

INFOBYTES

Technology Services-Division of Student Affairs



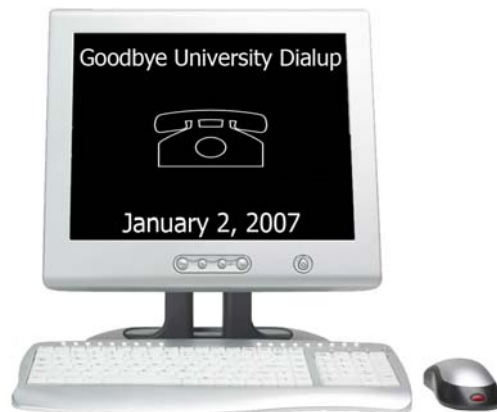
Say Goodbye to Free University Dialup

By Amy Armstrong

As of January 2, 2007, the University will no longer offer free dialup service to students, faculty and staff. If you have been using the free dialup service, you should have been receiving email from ITCS notifying you of this change.

This change has been made because of the significant decrease in use as more and more staff members are switching to DSL and cable service. The cost that the University paid to MERIT for this service has increased and they felt it was not worth the increased cost, given the small number of users that are currently using it.

If this change will affect you, you should start investigating alternatives for online service. This could include cable, DSL or other dialup service providers.



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Using PDF Documents on the Web

By Alex Garcia

Portable Document Format documents, commonly known as PDFs, are an open-standard electronic format for documents (the PDF format is controlled and created by Adobe Systems, Inc.). The PDF format is a popular format for viewing and sharing documents electronically because the format allows for scalable vector graphics, interactive input forms, text printed in fonts that are not installed on the viewing computer, and “what you see is what you get” (WYSIWYG) printing.

While PDFs may be great for printing and filling out formal documents such as tax forms and personal résumés, using PDFs for content on a website can be problematic. While most personal computers (of the Windows variety) have Adobe Acrobat Reader software installed (used for viewing PDF documents both inside and outside of the web browser) and Mac OS computers read the PDF format natively, not all users have access to PDF reading software. In addition, PDF documents are created for specific versions of PDF reading software. So if you create a PDF document in Acrobat Reader 7, users running Acrobat Reader 5 may not be able to view the document correctly.

Another issue with using PDF documents as web content is that users do not always know that they are clicking on a link to a PDF. For many users, opening PDF documents in the web browser uses a lot memory and opening the document may be time consuming. Most users who frequent the web already know how frustrating it can be to stumble upon a PDF document when they were expecting a quick-loading HTML page.

Finally, PDF documents are not accessible to everyone. Users who rely on screen-reading technology will not be able to read most PDF documents because the document format is equivalent to looking at an image. Unless the PDF document was created with accessibility in mind (which requires Adobe InDesign software), a screen reader usually cannot interpret the text inside the document.

It is always best to use plain text in your web pages wherever possible so that everyone can quickly and easily access the information. Because the format preserves machine-independent, WYSIWYG quality, PDF documents are great for formal content that is intended to be printed out on paper. When linking to PDF documents on a website, it is helpful to identify that the link with “(PDF)” written immediately after the link text. Use discretion when using PDF documents to provide website content that is intended to be accessible to all of your website visitors.



WYSIWYG-“What you see is what you get”

“PDF documents are not accessible to everyone.”





Campus to Metro

By Jennifer McGowan

The Michigan Student Assembly offers airBus, an airport shuttle service, to students who are flying home during official University breaks (Fall Break, Thanksgiving, Winter Break, and Spring Break).

Students can look at the online schedule (<http://www.msa.umich.edu/airbus/>) to view trip times. The airBus picks students up from three locations: Bursley Hall on North Campus, the Hill, and State St. by the Law Quad. This service is great because it is inexpensive (\$10 each way) and airBus can swipe money from students' MCards. It makes getting to the airport during break time simple and stress-free.

If you (or one of your students) needs to get to the airport at a time other than an official University break, there are many shuttle companies who can take you there (but be warned, the trip will cost more than \$10). From the CIC website (<http://www.umich.edu/info/>), click on the link that says "Airport" at the bottom of the left-hand column. Then click again on the link that says Ann Arbor Convention Visitor's Bureau to be taken to a list of airport transportation options.



Students can take airBus when traveling to and from the airport.

MEET THE STAFF

Name: Scott Heinowski

Job Title: Web Designer
Senior

What you do: Design and Develop web sites and web applications

How long have you been at UM? About 6 Months

What is your favorite job memory? The whole first week here I was in a bit of a state of disbelief that I had a job that was exactly what I wanted.

What do you like to do in your free time? Watch movies, be with friends, Listen to music, I blog every once in a while (Heinowski.net)

What's your favorite computer tip or trick? You can make free phone calls to anywhere in the States from your computer with Skype. (www.skype.com)

List a few of your favorite web sites: twit.tv, dl.tv, revision3.com, digg.com, rockstarrobot.com

Where were you born?

St. Joseph Mercy

What is your college degree? I have a BBA in Computer Information Systems from Western Michigan University.

If you won the lotto what would you do? Live comfortably, give to charity, and travel.

Favorite movie? The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou.

Favorite Book? I can't think of a favorite, but recent good reads include: The Areas of My Experience by John Hodgman, A Short History of Nearly Everything by Bill Bryson, and The Nasty Bits by Anthony Bourdain.

Do you have any special talents? Maybe.

Do you speak any foreign languages? I can speak a very little bit of German.

Favorite quote: "We used to build civilizations. Now we build shopping malls."
-Bill Bryson





EMSDATA

<http://uuis.umich.edu/VirtualEMSEnterprise>

By Amy Armstrong

This website serves 2 functions. It allows users to browse events that are going on in the University Unions facilities: Michigan Union, Michigan League, Pierpont Commons and Palmer Commons as well as allowing authorized users to request meeting space online.

Authorized signers can request a Virtual EMS (VEMS) account via this website and once approved by Events Services, start requesting meeting space.

Student Organizations and University Departments can now login with their VEMS account and request meeting room space in University Unions' facilities. Requests are quickly reviewed by Events Services staff and either approved or disapproved.

This web site allows students and departments faster and more convenient methods to schedule meeting space. It also assists the Events Services' staff in responding more efficiently to requests for space.

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Who To Contact

To contact **Technology Services** please call us at 647-0271. You may also email us at techservices@umich.edu.

If you are having problems with **Mpathways**, please call the Help Desk at 936-7000.

If you are having problems with your **uniquname** or **uniquname password**, please contact the ITCS Accounts Office at 764-8000.

If you suspect **system or university wide problems**, you can call the Help Desk and listen to their recorded



November Tidbits

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/November>

- * November begins on the same day of the week as March every year and also February except in leap years.
- * November's flower is the chrysanthemum.
- * November's birthstone is the citrine or topaz (yellow).
- * November in the Northern Hemisphere is the seasonal equivalent to May in the Southern Hemisphere and vice versa.
- * In the American South, November is known as the "month of the dog".
- * In Finnish, November is called marraskuu, meaning "month of the dead".
- * In Xhosa, November is called ngeyeNkanga, meaning "month of the small yellow daisies".
- * November is NaNoWriMo, or National Novel Writing Month.
- * November is Tobacco Awareness Month.

