Virus protection is campus wide

Virus protection on our network servers

OIT’s systems group has installed McAfee virus protection on all College servers, including our email servers. Upon initial installation, McAfee found numerous common viruses in College home directories and a few in email attachments. Infected files are moved to “quarantine” and users are notified by our systems administrators. We hope this server-based protection will help stop the proliferation of software viruses on campus, but remember to be careful using any files or applications from risky sources.

Anti-virus software available for home use

Our new site license with McAfee allows us to distribute their ViruScan and NetShield products, powerful anti-virus software, for school and home use for all our students, faculty, and staff. As with all anti-virus software, it is important to apply updates to the software frequently. Unfortunately, new viruses are created all the time, so McAfee must constantly write new protections.

A CD with the current software will soon be available at Gutman Library reserves at the circulation desk. All College students, faculty, and staff will be allowed to borrow the CD for a two-day period.

Macro viruses

The most common forms of computer viruses on this campus are “macro viruses” which primarily infect Microsoft Office documents. Infected documents can be emailed (as attachments) to unsuspecting colleagues, who infect their own machines when they open the document to read it.

You may suspect a macro virus if you can only save a document as a template, if you are unexpectedly prompted for a password, or if you see unusual error messages. Please contact the OIT front desk at x2645 if you suspect a virus.

For more information, see Microsoft’s FAQ on macro viruses:
http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/q187/2/43.asp

Virus hoaxes

Many of us have seen warnings about supposed computer viruses being spread via email, with titles like “Bud frogs screen saver” or “AOL4FREE.” In fact, these are just two of many widespread Internet virus hoaxes, started as mischief and propagated by well-meaning email users. Remember that simply reading the text of an email message cannot spread a virus, although opening an attachment can have that potential. Be aware of the source of any software or document you use or download. For more information on the history of these and other internet hoaxes, see our link to the US government CIAC virus hoax page at the bottom of our HOT! News page.
Nothing but web, world wide

KEEP IT LEGAL

Copyright infringement

Now that so many members of the College community are maintaining their own web sites, we all need to be aware of the issue of copyright infringement. For instance, when you copy images from the web, make certain they are not copyrighted before you post them on your pages. Scanning in photos from magazines, or reprinting text from published materials is also probably a violation of the publisher’s copyright. In addition, you should never make available copies of commercial software. Even “freeware” and “shareware” may well have restrictions on how it is distributed. If you are in violation of federal copyright law, you could face civil as well as criminal penalties.

What about MP3?

MP3 is a highly-compressed file format that makes it feasible to distribute high-quality audio files over the internet. This format has been at the center of an uproar in the recording industry as it has been misused extensively to distribute pirated versions of recorded music.

Although the MP3 format is not illegal, it is illegal to offer for download unauthorized versions of CD tracks. Placing statements on your web site such as “for demo purposes only” or “you must delete within 24 hours” does not make this legal. Students who post copyrighted materials to their web sites will be asked to remove the offending files, may be subject to disciplinary action by the College, and may face civil and criminal penalties.

For more information about the MP3 controversy, see:

  http://cgi.pathfinder.com/time/magazine/articles/0,3266,19919,00.html
- Recording Industry Association of America, Inc.
  http://www.riaa.com/piracy/pir_op.htm
- MP3.com, “the ultimate MP3 resource”
  http://www.mp3.com

NEW COLLEGE ADMINISTRATIVE SITES

http://www.philacol.edu/y2k

The Year 2000 website contains links to the Department of Education, the President’s Council, Educause, and Microsoft. In addition, find information pertaining to the Y2K compliance of College systems including hardware, software, network, telecommunications, and more.

http://www.philacol.edu/admintf

The Administrative steering committee website describes the goals of the committee and its members. Taskforces within the committee will be investigating systems needs in the following areas: Fiscal, Records/Registration, Admissions/Financial Aid, Alumni/Development, Advising, and Student Life.

Faculty and staff only

Under our new site license with Microsoft, College faculty and staff can now install Office and FrontPage software on their home computers. (Unfortunately, students cannot be included under our educational contract, and operating systems like Windows 98 are not included.) Gutman Library has agreed to make these software CDs available from the reserves area at the circulation desk. Faculty and staff of the College may borrow a CD for a two-day loan period.

New student server

Over spring break, a powerful new server was installed for student email and home directories. “Athena2” is a dual Pentium II, 400MHz HP server with 512Mb RAM. Student home directory size has been increased to 50Mb. Logging in from the academic computing labs will automatically direct you to the new server, but your home machine may need reconfiguration. Change your email server to “athena2.philacol.edu” if necessary. Those students using Outlook Web Access for email do not need to make any changes. If you access your home directory, you may need to re-map the H: drive to Athena2.

Focus on OIT staff

Meet the newest members of our staff:

Keith Czaban will complete the College’s own Management Information Systems program this spring, but already has years of experience! He was a student worker for OIT for a year and a half and also developed the Athletics web site. In his new role of support specialist, he will be primarily responsible for Macintosh computing on campus, with additional responsibilities for Windows support, documentation, and training.

Our new lab manager, Paul Marques, is a Drexel University graduate with a degree in Management Information Systems. Paul was hired to maintain the critical computer labs in the School of Architecture & Design, among others. Paul joined the College after working for two years in the insurance industry. He lives in Philadelphia and enjoys playing hockey and supporting the Flyers.

Michael Panfile joins OIT as our telecommunications technician. He has a degree in Specialized Electronics Technology and was most recently employed for a local telecommunications firm. Mike also brings data and voice cabling skills to our department.

Robert Weiss joined us back in January as our systems manager, with responsibility for the College data network, our 14 NT servers, our administrative systems, our student computing labs, and a staff of four full-time professionals. Rob studied Computer Science at Rutgers University and has many years of experience in network administration, most recently as a technology officer at CoreStates Bank. Rob and his wife spend most of their free time boating on Barnaget Bay or working on home improvement projects.

About joining the College staff, Rob says, “I look forward to all the challenges and projects that face me and my group here at Textile, and I am glad that I have the opportunity to work here.”

March 1999

OIT MONTHLY

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