The Division of Information Technology continues to add wireless access points throughout campus.

During the first few weeks of school, classrooms in Earth and Space Sciences, Harriman Hall, Frank Melville Jr. Memorial Library, Light Engineering and Physics were equipped with Wi-Fi. Campus wireless access is available for faculty, staff and students through AirNet. Download the AirNet client to ensure complete network access without timeouts. A NetID and NetID password is required for authentication.

Related Links:
http://it.cc.stonybrook.edu/networking/wireless

What’s Behind the SOLAR Login Button?

The short answer to what lies behind the SOLAR login button is – all of Stony Brook University. SOLAR is an enterprise-wide system which the entire University community uses. It is a complex computing system which relies heavily on the cooperation of a very large team of people. There are a couple dozen DoIT personnel dedicated to making things work, but there is a team of 1,800 from almost every department on campus that accesses, updates, controls, and improves the system for its 40,000 worldwide users.

SOLAR has transformed the University into an efficient Web-based operation, but it is really only the tip of the iceberg. SOLAR is the public part of a large centralized database of information maintained by Oracle’s PeopleSoft Campus Solutions software product. Its design and tool set contribute to a flexibility that allow it to be tailored to Stony Brook’s unique

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Lotus Notes E-Mail on the iPhone

Your Lotus Notes e-mail, calendars, and contacts can be quickly called up on an Apple iPhone by typing the following address into your Safari Web browser: https://notes.cc.sunysb.edu/login.nsf. You will be asked to log in with your Lotus Notes username and password. Once you do this, you may be prompted to authenticate again. It is recommended that you bookmark this second login screen for future access to iNotes so you will not be prompted to log in twice on subsequent visits. The second login-screen knows which mail server your data is stored on.

Once you log in, the Notes server senses that you are on an iPhone and sends screens specific to that device. You will have all the facilities of iNotes on the iPhone. This does not include event notifications to remind you of meetings on your calendar.

In order to use Lotus iNotes, you must be using Lotus Notes 8.0.2. To find out what version of Notes you are running, open up Lotus Notes and go to Help > About. Notes updates are available on Softweb at: http://softweb.cc.sunysb.edu.

Related Links:
https://notes.cc.sunysb.edu/login.nsf
http://it.cc.stonybrook.edu/get_help/web_access

Massive SOLAR Keys Campus Ops

Faculty and staff can purchase Microsoft Office and other software titles online with their credit cards from UBMicro, the University at Buffalo’s IT Support Services department which is the designated SUNY distributor for the Microsoft program. This is a convenient alternative for faculty and staff who want to purchase Microsoft Office and other software titles (Adobe, Quark, etc.) in order to work from home.

The software is available for both Windows and Macintosh platforms and can be purchased with a credit card and shipped directly to your home, rather than faculty and staff having to pay by personal check, money order, or a University Material and Service Requisition/Voucher through Client Support.

Faculty and staff should be aware that they will pay slightly more when purchasing Microsoft Office through UBMicro ($14.95 not including tax, shipping and handling). Client Support sells Microsoft Office for $11 if paid with a Material and Service Requisition/Voucher or for $12 if paid by personal check or money order.

The UBMicro offer also extends to SUNY students, but Stony Brook students receive Microsoft Office free of charge simply by bringing their Stony Brook ID cards to Seawolves MarketPlace or the Matthews Bookstore. Other Microsoft software products such as Windows Vista and Windows XP can be purchased at these two locations for a nominal fee.

Related Links:
http://www.ubmicrosuny.com

(continued from page 1)
Did You Know?

How the Bursar is Using SOLAR

The Office of Student Accounts processed 17,011 credit card and e-check transactions worth $25.5 million through the SOLAR system between Aug. 1 and Sept. 16, 2008.

Stony Brook does not hold on to credit card information entered into SOLAR. It is immediately encrypted and sent to the bank’s server.

This summer, the Office of Student Accounts launched an environmentally-conscious and responsible initiative called “Operation GreenBill,” providing the option for students to opt out of receiving a paper bill to help protect, conserve and improve the environment.

As of Nov. 4, nearly 4,000 students were enrolled in the program. SOLAR messages, instead of paper bills, were sent to 1,700 students across four billing cycles. The department’s next goal is to be able to direct deposit student refunds which will also be an application through SOLAR.

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The SOLAR/PeopleSoft processing is done by a series of computers all working in a coordinated fashion. There are approximately 100 CPU’s (central processing units) in all, but they are organized into four distinct types.

A SOLAR request is first processed by a load balancer (see Hardware Behind SOLAR on page 3). Its job is to keep track of what all the other computers are doing and to make sure that the incoming requests are distributed evenly. It hands off each request to one of many Web servers.

The Web servers are responsible for providing a dialogue between your computer and all the other computers. They accept your request for information and then hand it off to one of many application servers. The application server actually works on your request by doing all the steps needed to fulfill your request. The application server will ask the database server to access data from the database.

After the application server assembles an answer to your request, it returns it to the Web server which sends it back to your computer. If any one computer fails, there are others that can take its place. No one computer could handle the load.

The SOLAR/PeopleSoft system is so integral to the operation of the University that the entire array of computers is duplicated at a different physical location. Each location is constantly used and kept in sync by a high-speed network connection. This redundancy has been designed in such a way as to provide maximum reliability and availability. Plans are underway to duplicate the system in a third location. In addition to the production computers, the environment is also duplicated in several systems used for developing and testing of new enhancements, updates and training.

Continuous operation of the SOLAR system is a product of teamwork within DoIT, but the responsibility is shared with administrative departments. Each area such as Human Resources, Registrar, Admissions, Financial Aid, Bursar, Student Accounts, Graduate School, Accounting, and many more, have personnel designated as experts in certain parts of the SOLAR system. These areas meet with DoIT’s Information Systems group to review operations, plan for enhancements and incorporate new government regulations and SBU policy changes.

The ongoing cooperation and effort of DoIT and University departments and the many users of the system is the key that allows SOLAR to grow and accommodate change. It is the reason we can say that what lies behind the SOLAR login button is all of Stony Brook!

The Hardware Behind SOLAR

SOLAR Statistics (8/22/08 - 9/22/08)

- 531,838 visits
- 6,000,000 pages viewed
- Accessed from 120 countries (pictured in red in the map above)
- Top five browsers:
  - Internet Explorer (266,248)
  - Firefox (112,952)
  - Safari (34,141)
  - Chrome (2,350)
  - Opera (1,469)
- Top five operating systems:
  - Windows (366,441)
  - Macintosh (45,636)
  - Linux (3,510)
  - iPhone (1,946)
  - T-Mobile Sidekick (602)
Three Different Uses of SharePoint

1. Coordinating a Journal Publication

Dr. Ken Lindblom
Director of English
Teacher Education/
Associate Professor

“I am editor of English Journal, a 100-year-old, peer-reviewed journal for high school and middle school English teachers that is published six times per year and has a subscribership of about 25,000 across the country. We decided to use SharePoint to set up our journal operations, and it’s been tremendously helpful.

We set up one workspace on the site for each of the 30 journal issues that we will produce. Within each workspace we have a series of folders into which we upload all of our submissions, and then we move the submissions from folder to folder in the workspace as they progress from “under review” to “accepted” (or “rejected”) and then into the “fact-checking” and “copy editing” folders. At the same time, each workspace also includes a customized manuscript tracking form that allows us to document all the contact information for authors and reviewers and to save their comments.

We have a team of five staff members and only three of us are on campus. The other members of our team are in Colorado and Illinois. No matter. With SharePoint, we can all log onto the site from any computer with Internet access. The SharePoint site allows for us to post announcements to each other, to organize online meetings and to send e-mail alerts when a file moves from one folder to another.”

2. Keeping a Committee on the Same Page

Kim Auletta
Lab Safety Specialist
Environmental Health
and Safety

“The University Laboratory Safety Council (ULSC) is a presidential committee which features a diverse group of faculty and staff from across our campus. We needed a way to communicate more effectively than the regular e-mail method. This presented a challenge since our members use different computer operating systems and Internet browsers.

I was considering our options when I read about the SharePoint opportunity in the Spring 2008 DoIT newsletter. I decided to try it out and created a ULSC Web site. It took a few attempts for all our members to access the site using the sunysb.edu domain and their NetID username and password. Our East Campus members needed to be reminded where to find their NetID and how to set their NetID password in SOLAR.

Our safety council members now access the site to review and comment on new policies and keep track of our meeting schedules. To keep their interest, I added ‘Photo of the Week’ and ‘Just for Fun’ sections. Our committee recently expanded and the new members were happy to learn that we have an established means of communication.”

3. Communicating with Students Overseas

David Ecker
Client Support/
Adjunct Professor in
Technology & Society

“I am teaching a graduate course to 22 students at Fu Jen Catholic University in Taiwan through the Department of Technology and Society. I decided to use SharePoint as a way to communicate with the students because of its external collaboration (ecteams) feature. This allows me to give students without a NetID and NetID password access to a SharePoint Web site.

When I was in Taiwan, I asked for each student’s e-mail address. Then I added them to SharePoint as external users. I set them up in an access group so they could only see the parts of the site that I wanted them to see. I use the alert feature which sends me an e-mail message when a student posts something new to the site.

SharePoint sites are secure, central locations that students can use to access important course documents, review PowerPoint presentations, participate in online discussions, and read class announcements. In a few weeks, I will get their feedback by setting up a survey right in our SharePoint site.”

Related Links:
http://it.cc.stonybrook.edu/accounts/sharepoint
https://web.stonybrook.edu/sharepoint