

Subject: News from the CIO - Issue #12, October, 2020
Date: Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 9:38:21 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Dave Baird
To: Dave Baird

[View this email in your browser](#)



Wesleyan University
Information Technology Services

Greetings, Colleagues:

Well, we're in the thick of it now... the semester is well underway and thanks to everyone's great effort, things are going pretty well! In this issue, I'll feature some of the projects we have underway this fall, including classroom upgrades, COVID testing apps, virtual computing labs, and more. Also, I recently posted our ITS goals on our website. If you're curious about our priorities for 2020-2021, please visit <https://www.wesleyan.edu/its/about/index.html> . So, without further ado...

New Classroom Technology

The most popular request for classroom technology is for a wireless streaming device, such as an AppleTV or a Microsoft wireless display adaptor. Last fall, in the Before Times, we developed a three-year phased plan to install both of these devices in classrooms across campus to start in the summer of 2020. Unfortunately, events overtook us, and we had to re-prioritize. However, we are pleased to be able to announce that we will pivot back to our original plan this fall. Social distancing constraints have created new pedagogical challenges, and we hope that these devices will help to alleviate some of them.

Adding a streaming wireless device requires removing the blu-ray/dvd player from the computer cart, though you will still be able to show dvds using the PC present in all carts. Alternatively, you might consider using a streaming version of the video instead. If you need a streaming version of a video, the Library will seek to secure a license from an academic/ commercial streaming service. As a last resort, they will investigate digitizing physical media, subject to technology and legal restrictions. To begin the process, you can fill out the reserve request form: <https://libr.wesleyan.edu/reserves/facultyinfo.php> or talk with your library liaison.

MyApps Upgrade

For several years now, many of the academic software titles we support have been available on [MyApps, our virtual application environment](#). Through MyApps, students can run software installed on lab computers from their own computers, whenever and wherever they want. It also allows students with a Mac to run PC-only applications, like ArcGIS. With so many students remote this year, we have made improving MyApps a priority, investing heavily in equipment that will increase its speed and performance. If you would like to learn more about the improvements we are making to MyApps, please contact David Jardim.

October is Cyber Security Awareness Month

While there will not be any in-person events, there will be several “office hours” during October. Feel free to bring whatever information security questions that you have. The schedule will be posted to the Wesleyan community forum once the schedule is finalized. And as always, feel free to send any information security questions to security@wesleyan.edu.

Protecting Wesleyan computers at home

While working remotely, there are still some threats to Wesleyan computers to keep in mind. While we love them dearly, our family members can be a

significant source of risk to our Wesleyan computers. They may want to download software, such as telecommuting apps or new Minecraft mods, that might contain malicious software. When possible, do not let your family use your Wesleyan computer. And as the cooler temperatures of Fall get here, many of us will want to open up doors and windows to let some fresh air into the house. While we are all aware that unattended laptops and phones can be stolen from coffee shops, please keep in mind that they can also be stolen from your home.

COVID-19 Testing Apps

Working with Health Services, Paul Turenne and Maria Higuera developed a WesPortal application to schedule tests, as well as one to track COVID-19 cases and their contacts. In addition, the application pulls the number of completed tests from the Broad Institute to ensure all individuals are meeting their required testing schedule. A Microsoft product called Bookings is used to schedule the tests for students, faculty and staff. Paul and Maria followed the medical guidance of Tom McLarney, Joyce Walter and Rosemary Murphy in developing the application. Employees who are teaching/working remotely with limited face-to-face interaction with others may OPT-OUT from testing through the WesPortal (Go to: COVID-19 Resources/COVID-19 Testing Opt-Out).

As a reward for reading this far, here is a Random Seasonal Lyric: "Leaves were falling down like embers, in colors red and gold..." (from Killing the Blues by Rowland Salley).

In closing, please be in touch if you want more information on any of the above, or if you have suggestions for topics to include in future editions.

Thanks for reading!

Dave Baird

VP for IT & CIO



This email was sent to dbaird@wesleyan.edu
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
Wesleyan ITS · 265 Church St · Middletown, CT 06459-3138 · USA

