

# IT PROS IT UPDATE



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June 2021

## PARTNER SUCCESS

The Division of IT's [innovative vaccine scheduling system](#) helped protect over 90,000 Brazos Valley residents from COVID-19. The Division of IT also developed a voluntary vaccine reporting portal that allows users to upload images of their vaccine cards. The easily customizable code was shared with Texas A&M International and Texas A&M Kingsville, saving System-universities both time and money.

Researchers from TEES and the College of Engineering are using the [Aggie Innovation Platform \(AIP\)](#) to host large data sets measuring the impact of COVID-19 on U.S. trade relations and urban populations. The speed of cloud implementation, the direct campus network connection and the ability to customize subscriptions for each researcher made AIP the ideal platform to host these important research initiatives.

The Texas A&M Telebehavioral Care Program (TBC) used Microsoft 365 to successfully train mental health professionals during the pandemic. As one of the only telemental health training programs in the world, the TBC was challenged with the task of maintaining support for their trainees who had to work from home. [Dr. Carly McCord and her team quickly utilized Microsoft Teams to provide trainees with easy access to chat rooms and video calling with supervisors and licensed providers](#), using the platform to rapidly share important updates within the clinic. [Training sessions for Microsoft Teams and Microsoft 365 are available throughout the summer](#). Want customized M365 training for your unit? Email [tamu-it-coms@tamu.edu](mailto:tamu-it-coms@tamu.edu)

The Department of Animal Science and AgriLife Extension are beta testing a **Livestock Syndromic Surveillance mobile app** designed to prevent the spread of infectious disease among livestock. A corresponding web portal will launch in August. Created by the Division of

IT, the portal and app allow veterinarians to report various syndromes seen in the field, helping practitioners and state officials track and prevent the spread of diseases to keep meat prices from rising.

## NEW & NOTEWORTHY

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**The Code Maroon desktop notification client is now available for personal computers off campus.** The new client does not require a Texas A&M VPN connection. Download the client at <https://codemaroon.tamu.edu/Login.aspx>. System administrators should install the new version on managed campus computers.

**WiFi upgrades coming soon to many campus buildings:** Koldus, Dwight Look Engineering, Scoates Hall, Joe C. Richardson Petroleum Engineering, Reed-McDonald, Teague, Melbern G. Glasscock, Blocker, Scoates Hall, Horticulture/Forest Science, Biochemistry/Biophysics, Wehner, the General Services Complex and TVMDL. Three residence halls will also receive upgrades.

## PROJECT PROGRESS

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**800 mailboxes have successfully migrated to Microsoft 365!** The majority of migrations were seamless. Your feedback was used to develop a [migration website](#) for campus members. Departments will begin scheduling their unit migrations in July.

**This fiscal year, 35 buildings received external, single-mode fiber and 13 buildings received internal, single-mode fiber.** Single-mode fiber is the industry standard for long distance, high-bandwidth performance. As speed and data requirements continue to rise across campus, the single-mode infrastructure will provide a robust network for years to come.

**The [Internet of Things \(IoT\) network pilot program will continue in select areas of campus this fall.](#)** Since inception, over 500 devices have connected to the network, including the president's digital picture frames. The following buildings currently have access to the "TAMU\_IoT" network: White Creek Apartments Building A, Teague, Thompson Hall, Jack E. Williams, Hullabaloo Residence Hall, Neely Hall and the George Bush Presidential Library Complex Academic West. Portions of Richardson also have access under the pilot program.

## SECURITY SPOTLIGHT

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Phishing emails are increasing nationwide as criminals attempt to exploit employees' return to the workplace. At Texas A&M, phishing attempts have increased 300% and vulnerability attacks have increased 240% compared to the same time last year.

To reduce vulnerabilities:

- **IMAP and POP3 services on Exchange are now restricted to IP addresses within the United States, Qatar and other territories where Texas A&M has campus locations.** The day before restriction, an attack resulted in over 900,000 failed IMAP logins and 5,000 locked NetID accounts. After the change, only a single user account was locked due to IMAP failure.
- **The Domain-based Message Authentication, Reporting and Conformance (DMARC) email protocol was enabled for inbound messages** to prevent external domains from being spoofed when sending email to Texas A&M recipients.
- **The Sender Policy Framework (SPF) authentication method** now prevents @tam.u.edu email envelopes from being spoofed.
- **SMTP AUTH will soon require approval since it cannot use multi-factor authentication.** Campus members already using the service do not require approval to continue using it.

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## CONTACT US

Please send feedback and questions to the Division of IT at [tamu-it-coms@tam.u.edu](mailto:tamu-it-coms@tam.u.edu).