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CTO Updates- 03/2016

Office of Information Technology

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CTO Updates March 2016

I am pleased to share with the WMU community the following technology related news and updates. If you have any questions or comments, I would love to hear from you. I can be reached at tom.wolf@wmich.edu or (269) 387-3838. Go WMU! Go Broncos!

Email migration project update: Because of technical issues, faculty and students will not be migrated to the new W-Exchange email system during spring semester. A new schedule is currently being drafted and will be published once testing of the data migration methodology has been completed. We are working with our partners in the Faculty Senate Academic Information Technology Council and with IT directors across campus on this revised schedule. We encourage you to check the W-Exchange website regularly for updates.

New lecture capture solution MyMediasite: The Office of Information Technology, in cooperation with the Faculty Senate Academic Information and Technology Council and the Education Technology Committee, has recommended that WMU move forward with plans to replace WMU's current lecture capture solution Techsmith Relay with Sonic Foundry's MyMediasite Desktop Recorder product. WMU's current video storage solution is Mediasite (also by Sonic Foundry). MyMediasite Desktop Recorder is a lecture capture solution that fully integrates with Mediasite, thus allowing captured videos to be quickly moved into production. The current interface between Techsmith Relay and Mediasite is manual, thus extending the time it takes to move videos to production. The project timeline is being planned such that Techsmith Relay and MyMediaSite Desktop Recorder will both be available through June 2017, which should allow ample time to transition to the MyMediasite lecture capture solution.

Important Elearning dates: WMU's Elearning environment will not be available on May 4 or July 4. We are encouraging all users of Elearning to please mark these dates on your calendars. Standard University communications (campus announcements in GoWMU and WMU Today emails) will occur closer to the dates of these two significant downtime events.

Eduroam: Have you heard about Eduroam? Eduroam went live at WMU in February 2015. It is a wireless networking service that allows people from participating non-WMU institutions to login to the WMU Eduroam wireless network using login credentials from their home institution. Conversely, traveling WMU students, faculty and staff can leverage the Eduroam wireless networks found at other participating institutions and login with their Bronco NetIDs and passwords. See more information.

Java: As a Banner or Kronos user do you ever run into Java compatibility challenges and don't know what to do next? Well relief is on the way! The main Banner login screen, TUBS, lovingly referred to as "the ugly brown screen", contains instructions for quickly eliminating those pesky Java/browser incompatibility messages. If you can't find what you are looking for on the Banner login screen then please reach out to your number one IT information resource on campus, our Help Desk, (269) 387-4357, option 1.

SharePoint: If you are current WMU faculty or staff and are interested in requesting a SharePoint site, you may submit a request here. If you are a WMU student, sit tight because SharePoint for students has not yet been released. The SharePoint for students project is expected to begin once all WMU students have been migrated to the new W-Exchange email system.

Two staff members retire: On March 31, Charles "Chuck" Boos retired from the Office of Information Technology, thus ending 44 years of employment with Western Michigan University. Chuck was hired in November 1972 by Dr. Hasselberth, Chair of the Electrical Engineering Department, to perform computer terminal maintenance. Chuck had a long and distinguished career highlighted by his involvement in the creation of the first wired and wireless networks on WMU's campus. On April 1, Thomas Meldrim retired. Tom began working for the Office of Information Technology in 2002, spending most of his 14 years at WMU supporting enterprise software solutions such as Novell, Groupwise, Microsoft Active Directory, and Zimbra (Webmail Plus). Tom's hard work, positive attitude, and musical talents (The Town Cryers) will be greatly missed.

OIT Making a Difference: For the third time in three years an OIT employee will be honored with WMU's Make a Difference Award. Classroom Technology Specialist Travis Wendt will be honored at the April 12 ceremony for going above and beyone numerous times at special events that occurred outside of his normal work day.

Did you know? The Office of Information Technology offers Web conferencing as a service to the campus community via two Adobe Connect Pro seminar rooms. These are cloud-based Web conferencing rooms that can be reserved by anyone who is an employee at WMU, with the caveat that only one person at a time per room may host a seminar. Our Faculty Technology Center administers the room scheduling process and also provides in person training. Supplemental online training is also available through WMU's Adobe vendor. More information.