Subject: News from the CIO, May 2025
Date: Monday, June 2, 2025 at 8:02:16 AM Eastern Daylight Time
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To: Rachel Schnepper

Wesleyan University
Information Technology Services

Issue #46, May, 2025

The "Slide into Summer" Edition

(Photo by Meka Wilson)

Dear Colleagues:

Wesleyan's 193rd Commencement is in the books... and as you begin preparations for summer, I hope you'll take a moment to peruse our latest articles - beginning with some travel-related technology tips:

In this newsletter:

- Preparing for safe and secure travel
- Enterprise Systems Updates
- IMS Prepares for New Science Center Installations
- Wireless Network Upgrade Begins This Summer
- WesCreates blogs protected against hackers
- Your random seasonal lyric

Let's get to it...

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Preparing for safe and secure travel

Traveling with your computer and cell phone requires careful preparation to ensure their safety and security.

- Start by backing up all of your data to a secure cloud service or external hard drive. This step is crucial in case your devices are lost or stolen.

- Update your software and apps to the latest versions to protect against vulnerabilities and ensure optimal performance.

- Disable device sharing features, clear browser history, and be mindful of location sharing on social media.

- Be mindful of your internet connections while traveling. Avoid public Wi-Fi networks for sensitive transactions and use a VPN (see below) to encrypt your internet traffic. This helps protect your personal information from potential cyber threats.

- Enable screen lock, strong passwords, and biometric authentication on your devices. Consider using a password manager to keep track of complex passwords. It's also wise to activate remote tracking and wiping features. These tools allow you to locate your devices and erase sensitive data remotely if necessary.

- If travelling internationally, research the power socket and voltage level in your destination and bring an

adapter if needed. Consider downloading translation apps and emergency contacts.

Lastly, if you'll be accessing Wesleyan services, be sure to pre-enroll / configure your preferred 2nd factor Duo MFA device for secure authentication.

By taking these precautions, you can enjoy your travels with peace of mind. The following linked Knowledge articles may assist with your digital travel preparation:

[Effective Guidance for Utilizing Cloud and Network Storage](#)

[Crashplan Data Protection](#)

[VPN - Windows Global Protect (Palo Alto)](#)

[VPN - macOS Global Protect (Palo Alto)](#)

[VPN - iOS and Android GlobalProtect](#)

[Duo MFA - Enroll a new phone or change your 2nd factor authentication device/method](#)

Enterprise Systems Team: Spring 2025 Highlights

This spring, the Enterprise Systems team has been engaged in more projects simultaneously than ever before - including Workday Student, Stellic, Advanced Compensation, and dozens of enhancements throughout Workday Finance and Human Resources.

In the Workday Student project, the team has been supporting offices around campus as they design processes that will greatly improve the student experience in the coming years. The team has been laying the groundwork for further development by conducting the first set of data conversions of Wesleyan's Student data from PeopleSoft into Workday and is now turning its focus to critical integrations that will be needed for the project's success.

In tandem, the team has made meaningful strides in the implementation of Stellic under the leadership of the University Registrar. The combined implementations of Workday Student and Stellic will reshape how students are advised and register for classes. These updates are also improving the ability of advisors to guide students through complex curricular pathways with greater clarity and confidence.

On the administrative side, the team has been deeply engaged in the evolution of Workday HCM and Workday Finance. Over the last several months the team has on average deployed 20 changes to the Workday HCM/Finance every two weeks. These changes are prioritized and requested by administrative offices like Finance, Human Resources, and Academic Affairs. Some of the changes are large, requiring multiple weeks of research, development, and testing. Most notable is that nearly every business process that was implemented for the 7/1/2024 Workday Go-Live has been improved in some way based on the feedback of the community and the observations of how the system has been running since go live.

These accomplishments reflect a high level of coordination, technical expertise, and stakeholder engagement. The team has worked closely with partners across the institution to ensure that system enhancements align with strategic goals and operational needs. We thank the community for this partnership!

Looking ahead, the Enterprise Systems team remains focused on continuous improvement and innovation. As always, the team is grateful for the collaboration and feedback from the broader campus community. These partnerships are essential to ensuring that enterprise systems continue to evolve in ways that support the university's mission and values.

IMS Prepares for New Science Center Installations

This summer, IMS will be completing a number of A/V projects that have been in the planning stages for a while. These include:

- Fries Arts Building A/V installation

- Four new Zoom Rooms (Downey 113, Fisk 302, Fisk 413, and Russell House)

- Usdan A/V installation (DFC and Usdan Flex Space)

- CAMS renovation

After these projects are completed by the start of the fall 2025 semester, IMS will pivot to focusing exclusively on the A/V installation of the New Science Building. *Because of the scope and impact of this project, IMS will be unable to take on any additional A/V installation requests until the fall of 2026 when the building opens.* These include but are not limited to upgrades or improvement requests for classrooms, labs, and studios; digital signage installations; and new installations or improvement requests for conference rooms, common areas, and offices. We will, of course, continue to maintain and troubleshoot existing spaces as needed.

We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause, and we appreciate your patience as we focus on New Science. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to Rachel Schnepper.

Wireless Network Upgrade Begins This Summer

Wesleyan is embarking on a multi-year upgrade to our wireless network infrastructure, starting this summer with the replacement of 500 Aruba wireless access points (APs) with Juniper Mist**. This marks the beginning of a four-year phased migration designed to enhance reliability, coverage, and management capabilities across campus.

In addition to replacing aging hardware, this initiative includes strategic re-evaluation of AP placement and expansion of coverage in targeted areas to better support current and future connectivity needs. Juniper Mist's AI-driven platform will provide more robust performance monitoring, proactive issue resolution, and improved user experiences across the wireless network.

Stay tuned for updates as we begin the first phase of this exciting transformation.

** Juniper MIST is Juniper Networks's AI-native networking platform that leverages machine learning and data science to optimize user experiences and simplify IT operations.

WesCreates Blogs Protected Against Hackers

Users who have blogs on WesCreates recently started receiving warning messages about failed login attempts from unrecognized users. These failed login attempts are known as "brute force" attacks, where a hacker attempts to login repeatedly using a list of default usernames and passwords to attempt to access online services. These messages started to show up immediately after an update to the WordPress plugin that protects us against brute force attacks. We have toggled the notifications off again, as these were causing unnecessary stress for our users – while the attacks are always happening, we have good protections in place for the blogs on WesCreates. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please email security@wesleyan.edu.

Finally, as a reward for reading this far, here is your Random Seasonal Lyric…

As in years past, I had the honor this past weekend to join the members of the MPBA Pipes and Drums in two Memorial Day parades, one in Colchester and one in Middletown. It is so important that we continue to remember those who sacrificed all to provide us the freedoms we enjoy today. Here then is "Let Them In", from John Gorka's 2001 CD titled "The Company You Keep". The words come from a poem written by Elma Dean of western Pennsylvania. The first few lines read:

Let them in, Peter
They are very tired
Give them couches where the angels sleep
And light those fires…

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Until next time, please be in touch if you want more information on any of the above or if you have suggestions for future topics, and thanks for reading!

Dave Baird
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