Mastodon Card Reader, Convenient & Confidential

Does your department need a Mastodon Card Reader? Judge for yourself. The Department of Mathematics uses one to assist students with drop/add, switching classes and more. Secretary Janet Kruse says, “It's really a breeze. I click in the appropriate box on my screen and if they (students) don’t remember what their student ID number is, rather than ask for their social security number, they swipe their card through the reader and it automatically puts their student ID on my screen. I love it.” The card reader software is the work of ITS Applications Programmer, Ken Jaeger who wrote the program to work in conjunction with a magnetic stripe reader that extracts the IPFW ID from the Mastodon Card.

Numerous administrative departments and services are using the software to validate the identity of students when they come in for appointments. A few locations where you’ll find the Mastodon Card reader include:

- ACCS
- AdvisorTrak
- Arts & Sciences
- Bursar’s Office
- Financial Aid
- Gates Sports Center
- Health Sciences
- IT Services Help Desk
- Mathematics
- Registrar
- Student Government
- Student Recreation Center

For more information about the Mastodon Card reader, contact David Reynolds at 10723 in ID Card Services. You can also find information about the MiniMag 2 track mag stripe reader at: http://www.beresfordco.com/. (From the main page, click Card Readers/Encoders > Mag Stripe Readers > MiniMag 2). If you purchase the MiniMag stripe reader, call the Help Desk at 16030 to request an ITS desktop technician to assist with installation of the Mastodon Card reader software.

As promised, the ITS Macromedia Breeze Site is online! Breeze is a web-conferencing tool that provides an online environment for meeting “hosts” to deliver an interactive experience with “participants.” For more information on Breeze, see page 3 of the August INFOshare online at: http://www.its.ipfw.edu/communication/InfoShare/2006/.

To request Breeze access, follow these instructions

- Visit http://www.its.ipfw.edu/resources/breeze/
- Enter your first name, last name, email address, and indicate whether or not you know your Purdue Career Account username and password. Then click "next."

- If you indicated you did not know your Purdue Career Account username and password, you will receive a call from Client Support soon. If you indicated that you do know your Purdue Career Account information, click on the "Breeze" link to be taken to the Purdue Web site to complete your request.
- Log-in to the Purdue Web site with your Career Account username and password and click "confirm."
- You are all done! To access the Breeze interface as an IPFW meeting host, direct your Internet browser to https://breeze.itap.purdue.edu and log-in with your Purdue Career Account information.

We encourage all faculty who have signed up for a Breeze account to attend a Breeze training workshop.

- ITS Breeze Training: http://www.its.ipfw.edu/training/
- CELT Workshops: http://www.ipfw.edu/celt/wkshpcon.htm
A Listserv is a mailing list, usually created to discuss a particular topic of interest, where one person sends a message to the list and everyone on the list receives the message. Listservs can also be configured to be moderated (messages must be approved) or for announcements only (select people can send messages). The owner of the list can add and remove e-mail addresses and/or individuals can subscribe and unsubscribe their own addresses.

In April of this year, IT Services technicians replaced the campus list management tool with a new system made by L-Soft. L-Soft Listserv is considered the gold standard of all Listserv tools and is the mother of all other Listserv systems. L-Soft Listserv offers a more robust list management environment and allows list owners more control over their lists than they had previously.

List owners can now completely alter their list's configuration in addition to the standard functions of adding and removing subscribers. Owners can control who can post to the list; add or remove owners, editors and moderators; set default reply-to settings; allow or block attachments; control subscriptions options; and much more. These changes no longer have to be made via an ITS technician.

Another new addition is the ability to bulk-manage subscribers. An owner can simply provide the system a list of e-mail addresses and names in a text file and bulk load the names into the list; typing out the full "ADD" command for each subscriber is not necessary. Alternatively, an owner can bulk-delete all subscribers from a list without completing an unsubscribe command for each person. So if you reuse a list each semester, you can very quickly wipe out the previous semesters' subscribers.

By Pam Zepp, Client Support Group

New Listserv Software Gives Owners Complete Control

By Mandi Witkovsky, Client Support Group

Irwin Mallin, Assistant Professor and lead advisor with the Communication Department, uses technology (i.e., his personal Web space and listservs) to give students easy access to syllabi, assignments, reading guides, and links to important Web resources. Irwin is impressed with the ease of interacting with this technology and commends the efforts of IT Services, saying, "I've never been anywhere before where you upload something to the Web by simply saving to a directory. And my.ipfw.edu makes it really easy to upload files to the Web from home. Similarly, the new Web interface for the listserv software has made it easier than ever to manage subscriptions and adjust settings."

Further, Irwin utilizes technology to provide students with the opportunity to easily schedule advising appointments. One of the links on his Web site offers a number of time slots when Irwin is available to meet with advisees. It takes just a simple click on his e-mail link for an advisee to request a desired time. Irwin also uses a listserv to communicate important information to his advisees, “particularly to let them know when it's time to come in for a new semester's registration and advising.”

One of the guidelines of Web site design is to consider your audience and Irwin appears to always have this in mind. His main Web page lists the classes for the current and previous semesters; each with links to the syllabus, schedule, and assignments. There are also links to CASA, the Writing Center, a job fair, and even a link for student e-mail account activation through IT Services. For students considering a career in teaching, he has included a comprehensive page of college teaching resources as well as a page of general research resources, including an extensive list of organizations and resources for communication, conflict, and law.

While some Web design software requires a high level of skill, Irwin has settled on an easy interface so that he can focus his attention on content, which he updates regularly. As for the future, Irwin states that he looks forward to working with IT Services in efforts to integrate new technologies into education for the sake of educating students. Among his many recognitions and awards, Irwin was the recipient of IPFW’s 2005 Advisor of the Year, having been selected for his student-centered approach to advising and the usefulness of his Web site aimed at providing information to students. You can browse Irwin’s Web site at: http://users.ipfw.edu/mallini/.

By Scott Vitz & Pam Zepp, Client Support Group

New ITS Website - COMING SOON!
Many software installations and updates happen in the background here at IPFW. In order to help you become more aware of these changes, we are beginning a new column in this issue of INFOshare. Every issue will contain a brief description of the main software updates pertaining to faculty and staff applications which have occurred since the previous issue. This month’s column covers August, 2006 through September, 2006. We hope this will help you make the best use of the software available on our network.

- **Corel WordPerfect Office X3 SP1**
  Available in: IPFW Icons > Office Suites > Updates
  Note, that if you currently do not have Corel WordPerfect Office X3 installed, you may install the updated version simply by choosing IPFW Icons > Office Suites > Installs > Corel WordPerfect Office X3 Install. There is no need to install the update separately.

- **Adobe Acrobat Professional 7.0.8**
  Available in: IPFW Icons > Internet
  This update fixes several security issues with Adobe Acrobat Professional and will be installed automatically if you choose Adobe Acrobat Professional 7. Note: If you check for updates with Adobe Update Manager, it will not detect whether or not you have the patches installed. So always use the newest network version.

- **Mozilla Firefox 1.5.0.7**
  Available in: IPFW Icons > Internet
  This update fixes many security issues with Firefox and will install automatically if you choose Mozilla Firefox 1.5.0.7.

- **SPSS 14.01**
  Available in: IPFW Icons > Math-Stats > Installs
  This update fixes security issues as well as adds many new features. For a complete list of the updates see http://www.spss.com/software_version/

- **IPFW Root Certificate**
  This update was applied automatically. It adds the IPFW Root certificate to your computer so you may access IPFW resources protected by SSL encryption without being prompted by a security warning. This applies to any IPFW secure pages such as secure GroupWise Webaccess.

- **Endnote X**
  Available in: IPFW Icons > Research
  For additional information see: http://www.endnote.com/enXinfo.asp

- **Reference Manager 11**
  Available in: IPFW Icons > Research
  For additional information see: http://www.refman.com/rmwhatsnew.asp

- **AutoCAD 2006**
  Available in: IPFW Icons > Graphics > Installs
  For additional information see: http://images.autodesk.com/adsk/files/AutoCAD_2007_Matrix.pdf

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**Printer Firmware Upgrade Project**

**By Glenn Morgan, Manager of Systems Administration**

Did you know that IPFW has over 300 printers attached to its own local area network (LAN)? The care and feeding of these printers is a continuing challenge to members of the ITS Technical Support Team. Part of our regular maintenance activities requires that we begin updating the software on all of the network-attached HP printers located in IPFW buildings. The objectives of this effort include:

- Reduced security exposures that are present when LAN printers are operating with old software.
- Improved printer reliability, especially when printing extra large or complex documents.

Over the next few months a member of the ITS staff will visit each printer location and perform the update process. Because of the immensity of this project, the technicians will not have time to address last minute requests for assistance with other departmental hardware or software. The Help Desk will be contacting departments before we make these visits. The entire update process will only take about 15 minutes for each printer and requires no assistance from your office personnel. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the ITS Help Desk at 481-6030 in Kettler Hall room 206.

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**FTP Changes Coming Soon**

**By Mandi Witkovsky, Client Support Group**

Do you use FTP (File Transfer Protocol) to upload/download your IPFW Web pages? If you use software such as WSFTP, Fetch, Hummingbird, Rapid Filer, CuteFTP, FTP Explorer, Novell Netdrive, etc. for uploading/downloading your IPFW Web pages, you will need to make some minor setting changes in the coming months in order to publish your pages to the ITS network P:drive. The majority of campus Web page editors log in on campus and have direct access to the P:drive (without using FTP), but a few Web editors either prefer FTP on campus or edit and publish from a remote location. These are the folks who will be affected by this change.

While ITS is still in the planning stages of this project, indications are that this change will affect only faculty/staff P:drive sites (accessed through FTP). For complete information (specific settings and implementation dates), see the next issue of INFOshare. Note: This change does not affect Web editors who “save” or “put” directly to the network P:drive on campus.

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If you're not using Junk Mail Handling, find out more about it in the next issue of INFOshare.
Eric Vitz of ITS Client Support Moves to Distance Learning

Eric Vitz, who has assisted many faculty with software issues over the last few years, moved from ITS to the Division of Continuing Studies in late September. Over the last 4 years Eric has held many training classes for faculty and staff, and most recently coordinated the installation and maintenance of student access lab software. Eric accepted the position of Assistant Director of Distance Learning and will be working closely with Director David Wood. While this is a loss to ITS Client Support, we are excited for Eric as he embarks on a new journey with DCS and are fortunate that he is only a single floor away! Congratulations, Eric!

Barracuda Firewall Detects and Blocks SPAM

According to leading industry reports, 1 in 28 e-mails contains a virus and over 65% of all e-mails are spam. One research company has even predicted that by 2007, there will be 50 billion spam messages each day! Enter Barracuda, the new SPAM-blocking software, recently installed at IPFW by ITS Systems Administration.

Barracuda provides robust protection that features an easy interface allowing post office administrators to have more control over what is blocked and what is allowable. Sean Witkovsky, of the Systems Administration group states, “We should be blocking a lot more "offensive SPAM" now, and allowing a lot more of the legitimate stuff that was previously blocked by the old system. Since this system is much more dynamic and automatically updated on an hourly basis, it should provide us with a much higher level of satisfaction than the previous system.”

Sean receives a “daily traffic report” from both Barracuda firewalls each day. A recent Monday report disclosed that between 7:00-8:00 a.m. the total amount of incoming e-mail was a staggering 25,177 messages, but that is nothing compared to the daily total. While not all filtering processes are listed in the table below, this information illustrates the enormous amount of e-mail traffic at IPFW and the need for the best firewall tools.