10-2014

ACUTA eNews October 2014 Issue 10

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/acutanews

Part of the Higher Education Commons, and the Operations Research, Systems Engineering and Industrial Engineering Commons

"ACUTA eNews October 2014 Issue 10" (2014). ACUTA Newsletters. 7.
http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/acutanews/7
Nominate for ACUTA Board

Once again it's time to prepare for ACUTA elections. New officers begin their terms at the close of the Annual Conference. For 2015-2016, that will be April 22. ACUTA's Nominating Committee has issued the call for nominations for the positions of President-Elect, Secretary/Treasurer, and two Directors-at-Large.

President-Elect: As stated in the Bylaws (Article III, Sect. A6), "Candidates for the office of President-Elect must have served as a member on the Board of Directors for a minimum of one year or served as the Chair of a permanent committee for a minimum of one year." Nominees for this position must also be prepared to serve the following two years as President and Immediate Past President.

Secretary/Treasurer: Riny Ledgerwood of San Diego State University will be completing her second two-year term as Secretary/Treasurer. She is not eligible to run for reelection.

Directors-at-Large: Two positions shall be elected each year for two-year terms. The Nominating Committee will assemble a slate of nominees from names submitted by the membership. The two candidates receiving the most votes will be declared the winners. Directors-at-Large whose terms will expire this year are Adrienne Esposito from Rutgers University and Simeon Ananou from Salisbury University. Both are eligible to serve another term if they choose to run. Directors-at-Large Sharon Moore, Smith College, and Cathy O'Bryan, Indiana University, will serve the second year of their two-year terms.

President-Elect Michele Morrison of the British Columbia Institute of Technology will step into the presidency. Immediate Past President Ron Kovac, Ball State University, will step off the Board, and President Mark Reynolds, University of New Mexico, will serve as Immediate Past President.

Nominations must be received by 5:00 p.m. EST, November 7, 2014. Send all nominations to Ron Kovac at rkovac@bsu.edu and cc: Lori Dodson at ldodson@acuta.org. Phone nominations will not be accepted.

Social Media Planning

As Charles Dickens wrote, "It is was the best of times; it was the worst of times." The same can be said about the state of online academic support and resources for today's college students, who face an almost overwhelming number of academic resources at their disposal due to the boundless limits of the Internet. Although the quantity of these resources is indeed infinite, the quality and accessibility of these resources can neutralize the benefit to the student.
Social Media: Continued from page 1

The challenges that students face in seeking academic support can be overcome by the opportunity that social media networks provide.

Despite the fact that students report having less time than ever to devote to academics, they still manage to spend considerable time online. While this time may be devoted to personal interests, this behavior does create a window for tutoring centers to have a positive impact on student success.

Many online academic behaviors are deliberate; a student is much more likely to Google a question on how to answer a specific homework problem rather than really grasp the bigger goals of the assignment, much to the chagrin of faculty and administrators. As difficult as it can be to get students to seek out help for immediate problems or questions via online resources, there is an even greater stigma against attending student strategy and other academic workshops that are not tied to a specific course or problem that students are struggling with.

Social media addresses these concerns by removing geographic, time and social barriers that prevent students from asking for and receiving the academic support that we know that they need in order to succeed.

Key recommendations for social media:
1. Use Facebook for online tutoring activities.
2. Establish a Tumblr account that serves as a host site for digital media.
3. Use Pinterest boards as an organization system for external online resources.
4. Develop an internal editorial calendar system for strategically distributing online content.
5. Use social media such as Google+, LinkedIn, or Twitter for pushing or pulling content.

As an IT professional how engaged are you at your university on social media development, support and delivery of this content?

Please send your examples to the ACUTA listserv: telecom@community.acuta.org.

I encourage you to look ahead and plan for the Boston ACUTA seminar (October 26-29, 2014) as ACUTA content management assures we are in line with current trends and expectations.

Reach Mark anytime at reynolds@unm.edu.

Why ACUTA? - THE ASSOCIATION FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENT
We answer the call for Higher Education ... We are a welcoming culture ... We make a difference

Excerpt from the ACUTA Journal, Fall 2014, page 12

U.S. Campuses Spend $4 Billion Annually on Unmanaged, Unmeasured Investments

Higher-ed IT pros point to cloud- and software-defined as keys to progress. According to “Cloud Campus: The Software-Defined College,” a report issued in August 2014 by MenTalk, the size of the higher-education (HED) cloud market is $4.4 billion, and 19 percent of HED IT spending, or $4 billion per year, is done outside of the central IT function. The study further reveals that HED IT pros estimate 18 percent of their IT systems are redundant, costing U.S. HED institutions $3.8 billion annually.

At the same time, institutions are struggling to keep up with growing IT requirements. According to the survey, 82 percent of HED IT executives say their network is more complex today than it was two years ago, and there is no additional IT budget to support new requirements. HED IT pros note that the primary factors driving the increased network complexity include increased use of mobile devices and mobility requirements (61 percent), an increase in diversity of IT needs among end users (57 percent), and an increased number of applications (50 percent).

"Cloud Campus: The Software-Defined College" is based on an online survey of 152 higher-education IT executives in June 2014. The report has a margin of error of +/- 7.92 percent at a 95 percent confidence level. To download the full study, please visit www.meritalk.com/cloudcampus.
October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month, and, coincidentally, ACUTA's Cyber Security Task Force met for the first time September 22. At the inaugural meeting, chairman Chris Boniforti, Lynn University CIO, outlined the general direction of the task force, which includes projects such as the following:

- **Cyber security resources site on ACUTA webpage:** The task force is reviewing a shell of the Cyber Security Resources website. The intent of this website is to make available a variety of cyber security and IT security resources in a centralized place for ACUTA members. In addition to having links on this page, we would like to create a member CS blog which will include member-provided content that would be refreshed on a normal basis. More details to come.

- **Top 5 CS Issues in Higher Education:** Another project the task force may undertake is a survey of our members to determine the top 5 cyber security issues facing higher education. The results of this survey would feed content to the CS Resources website, the *ACUTA Journal* and eNews, as well as our webinars and in-person presentations.

- **Way for Members to Talk about Issues:** The task force would also like to create a place where members can communicate collectively when dealing with new vulnerability issues they are facing.

The group is currently investigating the possibility of enlisting a liaison from the Department of Homeland Security. Details will be shared as soon as decisions are made. Members are invited to contact anyone on the task force with ideas the group might consider addressing.

---

**Goodbye...Congratulations...Welcome to ACUTA!**

**Goodbye, Joanie**
Once again we are reorganizing the ACUTA office in Lexington. Joanie Proffitt, who has been with us for almost 7 years, serving for the past two years as Registration and Database Coordinator, is moving to New Jersey. We wish her well as she makes new friends, encounters new adventures, and seeks new opportunities.

**Welcome to ACUTA, Sandi**
At the front desk, Sandi Higginson is our new Finance and Accounting Specialist. She reports to the CFO and supports all of the staff and our members as well. We welcome Sandi and look forward to getting to know her. It is Sandi's voice you will hear now when you call our main number, 859/278-3338.

Sandi comes from points south of Lexington—like Florida and Georgia. She has a daughter (7) and a son (2). You might find it interesting that Sandi worked with a group that planted baby trees to replace some that had been cut out of a forest, and she has been a "fire spinner" (called Pol) for about 12 years. She says she has good feelings about the ACUTA staff and how we work together, she plans to keep her sense of humor handy, and, like the rest of the staff, she loves doughnuts!

**Congratulations, Lori**
Lori Dodson, who has served ACUTA members for 8 years, will assume the responsibilities of Registration and Database Coordinator. Lori will be your contact if you want to register for an event, check your membership status, or just need a friendly voice. You can still reach her at ldodson@acuta.org, and her phone number is now 859/721-1658.

**Staff Liaison**
Amy Burton, ACUTA Dir., Strategic Relationships
Wasting Time on Daylight Saving Time?

by Dieter Pape, President, American Time

You may not think about the clocks in your buildings very often...until someone notices that none of them show the same time or until they have to be changed for Daylight Saving Time (DST) on Nov. 2. Then they become a hassle—a drain on the maintenance team that spends time adjusting each one and an annoyance to students, faculty, and staff who are trying to stay punctual. When there is a problem with clocks, you soon notice them and realize they are an important communications technology.

Time to synchronize time

With a synchronized time system, you don’t have to spend time worrying about or adjusting time. A synchronized time system keeps all of the clocks on a campus—wired, wireless, digital or analog—on the same, exact time year-round and automatically adjusts for DST twice per year. The benefits even go beyond the convenience of the same time on each clock:

- Optimize the flow of students and staff, including ensuring that classes start and dismiss in sync.
- Cut maintenance time and cost required for adjusting the clocks for DST and throughout the school year.
- Ensure events—particularly in science buildings—are documented accurately.

There’s not a one-size-fits-all technology for synchronizing clocks. These are the two main system options:

- A wired timekeeping system has a master clock that is wired to each clock in a building and controls the displayed time to uphold synchronization.

- A wireless system’s clocks retrieve a time signal from GPS satellites, cell-phone towers, or the Internet. A signal is sent to each wireless clock using a radio frequency.

Both wired and wireless options will automatically update for DST and should come with a multi-year battery life, saving your maintenance staff a huge amount of time adjusting and repairing clocks. In certain cases, vendors have options that can synchronize both wired and wireless clocks within the same facility.

Some schools install a system controller, which reaches beyond the clocks to also control the on/off times of HVAC, sprinklers, and lighting, further improving building efficiency.

Operate like clockwork

Getting your campus in sync has benefits beyond the time display on the wall: Synchronized time drives punctuality, safety, and efficiency. Knowing your options will put you in a position to be better informed and keep your buildings operating like clockwork.

Nominations Open for Institutional Excellence Awards

The ACUTA Awards Committee is accepting nominations for the 2015 Institutional Excellence in Information Technology Award until November 7. This award is presented each year to institutions that, through an evaluation process, are recognized as leaders in technology excellence and professionalism. Full information is provided on the ACUTA website at http://www.acuta.org/iea. This year’s award will be presented at ACUTA’s 44th Annual Conference in Atlanta on April 21.

Please encourage your staff and colleagues to consider submitting a nomination form for an initiative on your own campus or one at another institution. The round one application deadline is Friday, November 7. Institutions selected to advance to round two will submit detailed information by February 3.

Up to three awards are given annually from three enrollment categories: category 1 for campuses with fewer than 5,000 students; category 2, 5,000 to 15,000 students; and category 3, more than 15,000 students.

This is a wonderful opportunity for an institution and its technology leaders to be recognized for their contribution to the success of the institution. Plan now to submit your application or nominate a colleague’s project for this award.

The Institutional Excellence Awards are sponsored by Windstream.
Board Report

The Board met via Zoom Web Bridge on September 3 and approved the following:

- August 2014 Financial Statements
- August 2014 Strategic Plan Dashboard
- Monthly Committee Agenda, Minutes and Reports
- Membership Reports
- Committee/Task Force Nominations/Renewals
  - Environmental Scanning Committee: Elizabeth (Beth) Van Gordon, Indiana Univ. Northwest
  - Journal Editorial Review Board: Paul Hardin, Brigham Young University
  - Publications/Media Committee: Doug West, Univ. of Richmond; Keith Fowlkes, Centre College
  - Cybersecurity Task Force: Bruce Barrett, Community College of Rhode Island; Jon Young, Vantage Technology Consulting Group; William Perry, California State Univ. System; Andrew Nichols, Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Brian Holley, Middle Tennessee State Univ.; Kim Milford, REN-ISAC; Tim Cullen, ADAPTURE
  - Awards Committee: Scott Claverie, California State Univ.-Chico
- Net Neutrality Proposal: ACUTA will submit a letter to the FCC in support of the comments filed by several library and higher education organizations (including the ALA, EDUCAUSE, and the AAU) for maintaining the openness of the Internet via strong, enforceable network neutrality rules.
- The implementation of an AMP Membership Recruitment Campaign Strategy.
- The creation of an ACUTA non-renewing Member Focus Group.

Respectfully Submitted,
Riny Ledgerwood
Secretary/Treasurer
San Diego State University
rledgerwo@sdstate.edu

Happiness Is a Baby!

Congratulations to ACUTA CEO Corinne Hoch, whose second grandchild/first grandson, Davis Gregory Keefer (pictured here), was born September 16. Granddaughter Rory Olivia Hoch was born last March, so Corinne is a grandmother twice over this year! If you think she’s proud of these babies, you’re right. Say hello at choch@acuta.org.

Think Boston!

Haven't registered yet for the Fall Seminar in Boston October 26-29? It's not too late!
1. Register at http://www.acuta.org/fs14,
2. Book your hotel room at http://www.acuta.org/fs14hotel. (We can only guarantee the group rate through October 9th, so do it right away.)
3. Tell your colleagues both on your campus as well as on campuses near and far that you are going and invite them to attend as well.
4. Use #acutafall14 on Twitter and Facebook to further spread the word and join the online conversation.

Pre-registration will be available through October 20.

Register Today!

STILL 9-5 IN A 24/7 WORLD

Social media channels are boosting support, although 24/7 support is limited.

Types of Support
VoIP: Voice Quality Problems & Recommendations

by Gary Audin

There are still IT staff members who need to learn about VoIP and the impairments that interfere with voice quality.

If you are a telecom person, some of the causes of voice quality issues may be new to you. Most of those working with VoIP know that there are common impairment problems in the network, packet loss, latency, and jitter. There are other impairments as well.

Expand Your Knowledge of VoIP and Its Operation

The Broadband Internet Advisory Group has issued a Technical Working Group report, “VoIP Impairment, Failure, and Restrictions” that can be a useful reference for those who need to expand their knowledge of VoIP. The paper begins with a primer on section 2, “Understanding VoIP and Real-Time Applications.” It covers VoIP ports, network address translation (NAT), and dealing with IPv6. If you feel that you have VoIP experience and knowledge, then skip this section.

The Broadband Internet Advisory Group (BITAG) is a nonprofit organization focused on bringing engineers and technologists into a technical working group. The goal is to develop a consensus on broadband network management practices that can affect a user's Internet experience.

Some Causes of Technical Problems

Section 3 of the report provides extensive coverage of many impairments, failures, and restrictions that can influence the success of a VoIP call. Impairments reduce call quality. A failure means no calls can be established or the call fails during its operation. Restrictions are those conditions, not a failure, that prevent the use of VoIP. The problems outlined below are issues that providers have to contend with when they support VoIP—for example, SIP trunk providers.

Many of these issues can also surface when the enterprise security staff enters the VoIP arena.

- Port Blocking. This is the decision by enterprise security and ISPs to deny forwarding traffic, or delivery of traffic, to an intended recipient. This is a legitimate position for the enterprise but not the ISP to take. Sometimes ports can be indirectly blocked. This may result in one way audio, working in one but not both directions.
- Application Level Gateways (ALGs). ALGs can automatically detect VoIP traffic and help traffic pass through NAT devices. One detection method is to observe that a consistent small packet rate, 50 packets per second, most likely means that the traffic is an audio transmission. ALGs can affect VoIP traffic operations, thereby impairing VoIP calls.
- DNS Records. There can be filtering of relevant Domain Name Service (DNS) resource records that can prevent connectivity to VoIP services.
- Network Flow Policing and Filtering. Network flow filtering and policing is designed to identify VoIP traffic patterns and apply specific treatment to VoIP traffic. This can be improperly configured.
- Deep Packet Inspection. International VoIP communications may encounter deep packet inspection. In some countries, VoIP traffic is blocked. Deep packet inspection also adds latency to the call which can be excessive, beyond the 150 ms standard latency recommended.

Recommendations

The following recommendations in the report are directed to the ISPs and equipment vendors. Use this list of recommendations to ensure that your ISP and the equipment used is not causing VoIP problems. Have them validate that these are not part of VoIP problems:

- Network operators should avoid impairing or restricting VoIP applications unless no reasonable alternatives are available to resolve technical issues. Unfortunately, this means that if the ISP cannot resolve the issues, VoIP will not work.
- VoIP-related ALGs in operator-supplied home routers should minimize their impact on traffic other than the operator's VoIP service where possible. This is important for small offices and teleworkers.
- Check that the home router manufacturers disable VoIP-related ALGs by default.
- Port-blocking rules in consumer equipment should be user configurable.
- If network operators intentionally use network policies or practices that impair or restrict VoIP they should provide disclosures about those policies and practices and provide communications channels for feedback. Check your ISP agreements to see if you have agreed to these restrictions without knowing it.

Another recommendation directed at application developers, whether for products or internal development, is that developers should design VoIP applications to be portable anywhere possible.

Problems with SIP Trunks

Many enterprises have internal VoIP riding over their data networks. The problems that befall users are the responsibility of the IT staff. Enterprises are also pursuing the use of SIP trunks. The SIP trunk can have problems with the PBX, Session Border Controller, Network Address Translator, and the SIP trunk provider.

The problems mentioned earlier in this blog will also surface when connecting to SIP trunks. Most of the SIP trunk problems are not with the technologies, but are caused by improper configuration and implementation. These problems are presented in the blogs "Provider Issues Still Dog SIP Trunks" and "SIP Trunk Equipment Problems Remain."

This article was taken from the July 25, 2014, NoJitter.com with permission from the author. www.nojitter.com provides a wealth of information for IT/telecom professionals.
Frequently, vendors, associations, governmental bodies, and others provide white papers and other informational documents that 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.

- PhoenixCtr – Tariffing Internet—If Broadband Classed Title II: www.phoenix-center.org/PolicyBulletin/PCPB36Final.pdf
- NECA – Net Neutrality & Mobile Broadband Networks: https://prodnet.weca.org/publicationsdocs/wwpdf/0904c0ia.pdf

A player who makes a team great is more valuable than a great player. Losing yourself in the group, for the good of the group, that's teamwork.

—John Wooden
Welcome New Members

Corporate Affiliates

COPPER MEMBER

MyFlare Safety Services, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Jared Hill, VP Marketing, jhill@myflare911.com

MyFlare Alert is a digital panic button for smartphones. Activating call campus police sends them messages with users' current GPS location, and audio/video clip, and personal information. MyFlare also allows users to report incidents via call/text/photo.

Unique Communications, Henderson, NV
Bill Sullivan, Sales Director, bill@unique.net

Unique Communications specializes in Telephony Network Management Software and consulting for the public, private and government sectors. We strive to provide innovative TMS solutions for large and small enterprise networks worldwide.

Check It Out

Press Releases, Job Postings, & Corporate Webinars

The ACUTA website lets you communicate with other members—share some exciting news, fill a position, or find just the right vendor. Check the website for the latest postings frequently. Here are items that have been posted since our last eNews.

PRESS RELEASES: www.acuta.org/pressroom
- Code Blue’s ToolVox Integrates with XProtect from Milestone Systems
- Code Blue Expands Product Line with New Wall Mount Enclosure
- Code Blue, Vigiltron Announce Strategic Partnership
- Apogeè Appoints Multimedia Veteran to Lead Video Division

Send press releases to Amy Burton (aburton@acuta.org)

JOB POSTINGS: www.acuta.org/jobs

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 listed now and a link where you can post a job.
- Sr. Identity Manager/Web App Server Engineer, Eastern Washington University, Cheney, WA
- Sr. Manager-Project Management Office, Eastern Washington University, Cheney, WA
- Network Applications Developer, University of Wisconsin, Madison
- Admin. Telecom Specialist, University of Wisconsin, Madison
- Applications Systems Analyst/Programmer Senior, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL
- Assoc. Principal/Strategic Technical Consulting, Vantage Technology Consulting Group, El Segundo, CA
- Senior/Network Technician, Boston College, Boston, MA
- Senior/Network Engineer, Univ. of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

Other jobs previously listed may still be available.

FREE WEBINARS HOSTED BY ACUTA CORPORATE MEMBERS:
www.acuta.org/corporateweblinars

Many free webinars are available through ACUTA Corporate Members. Check the website at www.acuta.org/corporateweblinars to see what is currently available. (Corporate members: e-mail Amy Burton at aburton@acuta.org to get your free webinars listed.)