integration into Help Desk Central and feedback has been positive. The integration team is working to identify any gaps and will continue to do so to ensure a smooth transition.

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

Four technology standards are currently under development: password vaults, identity-based authentication, AWS & Azure, and anti-virus technologies. Each technology standard will offer detailed information on how to effectively use these technologies and recognize the approved technology solutions available. A task force has been established to analyze infrastructure needs for a potential Office 365 deployment.



Information Risk, Policy & Security Committee

A task force comprised of 13 faculty and five staff members made several recommendations to clarify the definition of “Significant IT Equipment” and proposed allowable exceptions. Using the task force recommendations, the IRPSC created [TAMU SAP 29.01.03.M0.05 – Enterprise Data Centers](#), which was approved by President Young on January 15, 2019. The IRPSC is now developing a SAP for “approved cloud providers.”



Enterprise Applications Committee

The EAC voted unanimously to adopt definitions for IT service types. The new definitions will be used to categorize IT services across the university and allow development of a comprehensive listing of IT services. The definitions will soon be available on the [IT Governance website](#) and define centralized services, consortium services, and specialized services.



Research & Innovative Technologies Committee

Using data from a university-wide survey of research faculty conducted during 2018, the RITC established a task force to identify long-term data storage needs for faculty researchers.



Teaching & Transformational Learning Technologies Committee

The Learning Management System Selection Subcommittee is on track to recommend a new university-wide learning management system July 11. The subcommittee includes faculty representatives from every college as well as staff and students from across the university. Three vendor finalists (Canvas, Blackboard Ultra, and Brightspace/Desire2Learn) will offer product demonstrations, workshops and webinars through March 2019. Additional information can be found at u.tamu.edu/lmsreview.

A campuswide Electronic and Information Resources (EIR) Accessibility Task Force will begin meeting in February. The task force consists of 40 representatives from colleges, administrative units and satellite campuses.

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CONTACT US

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