

IT PROS IT UPDATE



May 2019

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

The Texas A&M Division of Information Technology is featured in the latest Chronicle of Higher Education guide, “[A Campus Culture of Cybersecurity: How to teach your faculty, students and staff to be more secure](#).” The report highlights the division’s annual online security games and other communications campaigns “that use innovative digital presentation and graphics to make the messaging fun” and raise awareness.

The mobile Outlook email app is now compatible with Texas A&M Exchange email. The iOS app can be installed from the [App Store](#) and the Android app can be downloaded from [Google Play](#).

All Texas A&M employees and students now have free, pro accounts for the Zoom videoconferencing service. WebEx will be decommissioned on August 31, 2019. Sign in to Zoom at [tamu.zoom.us](#).

May 16 is Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD). Become an [accessibility innovator](#) on campus and [find helpful resources](#) to advance our valued tradition of diversity and inclusiveness. For questions or assistance, contact ITAccessibility@tamu.edu.

The Division of IT’s 2018 annual report, “Transforming Today & Tomorrow,” is now available online. It can be accessed at [it.tamu.edu/annualreport](#).

Bandwidth for the Texas A&M Health Science Center (HSC) was recently upgraded from 1g to 10g. This will maintain internet speeds even during peak traffic times.

PROJECT PROGRESS

The joint Engineering Medicine (EnMed) project between the Texas A&M Health Science Center (HSC) and Houston Methodist Hospital is nearing completion. The EnMed program officially begins in fall 2020.

Since opening in 2017, the West Campus Data Center has added 1.2 petabytes (PB) of storage and 9.5 terabytes of memory. Four new pods have been added to accommodate up to 40 additional racks.

The Division of IT now serves over 10,000 Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) lines. Approximately 8,000 VoIP work orders were processed over the last year.

The IT Accessibility task force is now a subcommittee of Information Risk, Policy & Security (IRPSC). The subcommittee will meet monthly.

The Division of IT is completing the second phase of residence hall networking upgrades. This phase includes six buildings and one complex.

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 have been developed: password vaults, identity-based authentication, AWS & Azure, and anti-virus technologies. These technology standards offer detailed information on how to effectively use these technologies and recognize the approved technology solutions available. The Office 365 task force presented its recommendation report to the EAC Committee on April 23 for consideration. A subcommittee has been established to assist in the design and development of the Next Generation Aggie Network.



Information Risk, Policy & Security Committee

The IRPSC is developing a standard administrative procedure (SAP) for cloud computing that will produce a list of approved providers to increase the overall IT security posture of the university. The committee has also voted on the revision or removal of six SAPs. The campus-wide Electronic and Information Resources (EIR) Accessibility Task Force was added as a standing subcommittee to IRPSC. The subcommittee consists of 40 representatives from colleges, administrative units and satellite campuses.



Enterprise Applications Committee

The EAC is developing a standardized process for IT contract reviews to ensure compliance with FERPA, HIPAA, Accessibility (TAC 206), Security (TAC 202), and applicable university SAPs to improve compliance across the university and reduce the probability of data and intellectual property loss. Two new task forces have been created. The Service Catalog Task Force will develop a comprehensive university-wide listing of IT services. The Software Inventory Task Force will develop a comprehensive university-wide listing of software used on campus.



Research & Innovative Technologies Committee

The RITC established a task force to develop recommendations on resources needed at Texas A&M to optimize data sharing, storage and transfer for all research faculty. The goal is to improve infrastructure support to enhance TAMU's national research competitiveness. The first task force meeting will be May 10.



Teaching & Transformational Learning Technologies Committee

The Learning Management System Selection Subcommittee has submitted the LMS Recommendation report to the TTLTC. The recommendation report will be reviewed by the TTLTC and, once accepted, will be forwarded to the Strategic IT Committee (SITC) and the Executive IT Committee (EITC). Additional information can be found at u.tamu.edu/lmsreview. The TTLTC also submitted a recommendation report to the SITC on proctoring solutions being used on campus. A task force has been created to analyze peer review software being used on campus.



Strategic Liaisons to the CIO

The Strategic Liaisons completed a diversity study of information technology professionals at Texas A&M and conducted an interview with Dr. Robin Means Coleman, the Vice President and Associate Provost for Diversity. They also proposed recommendations to improve the advancement of IT professionals with a focus on diversity and inclusion and to improve IT staff professionalism and retention. Two graduate students were added to the committee to provide student perspective and insight.

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CONTACT US

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