

# DVC InfoTech Fall 2002

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**Projects, Projects, Projects** The purpose of this newsletter is to briefly describe the information technology projects that are currently underway and to mention those that were recently completed and coming up: Projects-Present, Projects-Past and Projects-Future. Most, if not all of these projects are a direct result of the goals set forth in the [Technology Master Plan 2001-2004](#). I hope you find this newsletter helpful towards understanding how we are working together towards the vision: *"Diablo Valley College uses technology to support learning and instruction, enhance educational opportunities, personalize student services, and provide effective administrative processes to meet the changing needs of the college community."*

## Projects - Present

### **Faculty Computer Replacements - Group II**

Approximately 90 faculty members are slated for a replacement computer this fall per the [application request process](#) (*pdf format; size: 10.20KB*) that was initiated a year ago (group I faculty received their computers last school year and group III faculty will receive their computers next year). The [replacement computer list](#) (*pdf format; size: 16.93KB*) and [preparation checklist](#) (*pdf format; size: 34.46KB*) are viewable online. The Dell computers are ready to be issued. The Apple computer order is in process. These computers will be installed with the latest operating systems (Windows XP Professional or Mac OS X/OS 9) and MS Office Software (Office XP or Office v. X) and the standard college software (Datatel, Outlook, Internet Explorer, Norton Antivirus, etc.).

### **Staff/Manager Computer Replacements**

Permanent staff and management computers that are over three years old as of this summer were eligible for replacement through an [application process](#) (*pdf format; size: 11.09KB*) that was initiated last spring. You may [click here](#) (*pdf format; size: 10.59KB*) to see a list of those getting replacement computers this fall. The installation process will be coordinated with department managers. These computers will be installed with Windows XP, Office XP and the standard college software (Datatel, Outlook, Internet Explorer, Norton Antivirus, etc.).

### **Recycled Computer Installations**

Used computers that are between 3 and 4 years old are being refurbished and reissued to part-time instructor offices and other areas as needed and requested. These computers receive only minimal technical support and are not eligible for replacement. Unfortunately, since many have asked, we cannot simply sell used computers to DVC employees. That would be a violation of the Ed Code. However, the district does offer a no-interest loan program for employee [purchases of new computers](#), and, Dell and Apple offer [special discounts](#) to district employees and students.

### **Personal Directories on the Server**

As employee replacement computers are installed, we are also rolling out "personal directories." These directories will show up on "My Computer" when you log on to the DVC network. They consist of a private space on the campus file server in which you may save your files just as you would on your local hard drive. The advantages to using this resource is that (a) the server is automatically backed-up each night, and, (b) you may access your files from any networked computer on campus by logging in with your user name and password. Eventually you will be able to access your personal directory from off-campus, as well.

### **Shared Directories on the Server**

We are in the process of creating server and storage capacity for departmental/divisional shared directories. This will enable you to save files on the server that are accessible by other members of your department. This will make it easier to collaborate on documents and share information. Once this system is established, your shared directories will show in on "My Computer" when you log on to the DVC network.

### **Individual and Departmental Websites**

Much progress has been made in the creation of individual and departmental websites. Some of the individual websites were created using the [web-wizard](#) and stored on the DVC website. Other individual websites are stored on [Voyager](#). Many departments have created websites and individuals are updating them using FrontPage - a relatively easy to use web authoring tool that is part of our [Microsoft Campus Agreement](#) (*pdf format; size: 140KB*) package. A great example is [Student Services](#).

### **New BFL Building Computer Labs**

The new BFL building has 6 new computer labs that are almost ready to go (still awaiting power and data completion): Three business labs, two multimedia labs and one foreign language lab. The foreign language lab will incorporate [Divace](#) (Digital Interactive Audio Video Recorder) for teaching language skills.

### **Digital Media Studio and Streaming Services**

The former "preview room" in the Media Center is being converted into a studio for use by instructors and staff to create digital media files to be used for instructional or informational purposes. The studio will be equipped with audio/video/graphics capturing peripherals and workstation(s) along with the appropriate software. The results can be saved over the network to the new Windows media server for providing streaming media to your audience.

This project is about 20% complete. We are looking for interested individuals who would like to help create the studio and pioneer its application -- contact [Neal Skapura](#).

### **Multimedia Classroom Upgrades**

For classrooms with a bracket-mounted LCD projector and a securely mounted VCR, we will be replacing the VCR with a VHS/DVD player. Media Services is also replacing older VCRs on carts with VHS/DVD players.

### **LCD Projectors - Proper Care Saves \$\$\$**

Please take care when using an LCD projector to make sure it is turned off properly so that the fan will cool off the light bulb. Turning off a projector is a two-stage process that requires first turning off the light bulb, then, waiting and turning off the power to the fan that cools the bulb (once the fan has stopped). Failure to turn off the projector properly will drastically reduce the life of the bulb which costs about \$500. Dust buildup also reduces the life of the bulbs. An ongoing project of media services is to clean the dust filters twice per year.

### **LCD Projectors - Security**

We have had all-too-many projectors stolen from carts and ceiling-mounted brackets in unattended classrooms. To help prevent theft, we are in the process of better securing the brackets and installing AUDIO SCREAMERS to projectors on carts. These screamers will sound a loud alarm if the projector is removed. However, we still need your help in protecting these valuable assets. Please keep a watchful eye out for suspicious activity. And, if you have ordered a projector delivery for a class, try to get to the class early so that staff can drop it off under your supervision, and go on to make other deliveries between classes. Thank you.

### **Student Video-Conferencing**

The student video-conferencing room has been removed from LC109 and will be set up in the library classroom L200. This technology has been used primarily to teach the "College Success Course" between students and instructors at DVC and SRVC. It may be used for any course or class session that desires to interact via video-conferencing with a remote resource that is suitably equipped.

### **Room Scheduling Software**

The instruction office is currently working on making the room schedule for all classrooms and meeting rooms available via [IQSession](#) software. This will make it easier to check the availability of given rooms.

### **Student Computer Lab Servers**

Computer Services is creating a new computer "domain" for student computer lab activities. Thus, digital lab materials may be safely stored and accessed over the network. This new student domain will be separate from the established DVC domain that is currently used for non-instructional purposes. It will create a network security separation and produce more capacity for storing computer lab files and handling student accounts. This project is about

40% done. Computer Services will be seeking early adopters to test and use the system later this semester - contact [Ken Agustin](#).

### **Network Configuration Changes**

We are currently changing the IP configuration of the campus data network. We are in the process of implementing a new IP addressing scheme that utilizes private IP addresses, dynamic IP allocations and VLANs to separate IP traffic by different user-groups and locations. So far, most of the Computer Center, Media Center and Library have been migrated to the new configuration - as well as some backbone connections. Computer Services is planning scheduled maintenance for each building of the rest of the campus between now and next semester. The process will include "touching" every computer to change its IP settings. The result will be a more efficient, secure, scaleable and manageable network.

### **Network Capacity Growth**

We are currently upgrading the capacity of our local and wide area networks to provide higher bandwidth access to local and remote information resources. On the LAN, this involves replacing slower/older hubs and switches with faster/newer switches and routers to decrease data traffic congestion and increase capacity for handling large file transfers and streaming media. On the WAN, it involves upgrading the T1 connection to a fractional DS3 connection. This means that access to Internet resources will be faster. We are about 25% done with the LAN upgrade and about 50% done with the WAN upgrade.

### **Instructional Technology Support**

Neal Skapura is busy providing service and support for the implementation of technology-enhanced courses: Online, Hybrid or On-ground. He is also working on facilitating website development and training resources. Learn more at [www2.dvc.edu/it](http://www2.dvc.edu/it).

### **Projects - Past**

Over the past 9 months, we have completed many technology projects that are simply listed here for your information:

- New [Media Conference Room](#) (L151)
- New Computer Services repair room and expanded help desk hours (L112)
- New Electronics repair room (L154)
- Many new computer labs (Cisco CCNP, Sun, GIS, Music, Library)
- Student computer replacements (Computer Center, Dental, CAD-CAM, and more)
- Faculty computer replacements (Group I)
- New LCD computer projector installations
- New classroom TV installations
- [CCCSat Satellite installation](#)
- Replacement of core network switches
- Firewall and intrusion detection system installation
- Redundant Internet connectivity
- New web servers
- [New website](#)
- Server consolidation

- PowerApp web cache server
- Replacement video distribution system for Media Center
- New video editors for Media Center
- Media services support on Saturday mornings
- New [training resources](#) and [workshops](#)
- [New staff](#)
- New online and hybrid courses
- Special equipment request fulfillment

This is not a comprehensive list, some projects were undoubtedly not included, but, it should give you a good idea about the different technology projects that were recently completed. *Many thanks to the many individuals and groups that have supported, developed and implemented these projects!*

### **Projects - Future**

Many projects are in various stages of planning or execution for the upcoming year. Some of them will be done concurrently with the "Projects-Present". Some of these future projects are contingent upon new funding. Again, these are simply listed here for your information:

- DVC ID Cards
- Fee-based printing in computer labs
- New Help Desk system
- Intranet services
- Website development
- Exchange/Outlook email for part-time instructors
- Deployment of better network management tools
- Wireless networking in the library and media center
- Virtual Private Network access
- Windows 2000 Active Directory Services
- Exchange 2000 upgrade (district project)
- Redundant connection to Datatel from DVC (district project)
- Online, hybrid and on ground technology-enhanced course development
- Curriculum management system
- Faculty computer replacements (Group III)
- Student computer replacements
- Staff computer replacements
- Technology plan update
- Advanced Technology Center plans
- Student communication system
- New computer lab furniture and assistive-software for students with disabilities

This is not a comprehensive list either. Besides, this list is bound to change as new plans develop and old plans change in response to this ever changing environment. However, it should give you a fairly good idea of what we're doing and where we're heading. I invite you to participate in the process and make these projects work for you.

### **Information Technology Support Resources**

You may view a comprehensive list of [information technology staff](#) and [support resources](#) at the [technology website](#).