

DVC InfoTech Spring 2003

Ben Seaberry, *Information Technology & Services* January 16, 2003

DVC InfoTech newsletters are online at <http://www2.dvc.edu/technology/newsletter.htm>

Spring 2003 Index: *ID Cards for all Students - Connect Card, Fee-Based Printing in Computer Labs, Media Center Remodel and Tutoring Center, WebCT Student Email for Courses - Pilot Project, Personal Directories on the Server, Shared Directories on the Server, Student Video-Conferencing, Computer Replacements, Adjustable Height Tables in Computer Labs, Digital Media Studio and Streaming Services, Intranet, LCD Projectors - Security Reminder, Future Projects*

ID Cards for all Students - Connect Card

Beginning this semester, a new student ID card is being issued for free, by request, for all students. This card replaces the former ASDVC card which was issued only to those students who paid the ASDVC fee. The new card is called the **DVC Connect Card**. On the front is a color photo, name, status (e.g., student, faculty, staff, etc.) and barcode with the Colleague ID number. On the back is a cash-stripe that will be used for fee-based printing in computer labs (see next article). The card will be issued at the Student Union building (as before) and at SRVC (new service). During non-peak periods, the cards will also be issued at the DVC library. The primary initial uses are for general campus ID needs, library checkout, media checkout, departmental equipment checkout, etc. This semester is the *pilot phase* and the cards are not required for the receipt of such services. Beginning Fall 2003, the cards will be required of students by various service areas such as the library. Eventually, the cards will be used along with tracking software to make it easier to account for the provision of various student services such as tutoring, one-stop, EOPS, etc. Meanwhile, *students are still encouraged* to pay the ASDVC fee to receive the generous bookstore discounts and other benefits. In turn, they will receive a current semester ASDVC sticker to adhere to the back of the Connect Card. These cards are also available to faculty and staff (full-time and part-time) at no charge - if possible/feasible, we will use existing images taken by the graphics office to create the cards in advance. Thanks to everyone for their concerted, collaborative, efforts in bringing this longstanding project to fruition!

Fee-Based Printing in Computer Labs

Beginning in early February, we will pilot test a fee-based printing system in three computer labs: (a) Computer Center, (b) Library, (c) Engineering. The system will enable the charging of printing fees on a per-page, per-resource basis and will greatly reduce the amount of wasted paper, toner and resources due to free printing. It will also lighten the supplies burden for providing these resources. After a student sends a job to a printer, they will need to go to the "release station" and insert a plastic cash-card to pay for the job before it is printed. A Connect Card (see above) will serve as a cash card - simply insert it into a value-station (located in each of the three labs) and add money. Or, a generic cash card can be purchased from the value-stations at the computer center and library. The long-term plan is to provide this capability, by request, to any computer lab on campus.

Media Center Remodel and Tutoring Center

The media center is being remodeled to become a combined tutoring and media center. The construction work was mostly completed over the intercession and we anticipate that all of the furniture and equipment and cabling will be installed by the end of January. We are planning to offer all services beginning in early February. Meanwhile, the media center will be open for the following services (a) media checkout and tape duplication, (b) scheduling and delivery, (c) L106 viewing room, (d) recording studio as of 1/17 or thereabouts, and, (e) limited use of video viewing and editing equipment. The media conference room (L151) will be unavailable for the first few weeks of school. Come see us when we open!

WebCT Student Email for Courses – Pilot Project

We are piloting a project to use the email and bulletin board features of WebCT in traditional face-to-face courses to facilitate ready made email accounts for class communications. Thus, at your request, we would create a “stripped-down” WebCT course for you (to include just the email and bulletin board functions of WebCT) and create accounts for you and your students in the course. Then, you would simply log into the course (<http://webct.dvc.edu>) to send/receive email to your students in that particular course. This eliminates the need to request or require email addresses from students and create address lists and separate your course email. Rather, all the WebCT accounts are created and active for the duration of the course. This system would permit you to easily send email to individual students or the entire class. Likewise, students could email you or other students in the course. You can also set up multiple, individual WebCT courses. Please contact [Neal Skapura](#) if you would like to pilot this system. It’s not too late for spring semester.

Personal Directories on the Server

As replacement computers are installed, we are rolling out “personal directories.” These directories show up on “My Computer” when you log on to the DVC network. They consist of a private storage area 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 (e.g., classroom computer, lab computer, colleague’s computer, etc.). Eventually you will be able to access your personal directory from off-campus, as well. If you wish to have a “personal directory” before your replacement computer is issued, please contact the DVC Help Desk (x2245, helpdesk@dvc.edu).

Shared Directories on the Server

We have created shared directories on the server for use by divisions/units and the college. If you have a newer computer, you may access these network drives by simply opening “My Computer”. You should see three network drives, (P:) for personal directory (see prior article), (S:) for division/unit shared directory, and (U:) for universal (everyone) directory. These shared drives are on the network and enable you to save files on the server that are accessible by your colleagues. This will make it easier to collaborate on documents and share information. ***This system will replace Quicksand and we will work with you to make sure your files are transferred to the new server before retiring Quicksand.*** You may read more about the shared directories by going to [U:\README -- Introduction to DVC Network Directories.htm](#).

Student Video-Conferencing

The student video-conferencing room has been moved to the library classroom, L201. This technology may be used for any course or class session that desires to interact via video-conferencing with a remote resource that is suitably equipped.

Computer Replacements

Approximately 180 faculty and staff replacement computers were installed last semester. Kudos and thanks to the Computer Services staff for completing this assignment while keeping up with daily operations and other projects! The plan is to begin preparing for Group III faculty computer replacements. Towards that end, group III faculty will receive a notification of the computer-type they requested in their original application for confirmation purposes.

Adjustable Height Tables in Computer Labs

The following computer labs will be receiving adjustable height tables this month so as to better serve students in wheelchairs: Computer Center, ET125, ET103, ET116, ET116A, ET116B, LC105.

Digital Media Studio and Streaming Services

The former "preview room" in the media center has been converted into a studio for use by faculty and staff to create digital media files for instructional or informational purposes. The studio is equipped with audio/video/graphics capturing peripherals and workstations 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. We are pilot testing this resource and you may contact [Neal Skapura](#) to learn more about it or try it out.

Intranet

We have a DVC Intranet site that is under development. We are creating a beta-version with content that has been requested in the past. We will announce the URL soon and solicit your feedback for content and function, etc.

LCD Projectors – Security Reminder

We have had all-too-many projectors stolen from carts and ceiling-mounted brackets in unattended classrooms over the years. 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.

Future Projects

Here is a brief listing of some of the projects we are engaged in for the near and foreseeable future:

- New Help Desk system

- Internet 2 access (more bandwidth)
- Intranet services
- Website development
- Exchange/Outlook email for part-time instructors (Spring break)
- 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)
- Online, hybrid and on ground technology-enhanced course development
- Curriculum management system
- Online room schedule
- Faculty computer replacements (Group III)
- Student computer replacements
- Staff computer replacements
- Technology plan update
- Advanced Technology Center plans
- Student communication system

This is not a comprehensive list and it is subject to change as new plans develop and prior 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 [information technology website](#).