

IT PROS IT UPDATE



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October 2021

PARTNER SUCCESS

Two Texas A&M College of Engineering researchers are among the first to utilize [Aggie Innovation Platform \(AIP\) cloud technology](#). Learn how their data-driven research addresses both local and global impacts of the pandemic and [how innovation thrives when researchers partner with IT!](#)

- [Informing COVID-19's Risk on U.S. Global Supply Chains](#)
- [Fighting COVID in the Cloud with Data-Driven Research](#)

Dr. Karen Butler-Purry, Associate Provost for Graduate and Professional Studies, and her team collaborated with the Division of IT to develop an innovative [Document Processing System](#). The system automates the degree approval process, allowing students to easily submit degree plans for approval and quickly make needed changes.

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

The Division of IT is designing the [Next-Generation Aggie Network](#). The new network will provide a modern, resilient and secure research and education network to better meet the future demands of Texas A&M educators, researchers and students. A series of presentations to university stakeholder groups will be hosted in November, and a survey will collect feedback on what the new network should do for your work and your department. If you would like to learn more about the new network and provide feedback, email nextgen-aggienetwork@tamu.edu.

IT Governance was [restructured](#) to optimize the committee structure and provide clearer areas of focus. A fast-track approval process was introduced to streamline approvals for committee recommendations. A student-focused committee was created to provide input on IT issues that directly impact students.

Researchers can now quickly and accurately describe Texas A&M's IT infrastructure for funding proposals with [templated statements](#) about the university's network, data centers, cloud services and cybersecurity posture. To suggest additional statements, please contact the [Division of IT](#).

GoWeb's Accessibility Special Interest Group (SIG) is now the Accessibility Innovator Network. The network will include accessibility training and workshops, an accessibility incentive program and more. The group meets the second Thursday of even months from 11:45 a.m. until 1:15 p.m. For more information, contact [Cynthia Kauder](#).

An [extensive list of cloud services that comply with SAP 29.01.03.M0.13 - Cloud Computing Services](#) is available on the IT website. [A list of available data storage services](#), including information on data encryption and HIPAA and/or FERPA compliance status is also available.

PROJECT PROGRESS

[External Sender tags were activated](#) for all campus email accounts on October 7. The tags clearly identify messages received from external senders or from a suspicious source. Prior to the launch, extensive user testing was done with campus IT professionals and key university leaders. Additional details about External Sender tags are available in the [Knowledge Base](#).

Syncplicity licensing ends December 21 and users have been asked to migrate their data to other services such as OneDrive. Campus members with data still in Syncplicity will be asked to complete an attestation form indicating whether they wish to retain the data or have it deleted. The division will then use the SkySync data management platform to move remaining data from the Syncplicity cloud file sharing tool.

The migration to Microsoft 365 continues with [over 22,000 mailboxes now in the cloud](#). Thanks to the efforts of the campus IT community, we're well on our way to modernizing email, enhancing security and improving collaboration at Texas A&M University!

[Microsoft Teams](#) will officially replace Skype for Business as a campus collaboration platform for video meetings, chat, and file sharing when Skype is decommissioned on October 31.

Microsoft 365 training will continue through the fall. Registration is not required. Simply join the Teams meetings during the scheduled dates and times on [the training page](#) or watch recordings of previously held sessions.

The Division of IT encourages all campus members to subscribe to [Enterprise IT Alerts](#). By subscribing to the service, students and employees receive text alerts for critical campus IT outages.

SECURITY SPOTLIGHT

Alert notifications are now sent to campus members when a new device is added to their [Duo NetID Two-Factor Authentication account](#). The feature was developed in response to recent phishing attempts aimed at compromising Duo accounts.

The Spirion Data Loss Prevention (DLP) platform [now scans over 7.8 billion files per month](#). The scans detect Personally Identifiable Information (PII) such as social security numbers, bank account information and credit card details. If PII is found, users are notified and asked to remove the data or migrate it to a secure location.

Over 9,000 people played the division's cybersecurity game, "[Football Fever: Secure the Win](#)," between October 11 and 22. The game, an annual part of the division's National Cybersecurity Awareness Month campaign, is always a favorite. This year, players claimed free tickets to the Brazos Valley Fair and Rodeo, coupons for Blue Baker treats and were entered to win tech prizes.

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CONTACT US

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