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The Association for Information Communications Technology Professionals in Higher Education

February 2011

Vol. 40, No.2

Supporting higher education information communications technology professionals in contributing to the achievement of the strategic mission of their institutions

From the President



Matthew K. Arthur Frector, Incident Response ngton University in St. Louis arthur@wustl.edu

Online Learning and More

My first column in the ACUTA eNews after becoming President started with this quip:

A guy was walking through the desert one day and saw another guy take off all of his clothes and jump into a giant cactus. He asked the guy why he did that and the other guy answered, "It seemed like a good idea at the time".

The point was how painful change can be without due diligence and planning ahead of time. It was also the first of many updates about progress on our evaluation of ACUTA's education strategic plans. As you may remember, after the strategic planning session in July and the consultant's report in August, we asked ACUTA Director-at-Large Matt Fuoco and Membership Experience Committee Chair Jennifer Van Horn to head a task force that would develop concrete steps forward based on previous work. Their report was accepted by the Board with no changes in December.

At the Winter Seminar in Phoenix in January, the Board voted on specific steps to take on the pathway ahead. I am very excited for the future of our organization and wish to thank everyone who has put in so many hours and so much effort to get us to here. There will be lots to do in the coming weeks and months, but I feel strongly we are pointed in the best direction for ACUTA as an organization as well as for individual members.

Of the findings that came from the Strategic Planning session in July, the capstone is that ACUTA must improve and expand its online learning opportunities. The Educational Offerings Task Force came back with five recommendations, three of which dealt with this issue directly. The other two enable the organization to accomplish the first three. Here are those recommendations:

- 1. Develop a comprehensive online learning offering.
 - · Initially focus on the core membership
 - Programs should be timely and provide solid, actionable information that can be used to solve problems and better deliver services
 - Year one will see an immediate and marked increase in the number of online learning offerings.

continued on page 2

Voting Members: Deadline to vote in ACUTA election is February 11.

Thanks to the sponsor of the February eNews



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2. Increase on-line learning opportunities to "target" audiences

The Program/Content and Membership Experience committees are helping to identify who our "target audiences" are. The Board has specifically asked the Membership Experience Committee to help come up with 5-10 *roles* within the information communications technology field in higher education that most of our job titles can fit. This should help the Program/Content Committee as they develop targeted programs.

3. Develop a comprehensive educational plan.

All this leads to asking the Program/Content Committee to put these recommendations into plans that take us through the short term (immediate impact on the kind and type of on-line offering) and sets us up for the long term.

4. Eliminate one seminar.

In order to allow for the time to work on and complete the first three recommendations, we simply must free time for our staff and the Program/Content Committee. Our staff works hard and up to full capacity now. There simply is not time to take on these large, new initiatives. Eliminating a seminar will free up appropriate staff time to work on the three recommendations listed above. In addition, this allows time for the Committee to assist with the planning and implementation of the new educational programs.

In years past ACUTA leadership has looked at the possibility of eliminating one of the seminars. Personally, I have not been in favor of this move unless we could offer more educational opportunities for those that might have attended that one seminar.

5. Develop a new dues policy.

One of the core tenets of our educational strategic planning was to "ensure the association's education offerings are responsive to member needs while **meeting the association's business and financial objectives.**" (boldface added) In order to free up staff time and maintain revenue lost from eliminating one seminar, an increase to dues was approved. This also helps us to increase the percentage of our revenues from dues versus events, which helps make a more fiscally stable organization.

There is still a lot of work to be done, but I want very much to announce the specific changes to made at the Annual Conference (April 3-6, Hilton Bonnet Creek, Orlando, Florida). I truly believe these major changes in ACUTA's evolution are what is needed and will continue to steer our vessel into the future as the preeminent authority on information communications technology in higher education.

I hope to see each of you in Orlando to help celebrate ACUTA's 40th anniversary: Succeeding in the New Reality!



"Physical security has had significant attention over the last decade," says Dr. Walt Magnussen, Telecommunications Director at Texas A&M University, and he attributes that to a heightened awareness of physical threats triggered by the 9-11 terrorist attacks.

At Texas A&M, an initiative was launched to harden the network, starting with the core and working outward. Today, he says, the core is in good shape and aggregation points are solid; but in the IDFs and MDFs, the access portion of the network, improvements are ongoing.

"There is a lot of attention here to cybersecurity issues, but that's understandable," he explains. "The threat there doesn't require physical proximity. But when it comes to our physical security, we have installed card access units at our aggregation points, so everyone is authenticated and there is logging. We have a Netbox security system, with cameras in all closets, along with temperature and environmental monitoring."

Magnussen noted that redundant air conditioning and power is part of the Texas A&M hardening effort, pointing out that "this is a security consideration, since one of the easiest ways to shut down infrastructure is to disrupt the environment."

If you would share a security snapshot of your own campus, we'd love to hear from you. Contact editor Pat Scott at pscott@acuta.org or call 859/278-3338 x221.



Kevin Tanzillo Dux PR kevin@duxpr.com

Maybe They Should Call It Copper Peak

Do you remember a few years back the hype preceding the introduction of the Segway, that two-wheeled transporter? We were all teased that this new product would boldly transform transportation. And then it was unveiled ... and in light of the hype, it was kind of disappointing.

Now, this isn't to bash the Segway, because it still seems like a pretty cool ride, and a fun (and useful in many applications) way to get around. I've never had the pleasure of riding one, but I'd be happy to give it a try, once assured that being seriously balance-challenged isn't a disqualifier.

Yet the Segway produced more of a ho-hum than a "wow!" at the time. Equally disappointing was the latest news about Light Peak interconnect technology, which we talked about back in September. Light Peak, to refresh your memory, is a fresh new Intel approach that uses beams of light to carry data between computers, servers, and devices of all kinds. An optical cable technology (hence the name Light Peak), it leverages fiber's vast bandwidth potential.

Except that in January, Intel said the first release of Light Peak will use copper rather than fiber. Now, I love copper, but have to say this is a letdown. It's like going to a nice restaurant, ordering the Catch of the Day, and being served half a dozen fishsticks straight from the toaster oven.

Intel does say the copper-based version can still transfer data at 10 gigabits per second, as the initial announcements indicated the first-round speed would be. Apparently some economic realities got in the way—and we all hate when that happens—resulting in copper being an interim step. While it's a bit of a letdown, word is that this could end up being a practical start for Light Peak, allowing it to better co-exist with current technologies initially. We wish them well.

While we're updating past topics, I'd have to say I'm surprised we're not hearing more about IPv6, which we wrote about last July. That's the new Internet addressing scheme that promises an almost endless supply of potential addresses, compared with the limited number still available under the current IPv4 addressing regime.

What little we have seen still reinforces the fact that yes, we're running out of available IPv4 addresses, and yes, we all really need to do something about that. As of July, the Really Smart People were saying we only had maybe 18 months to two years to deal with this, and now six months of that time has ticked away.

Maybe we'll just treat this like we do Christmas shopping, where most people do it all in a mad rush the last few weeks before the big day. But we'd like to encourage you to get your "shopping" done early. It's worth repeating past advice about how to prepare for IPv6. You should be querying your equipment suppliers and service providers to be sure they have a good transition plan, doing your own homework on IPv6, and ideally preparing to implement IPv6 in a testbed approach, which would help you gain expertise in working with it prior to a full transition.

As always, if there are specific topics you would like to see covered in this space, please let me know via e-mail at kevin@duxpr.com.



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What's the most pressing issue on your desk today? We asked that question of some ACUTA members last week, and here's what they said:

· Jana McDonald, Texas A&M:

The biggest obstacle I am currently facing is with VoIP and piggy-backing on the data jack. Today we will only implement VoIP when we have a separate data port for the voice which we create a voice VLAN for. With the current cost of cabling, many departments are not willing to install another jack, therefore are staying with their current phone systems. We are working with our computing and networking group to find a solution, but are facing many obstacles such as non-POE switches, port security, how much uptime to provide among several other issues. Since it involves departments outside of telecommunications, it is not an easy solution.

· Ron Kovac, Ball State University:

I just did some research on funding technology yesterday and found that almost every state is making budget "adjustments" to higher education. How does this affect our institutions and the ICT departments, and what can ICT do to help this situation along? (Here are just 4 of the many links Ron found.)

http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/politics/texas_legislature/article/Senate-leaders-draft-bare-bones-budget-with-pain-975238.php

http://www.indianastatesman.com/sycamore-administration-prepares-for-budget-cuts-1.1914462

http://www.khsltv.com/content/localnews/story/Budget-Cuts-On-Horizon-For-Higher-Education/s9m57IuimEG9hG9X2h9r_g.cspx

http://www.deseretnews.com/article/700103849/Nationwide-higher-education-getting-the-axe.html

We are also exploring uses of the Cloud. I think everybody is trying to figure out what this is and how it can help us do business more efficiently.

• Pat Todus, Northwestern University:

Pat sent a link to Northwestern's recently updated strategic plan. It contains the information the university has thought important for the next three years. If you're interested and want some fine examples of well organized, forward-thinking plans, or if you would like to know exactly how Northwestern's priorities shape up, check this out: http://www.it.northwestern.edu/strategic-plan/strategic-plans.html

• Ric Simmons, LSU:

- 1. Outsourcing e-mail: We're finally taking the plunge and plan to outsource faculty/staff e-mail (students have been outsourced since 2003). We have several challenges, including backup Internet service for reliability and the amount of data to migrate.
- 2. Upgrading phone system: We're debating whether to migrate the current PBX and maintain the entire analog infrastructure or replace the analog infrastructure with a VoIP solution. We're running the costs to see which is cheaper, but there are a lot of variables.
- 3. Storage: We're investigating our storage needs across all constituents within ITS in order to make better use of capacity.

· Adrienne Geralds, Rutgers University

The telecommunications division at Rutgers is in the first phase (of a 4-year project) to deploy VoIP to approximately 15,000 faculty/staff. The technology is rolling smoothly, but the challenges are great:

- · Keeping ahead of the curve!
- Network testing and validating building infrastructure ahead of each deployment. Defining new processes and procedures for adds, moves and changes, while keeping 911 info valid.
- Communicating regularly with the University community to keep them informed regarding scheduling and phone number changes (new area code being deployed)

Fortunately, we're a great team, and fast learners, and our community is looking forward to the new system.

Handling Air Travel Frustrations

In an article in the *New York Times* on January 25, Michelle Higgins offered some good advice for travelers whose flights are cancelled—and that's probably a large number of people this winter! Here are three things you might want to consider:

Twitter May Help

When you make your arrangements, sign up for flight alerts by e-mail, text message, or phone call. Bad weather, delays, and mechanical problems are unpredictable. Be ready.

In addition, Higgins says, "Increasingly airlines, including JetBlue, Southwest, and Delta, are using Twitter to notify passengers of major flight cancellations and assist in rebooking. Last year, Delta created a dedicated Twitter account for customer service issues, @DeltaAssist, with reservation agents online Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Eastern time. Because of the viral nature of Twitter, with Twitterers habitually "re-tweeting" one another's posts, customers who reach out to the airline via Twitter may get a quicker response than they would by phone or another communications channel as airlines attempt to quell any negative publicity."

Know Your Rights and Limitations

Did you know that JetBlue customers whose flights are delayed for an hour after departure because of a "controllable irregularity" such as a maintenance issue are entitled to a \$25 credit toward future travel? Did you know that Delta offers meal vouchers to passengers who are delayed for more than four hours after scheduled departure time? Did you know you may also demand a refund for a cancelled flight from any airline if you decide not to take the trip?

Higgins advises travelers to visit the carrier's website, print out the "contract of carriage," and take it with you so you know what the rules are and can share them with employees who may not actually be familiar with them themselves.

Don't Get Bumped!

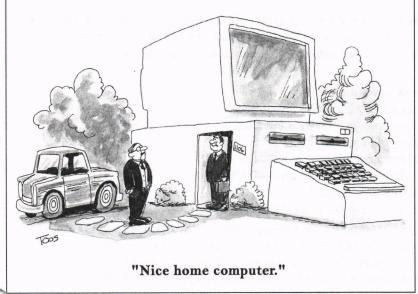
Because the last passengers to check in for a flight are often the first to get bumped, check in online as much as 24 hours in advance with some airlines. "If you do get bumped," says Higgins, "ask for cash, not a voucher. Passengers who are involuntarily bumped and rebooked on another flight within two hours after the original domestic

flight time...are entitled to \$400 in cash, according to the Department of Transportation regulations. If they are not rerouted within that two-hour window, they are eligible for up to \$800."

If your luggage doesn't make it off the plane, be sure you report it to the airline and insist that they create a report and give you a copy. There are all kinds of rules and deadlines and limitations, so do your homework in advance.

We hope you are making plans to travel (by air or by ground) to Orlando for ACUTA's 40th Annual Conference—and we hope you don't get delayed, canceled, or bumped, or lose your luggage. But perhaps there's some useful info here if ever that happens to you!

IT's Funny!



Thanks to Cartoon Resource for allowing us to share their cartoons with you in coming issues. If you like them, let me know (pscott@acuta.org). If you have a use for cartoons yourself, let them know at licensing@cartoonresource.com.

Lightning Round

New at the Conference New this year: Join us in the Exhibit Hall on Tuesday, April 5, 2:30 - 3:00 p.m. for a lightning round discussion of some hot topics. Each speaker will have a few minutes to discuss a topic of interest and get immediate audience feedback. All you'll see and hear is the speaker in front of you—no PowerPoints, just plain, raw discussion!

If you are a university attendee with a hot topic to address, you could pitch a question, announce a successful ICT implementation, invite solutions to vexing technology problems, or share a late-breaking development. A limited number of speaker slots will be available, so send an e-mail to dhall@acuta.org to sign up right away!

Webinar Wednesday March 9 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Environment

ACUTA members will want to participate in this very timely webinar that is adapted from a presentation at the ACUTA 2011 Winter Seminar. Participants said the session was fabulous and they wished their CIOs could hear this presentation.

The Future of the PBX in a University Our presenter, Joe Massey, will examine the needs and business drivers related to phone service in a university environment and how they are going to affect the telephone service that is provided in the future. After this session, attendees will:

- Know whether a PBX or equivalent Centrex/hosted service solution will be needed with the ever-increasing use of cellular service
- · Understand how cellular and wireless affect the services provided and required
- Be conversant about what telecom management, field-services, administrative, and accounting jobs will look like
- Understand how university executives use the phone and how that perception affects their understanding of how non-executives use the phone

Joe Massey, President, JTM Associates, has developed and taught hundreds of seminars and courses on telecommunications engineering, design, marketing, and management, and developed seminars, training programs, and technical courses for more than 35 professional associations, publishing companies, and colleges and universities. Massey has also provided expert testimony before regulatory bodies in both rate and service complaint cases, including testimony before the FCC on behalf of the American Hospital Association.

Sponsored by Digium www.digium.com

The webinar will take place Wednesday, March 9, from 1:30-3:00 Eastern Time. Please invite your CIO and other colleagues who have ever asked you, "Well, it's just telephone service; how complicated can it possibly be?" Register online at www.acuta.org

Learn More about UC, Voice Trends, the Cloud, and More from Your Desktop Eight sessions from the Winter Seminar were recorded and are available from the ACUTA e-Store. If you missed this event or if you just want the opportunity to review the information in the comfort of your own office, we have made the CD/DVD available for purchase.

Sessions include:

- The Next Access Network Revolution
- Regulatory & Other Issues Affecting DAS & Signal Boosters
- The Communications Environment: Having a Plan Really Works
- Shaping Higher Education's Cloud Future
- Implementing Unified Communications at Marquette
- · Deploying Wireless in a Highly-Distributed University Campus
- · Where is the Telephone Industry Headed?
- A Deep Technical Dive into Penn's Open Source VoIP Project

The CD/DVD comes in a high-quality Windows Media video format that can play on your laptop or desktop computer. The cost is \$189/members or \$219/nonmembers. Benefits include:

- More than 8 hours of high-quality video and audio on a single CD/DVD disc
- · Handouts of many of the sessions included on same disc in Adobe Acrobat PDF format
- · No Internet connection required for viewing video
- Portable and archivable for long-term viewing and review
- · Can be copied to any portable device that accepts Windows Media video files

Board Report January

George Denbow
Univ. of Texas, Austin
ACUTA Secretary/Treasurer
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utexas.edu

The Board met at the Winter Seminar on January 8, 2011, at the Pointe Hilton Tapatio Cliffs.

Items reviewed and approved include 9-30-10 Financial Statements, Financial Dashboard report, committee minutes and reports, 12-31-10 membership recruitment update, committee appointments, collaborations, and report of FCC activities.

Mr. Arthur discussed the input from the Membership Experience, Corporate Liaison, and Program/Content committees regarding recommended changes in the seminar schedule.

Ms. Semer provided an update on all action items in the strategic plan, per her 2010-11 goals established by the Board. She also reported that the firm that has been engaged to develop the comprehensive marketing plan will be ready to start when the outcome of the education strategic planning effort is more complete. She also reported that there would be no attrition charges for the Winter Seminar, as we exceeded our room commitment.

Mr. Arthur recapped the previous discussions related to the change in educational offerings, specifically, a financial report and a staff report. Following a lengthy discussion, the Board adopted the recommendations as described in the President's column on pages one and two of this eNews.

Respectfully submitted,

George Denbow

ACUTA Secretary/Treasurer

Thanks to Journal Advertisers for 2010

ACUTA thanks the following companies for advertising in our 2010 Journals. As you choose the companies with which you will do business, we hope you will remember these ACUTA supporters.

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Thanks to Exhibitors and Sponsors at Winter Seminar

Thanks to the following companies that exhibited and/or sponsored at our Winter Seminar in Phoenix, Arizona. As you have opportunity, please include them in your RFPs and thank them for their support of ACUTA.

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Info Links

Randy Hayes Univ. of Northern Iowa randal.hayes@uni.edu Frequently, vendors, associations, governmental bodies, and others provide white papers and other informational documents which are announced through a variety of media sources. While some admittedly have a certain slant or opinion, others are quite objective; however, they often contain valuable information. Below are links to selected documents.

- DAS Forum Presentation to FCC on Pole Attachments Issue: https://prodnet.www.neca.org/publicationsdocs/wwpdf/122210das.pdf
- CDC Wireless Substitution for Landline Telephones: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhis/earlyrelease/wireless201012.pdf
- FCC Impact from IPv4 Exhaust & IPv6 Transition: http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2010/db1230/DOC-303870A1.pdf
- NECA Rural Association Intercarrier Model 2010: https://prodnet.www.neca.org/publicationsdocs/wwpdf/123010neca.pdf
- Free State Multiple Gov't Reviews Burden Telecom Mergers: https://prodnet.www.neca.org/publicationsdocs/wwpdf/122310freestate.pdf
- NANPA North American Numbering Plan Report to the NANC: http://www.nancchair.org/content/download/2944/34539/version/1/file/Dec10_NANPA_Report.doc
- FCC 2010 E-Rate Program & Broadband Usage Survey: http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2011/db0106/DA-10-2414A1.pdf
- · AdTran Application-Driven Broadband Metrics: https://prodnet.www.neca.org/publicationsdocs/wwpdf/1611adtran.pdf
- FCC Trends in Wireless Devices: http://www.fcc.gov/oet/info/documents/reports/wirelessdevices.doc
- NRIC Predicting Reasonable Broadband Costs: https://prodnet.www.neca.org/publicationsdocs/wwpdf/neruralattach.pdf
- NRRI Broadband's Role in Smart Grid's Success: http://www.nrri.org/pubs/multiutility/NRRI_broadband_smart_grid_juris_jan11-1.pdf • Calif. DGS - Statewide Telework/Telecommuting Site:

http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2011/db0111/DOC-304054A1.pdf

- http://www.dgs.ca.gov/dgs/ProgramsServices/telework.aspx • FCC - Local Telephone Competition:
- NTCA 2010 Broadband/Internet Availability Report: http://www.ntca.org/images/stories/Documents/Advocacy/SurveyReports/2010_NTCA_Broadband_ Survey_Report.pdf



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Check It Out: Press Releases, Job Postings, RFIs/RFPs, Special Deals, and Corporate Webinars

The ACUTA website is a useful tool for communicating with other members, whether you've got some exciting news to share, a position to fill, or a project for which you need a vendor. Check the website for the latest postings frequently. Here are items that have been posted since our last eNews.

PRESS RELEASES

- Superior Essex Offers New Gel-Free Loose Tube Fiber Cable Line
- New Plenum-Rated, Indoor/Outdoor, Optical Fiber Cable from Superior Essex is Designed to Survive the Toughest Conditions
- NextLAN AXi CAT 6A Offers 20 dB Alien Crosstalk Margin in New Video (from Superior Essex)
- New Category 5e ScTP (F/UTP) Cables Withstand Extreme Temperatures, UV Exposure (from Superior Essex)
- Healthcare Innovator Concerro Expands the Use of MIR3 Intelligent Notification to Provide Real-Time Communication
- MIR3 Strategy to Expand UK Datacenter Grows Business While Providing Cost Savings to Customers
- eBRP & MIR3 Partner to Add Notification to Business Continuity Management Solutions
- inAlertCenter from MIR3 Helps PETCO Keep Pets and People Safe, Business Running Smoothly
- Youngstown State University to Provide AT&T Wi-Fi Across its Campus
- Oberon, Inc. Free Educational Webcast: Cabling and Infrastructure for Enterprise Wireless Networks
- Carousel Industries and 911 ETC Announce Strategic Partnership

JOB POSTINGS

Help your colleagues who are looking for work! To send job postings, go to www.acuta.org. Click on one of the jobs listed there and you will link to the jobs we have now and a link where you can post a job.

Director of Medical School Central IT Services, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO

RFIs/RFPs

No new RFPs have been posted this month. Submit yours today!

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