



Presidential Support

by Mike Toppliff, Director of Academic Computing (mtoppliff@nmt.edu)

President Lopez has provided significant additional funding to the Tech Computer Center in his continuing support of computing on campus. The TCC worked with the Technology Planning Committee (TPC) and the Campus Computing Committee (CCC) to identify needs that conform to the new Strategic Plan and the Academic Computing Plan.

These funds have been used to purchase new equipment:

- All 486 computers in TCC labs and classrooms have been upgraded to Pentiums. Thanks also to Intel Corporation for donating components.
- An additional 24 modem ports will be added.
- The 13 Sun ELC workstations in Speare 14 have been replaced by dual-processor Sun Sparc-20 workstations.
- Two additional Hewlett-Packard scanners have been installed in Speare 5.
- The 17-inch monitors in the Weir 204 classroom have been replaced with 19-inch Sony monitors.
- Tech now has an institutional site license for the Star Office suite, a large package of desktop applications similar to Microsoft Office. It runs under Linux, Windows, and Solaris.
- In the Macintosh lab in Speare 137, the last two Mac IIs were replaced by G3 PowerMacs.
- The projector in the MSEC 103 classroom has been replaced with a projector that supports a higher screen resolution.
- The DLT tape drive used for file system backups will be replaced with a larger and faster system.
- The older Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) units in Speare have been replaced.
- We have installed a new color Tektronix Phaser 840 printer dedicated to printing transparencies.
- PCs will be installed permanently with the projectors in the MSEC 103 and 105 classrooms.

Several critical servers have been upgraded:

- **infohost**, which serves Web pages and ftp (File Transfer Protocol) service, was upgraded to a faster machine with more memory and a RAID-5 disk array, which should improve performance and allow for more space on the ftp server.
- **mailhost**, which handles e-mail, was upgraded to a better RAID partitioning.
- **newshost**, the server for the worldwide Usenet bulletin board, was upgraded to a faster machine with more memory and better RAID partitioning.
- **printhead**, the printer server, was upgraded to a faster machine and the latest version of the printing software.

Y2K

President Lopez has also provided funding to upgrade a number of software packages for year 2000 compliance.

- Adobe PageMill, a Web site creation and management tool.

- Adobe Acrobat, a viewer for files in PDF (Page Description Format).
- Solaris IMSL, a comprehensive scientific and mathematical function library.
- A Unix version of the WordPerfect 8 word processor.
- ObjectStore, an object-oriented database engine.
- FrameMaker, a desktop publishing package.
- Autocad-2000, a computer-aided design tool. Note: Autocad has dropped all support for Unix.
- Interleaf version 7, a WYSIWYG desktop publishing package.

Equipment and Software Upgrades

By K. Scott Rowe, TCC Systems Programming Manager
(kscott@nmt.edu)

Here are some of the important improvements at the Tech Computer Center in the last year.

- There is a new Tektronix Phaser 560 color printer, named color. This is the default color printer for Unix and Windows. It can produce much higher quality printouts than the HP printer it replaced.
- Maple Vr5 has been installed on Windows. This brings it up to the same version that is on the Linux machines.
- Netscape 4.5 has been installed on Windows and Linux machines.
- The account server now has twice as much disk space.
- Speare 6 has been turned back into an open user area, Linux-only.
- There is a new version of the TCC Dial Up Networking software for Windows 95 and 98. It is more stable, and should work better with different versions of Windows.

- All the Sun Sparc workstations have been upgraded to the Solaris version 7 operating system, the latest SVR4 Unix from Sun.

These items are scheduled for completion over the summer break and fall semester:

- Upgrade all the Linux machines to Slackware-4.0 with 2.2 kernels.
- Install the Oracle-8 Database server.
- Install the StarOffice package suite for Windows and Unix.

Some packages have been dropped:

- The arena Unix modeling software.
- The tvtwm X window manager. Use twm or fvwm2 instead.
- The mush mailer. Use pine or mutt.
- Microsoft FrontPage. Use Adobe Page-Mill.

Help desk notes

by Jeff Shipman, TCC User Consultant (jeff@nmt.edu)

Are you missing a printout? If you print something and don't pick it up right away, the User Consultants will put it in the printer cabinet in Speare 14. Printouts are filed under the account name. For example, if your account name is jsprat, look in the J bin. Printouts without a header page are filed in the bottom right corner bin.

If you print without a header page, be sure to pick up your printout promptly. We can't always tell where one print job ends and another one starts, so your job may be mingled with someone else's.

The help desk is at 835-5437. See also our web page at <http://www.nmt.edu/~uc/>. In particular, you may find the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page useful, at http://www.nmt.edu/~uc/open_faq/faq.html.

Macintosh News

by Nathan Paul Simons,
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MacLogin has been installed on all the Macintoshes in Speare 137. This means that you will have to login with your username and password (the same one you use to login to other TCC computers) to use a Mac.

When you login you will see the "message of the day." The Mac will automatically mount your home directory so you don't have to use the chooser to do it.

MacLogin has been installed to increase security and ensure that resources are available to you at all times. We hope this does not inconvenience you, and if you have any complaints or comments, please e-mail them to me.

We have also installed a small collection of programs that you may find useful if you have to handle Mac files from another kind of platform.

- `Macutils` for Linux, SunOS, Solaris and the Alphas. This package can help you with file conversions to and from Macintoshes.
- `hfsutils` for Linux, which allows you to manipulate files on mac filesystems from Linux. I have only gotten it to work with a floppy disk right now, but in the future we will have Linux kernel 2.2.x, which has hfs support and should be able to mount mac zip disks as well.
- `xhfs` allows you to manipulate files graphically on a Mac-formatted floppy disk.
- The `unsit` program has been installed on all the non-Mac platforms. This program allows you to uncompress the ubiquitous Mac "stuffit" archives.

There are man pages for most of these; please look at those for more information. For example, on a Unix or Linux system, you can type:

```
man unsit
```

TCC Free Classes

by John W. Shipman,
Applications Specialist
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Every semester, the Tech Computer Center offers a number of free, low-pressure, non-credit class series for students, faculty and staff. These hands-on sessions are held in computer-equipped classrooms so you can see the results right away.

We currently offer three different classes:

- Try our general introductory series, "What the TCC can do for you" if you would like to find out more about our available resources.
- Check out our series "Making the World Wide Web work for you" for introductory and intermediate instruction on Web-related topics.
- Come to our "Web Maintainer's Workshop" if you have already mastered basic Web page construction and maintenance and want to know more.

Each of these classes meets for 50 minutes once a week in Weir 226, starting the second week of each semester. The topics repeat every semester, so if you missed some last time, catch them when they come around again.

There is no charge for these classes. We don't give grades and we don't give assignments. Anyone is welcome.

Where and when are these classes?

The times and locations for all these class series change each semester. For an advance schedule, look at this Web page:

<http://www.nmt.edu/tcc/classes/>

or log in to your Tech Computer Center account and read the “message of the day.” This message will tell you the times, locations and topics of the next class in each series.

If you have any questions about these classes, please send e-mail to me at john@nmt.edu, or call the TCC secretary at 835-5735.

What the TCC can do for you

This class series starts with a general orientation session to let you know what computers and software are available for your use.

In the second session, we proceed to e-mail: how to send and receive it, and how to manage your correspondence when you have a lot of it.

The next three sessions cover Unix (and Linux) basics. We assume you’ve never seen a Unix system before, and we go over the basics of Unix commands and files, finishing up with a unit on the X Window system.

We also offer beginner’s training with the emacs text editor and a very nice drawing package called xfig. Other topics will be covered, depending on who shows up and what they need.

Making the World Wide Web work for you

Our Web class series starts with the very basics and proceeds through advanced topics.

We’ll start with an overview session and talk about where the Web came from, where it is today, and where it is likely to go in the near future.

The second session will go through most of the commonly used features of the Netscape browser, especially the process of building and maintaining your bookmarks.

In the third session we’ll tour some popular and innovative sites, and give you some hints for using search engines to find things on the Web.

Starting in the fourth session of the semester, we’ll show you how to put up your own web presence. First we’ll talk about HTML—what it is, how it works, and the various ways you can create it. The next week, we’ll discuss good style and navigation—how to make your pages useful and well-organized.

With the basics of Web page construction out of the way, we’ll move on to advanced topics—how to build tables; how to create forms that readers can fill out; and how to create pages dynamically in response to readers’ requests.

Web Maintainer’s Workshop

Have you been asked to take over a web site that was built by someone else? Are you building or maintaining a growing site and wish the process were not so tedious?

If you answered yes to either of these questions, and you’ve already learned basic HTML, you might want to attend this workshop where you will exchange ideas with other web maintainers.

Unlike the other two series, this is not a class with a set sequence of topics. It is a round-table group where we talk about tools and methods and issues of layout and functionality.

We’ll look at Adobe PageMill and other systems that assist you in Web design. You can also ask us to comment on your page designs or suggest solutions to your technical or aesthetic problems.

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