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Tech Talk

Office of Information Technology

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CTO Updates - November 2015

Office of Information Technology

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Archives November 2015

The first big snowfall of the season is behind us, Thanksgiving is almost upon us, and before you know it, finals week will be here. As we head towards the home stretch of the fall 2015 semester, please remember that the Office of Information Technology is ready, willing, and able to partner with you on any and all things technology related. I can be reached at tom.wolf@wmich.edu, (269) 547-0232 or @tomwolfjr. Go Broncos!

NextGen email project: As was reported back in April of 2015, Western Michigan University's current email service provider, Merit, announced plans to discontinue offering email as a service. This prompted formation of a committee comprised of WMU students, faculty and staff, who spent the summer evaluating email alternatives. After completing a thorough analysis of the pros and cons of various options, the [committee recommended Microsoft Office 365 for Education, O365](#). A project team has been formed and will be working diligently over the next five to six months to migrate the WMU community to O365. An initial target date of April 2016 has been set for completion of this project. [You can keep up with the project here](#).

Educause Center for Applied Research (ECAR): ECAR provides information technology focused research and analysis for the higher education sector. It is a subscriber-driven research organization dedicated to understanding how technology impacts colleges and universities. If you are a current WMU faculty or staff member and are interested in accessing materials on the Educause ECAR site, [please contact Greg Lozeau](#). More information can be found on the [ECAR website](#).

Traveling overseas? The Office of Information Technology has put together a [document of technology and safety tips](#) for those of you who travel overseas for work, or who may be traveling during the holiday season.

Software in IT computer labs: As winter approaches, the sidewalks on campus have begun to fill with snow and the end of the rush to use the UCC and BCC labs has begun. With that in mind, we have put together a [mobile friendly website](#) that will allow students to see how many computers are currently available in the two largest labs on campus.

On a related note, here is the list of software that you will find installed on the majority of computers in the UCC and BCC labs:

- Adobe CS 6
- Adobe Flash
- Adobe Reader
- AutoCAD 2015
- CiCo client
- Chrome
- Eclipse
- Firefox
- GIMP

IntelliJ
iTunes
Java SDK and runtime
Lab Chart Reader
Labstats
Maple
Matlab
Minitab
Netbeans
.Net Framework
Notepad++
Office 2013 Complete
Papercut
SAS
Silverlight
SPSS
Sublime Text
Trace32
VLC

Did you know? The Bernhard Computing Center lab has five computers loaded with the same engineering related software found in the CEAS computer labs.