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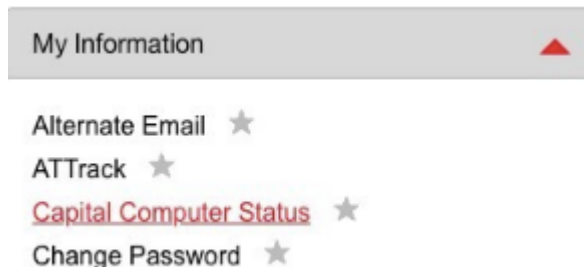
Wesleyan University
Information Technology Services

Greetings, colleagues:

As the semester winds down, it's time to pour a mug of egg nog, curl up in your favorite chair, and consume the last issue of my newsletter for 2019. In this edition: learn how to look up when you are due for a new computer in WesPortal, hear how the Registrar's office is optimizing classroom scheduling, and find out how ITS and Facilities collaborated to save Wesleyan 260,000 kwh of electricity per year! These stories and more await - off we go...

Capital Computer Status

We've recently introduced a "Capital Computer Status" feature which can be accessed through WesPortal. This feature allows faculty, staff, and their supervisors to view the deployment date of their current capital computer, along with the replacement fiscal year and replacement eligibility date for their next capital computer refresh. The "Capital Computer Status" feature is accessible via WesPortal under the "My Information" menu.



Optimizing Classroom Scheduling to Improve Faculty Experience

The Registrar's Office has implemented automated classroom scheduling using a combination of EMS Campus and CourseLeaf Section Scheduler (CLSS) software. Faculty members use CLSS to enter their specific room requests or needed room attributes, such as AV, blackboard/whiteboard, or movable seating. A comment box is available for supplemental information, as well as accommodation requests.

Amanda Daddona, assistant registrar, is leading a collaborative team of registrarial, Events & Scheduling, and ITS colleagues using a newly implemented component of the EMS software, EMS Campus. EMS Campus allows Amanda to run multiple simulations, using all of the course data and preferences entered in CLSS, to find the optimal scheduling scenario. While she still makes manual adjustments, this new software has significantly improved the classroom scheduling process, which had been entirely manual. This summer, she scheduled classrooms for the fall term and is currently in the process of scheduling the spring term using this new software. In addition to saving registrarial time, Amanda states that the software helps her meet faculty needs, such as scheduling all language sections in their first and second choice buildings. After this term, she will also be able to use reporting tools to review classroom utilization in a continued effort to improve the use of classroom space on campus.

Data Center Sustainability Upgrades

ITS partnered with facilities this past fall on a sustainable data center project. Henk Meij and James Taft (ITS), along with Andrew Plotkin and Andres Sarda (Facilities), spearheaded the six-month project which reduced the footprint requiring cooling, leverages outside air rather than compressed air

when possible, and consolidated equipment aisles directing air flow more effectively. The new sustainable data center features new LED lighting and drop ceilings and will save Wesleyan 260,000 kwh of electricity per year!

WesCreates Provides Flexible Web Space for Faculty, Staff, and Students

As faculty begin to prep their spring courses, one thing they may be interested in is incorporating blogs or other web tools into their courses. Our new platform, [WesCreates](#), provides a flexible webspace where students are able to create their own digital presence and identity. To facilitate curricular uses, as well as to increase support for faculty professional websites more broadly, we will be hiring students to provide additional support for the spring semester. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Alyssa Marinaccio at x3442 or amarinaccio@wesleyan.edu .

New Institutional Review Board Application

Lisa Sacks of Academic Affairs and Maria Higuera of ITS are creating a new WesPortal application for submitting research proposals to the Institutional Review Board. This centralized application, available in January, 2020 to faculty, staff, and students, will have integrated workflow and will allow researchers to review the status of their proposals, the IRB's comments, documentation, and next steps. The new IRB application will allow for central, secure management and sharing of research proposals with both community and outside IRB reviewers. Lisa and Maria plan to import 10 years of past data currently stored in Excel and Wesfiles.

Cyber-Security Tips for Traveling

Many members of the Wesleyan community will be traveling over the holiday break. Here are some tips to protect your devices and your data.

- Where is your device? If you leave your device unattended, even for a short period of time like going to order another cup of coffee, you may return to

find that your device has been stolen. Thieves target public places where people feel comfortable, so be especially careful with your devices in coffee shops and bars.

- Can someone else access your device if it is stolen? Your device should be configured to automatically lock, and should require a password to unlock.
- Have you backed up your data? Wesleyan computers have CrashPlan installed to make sure valuable data is still available if your laptop is lost, stolen, or damaged. DSS can assist you with making sure that [CrashPlan](#) is installed and backing up all of your important data.
- Is the wireless you're connecting to secure? Look for a lock icon when you connect, whether while traveling or while at a friend's or relative's house. Secure networks provide an extra layer of encryption to keep your traffic safe. Learn more about wireless security at an upcoming [Success at Wes](#) class on February 18th.
- Are you connected to Wesleyan's VPN? Connecting to a VPN both provides an extra layer of encryption for your wireless traffic as well as making it easier to access any resources that can only be accessed while on the Wesleyan network. Here is [more information](#) about setting up the VPN.
- Should you trust that public computer? Public computers can be compromised by hackers to run key logging software, which will record every keystroke that you enter. So if you log into your Wesleyan email from a compromised computer, the hacker will be able to as well. If possible, only use devices that you control for accessing Wesleyan resources. If you have to use a public computer, we recommend that you [change your Wesleyan password](#) once you're back from your travels.

As always, if you have any information security questions you can reach out to security@wesleyan.edu.

In closing, happy holidays and best wishes for a restful winter break. Please be in touch if you want more information on any of the above, and thanks for reading!

Dave Baird

VP for IT & CIO



Photo by Olivia Drake



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