TECH NEWS

Information Technology Services

Visual Clubmate

ITS worked with the Student Recreation and Wellness Center to implement the Visual Clubmate software system. This system will assist Rec Center staff in the management and use of their facility.

Camera Installation/Upgrade

We have installed 23 security cameras in the Washburn Indoor Athletic Facility and integrated them into the Police Department VideoExpert surveillance system.

Replaced old analog cameras and cabling with new networked (IP) cameras throughout the campus.

- Summer 2020: 10 cameras
- Fall 2020-Spring 2021: 14 cameras

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Academic Web Page Redesign

Academic area web pages need to provide information to potential students on what is offered at Washburn. A redesign of the academic program pages started in December 2020 providing new web design opportunities to display important content for prospective students including:

- new module for course
- optimizing and standardize use of PDFs
- module for listing program stats/outlook
- module for degree pathways

This project addresses 160 program areas providing new content and designs to help attract prospective students to Washburn. The project also implemented ResourceSpace - a tool to store and organize many photos used for marketing on the Web and other initiatives. Our expected completion date is Fall 2021.

Computer Update Availability

This past spring, we rolled out the Washburn Computer Update Availabilty from off campus where before it was only possible on campus or via VPN.

Argos Upgrades

The Argos reporting tool continues to receive enhancements from the vendor and IT staff install regular updates to keep it at current versions.

ITS Web Page Redesign

The web staff and ITS leadership have been hard at work for the past several months giving the ITS webpage a revamp. The goal of this redesign was to make a more user-friendly experience and to keep the information easily accessible.

On the ITS homepage, a new system for dynamically displaying content based on audience-type has been created to help users navigate. More personalized menus labeled, "students, faculty/staff, and visitors" are available to choose from. In addition, a general restructuring of content has been completed that will help users navigate the site and find information they need.

ITS will continue to inprove the site by lsitening to suggestions from our audience. A new "feedback" link has been added to every page which will better enable us to learn the needs of visitors to the site. www.washburn.edu/its

2020 & 2021 Celebrations

Recent commencement celebrations were both live streamed and allowed for in-person attendance. ITS provided the live stream of 2020 and 2021 celebrations for Washburn University- working closely with Fogarty Productions, Washburn Tech, Washburn School of Law, School of Applied Studies and the School of Nursing pinning ceremonies - 12 productions within 13 days on the university and Tech campuses. What an awesome way to celebrate our graduates!

Office 365/SharePoint Rebuild

ITS is beginning a lengthy project to improve and enhance the University SharePoint/Teams environment. These software features have been available for several years and usage has developed in an ad hoc manner using the older "classic" style. Over 800 sites are now in need of organization, structure, and a modern standardized user experience. Existing sites will continue to be available and site owners will be contacted when we are ready to migrate their site from the "classic" style to the newer "modern" style.

Washburn Tech Laptop Kiosk

We are excited to say that we have a new laptop checkout kiosk at Washburn Tech. Our laptop kiosk machine will ensure students have greater access to technology anywhere and anytime they need it.

The kiosk is located in the hallway across from Student Services leading to the Testing Center.

The fully charged computers are available for eight hours. Return the laptop back to the machine and it will automatically wipe it clean of your work and recharges it for the next person. These laptops were chosen to specifically utilize our virtual desktop (VDI) environment. This gives students access to all the campus software on our computer labs remotely.

Ongoing Banner Updates/Patches

Ellucian continues to release new Banner features and bug fixes on a quarterly basis. IT staff are busy installing them in TEST, helping customers learn about them, and making them available in the production system.

Finance Approval Auto-Notification

A new Argos report has been developed that will send Finance approvers an email whenever they have Finance documents awaiting their approval. This should help with more timely approvals and allow area requests to move through the system more quickly. The schedule will run twice per weekday. If an area doesn't have any documents to approve, no email will be sent.

D2L Enhancements

ITS staff has continued to implement several enhancements through D2L including:
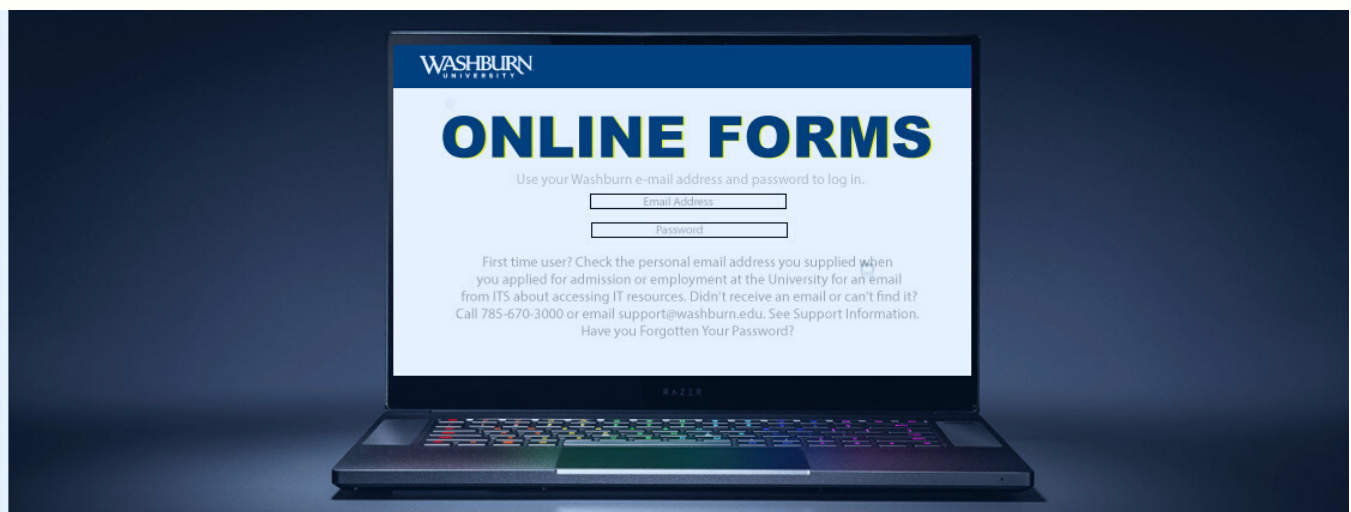
- Watermark/Aqua- the current process involves manually exporting, cleaning, importing, etc. of approximately 300 documents per semester. This integration will automate the data collection and management.
- Office365/D2L Brightspace- replacement/enhancement of integration allowing Office365 cloud files to be input into Brightspace/D2L
- D2L Brightspace Hypothesis- allows an instructor to incorporate the Hypothesis collaborative annotation tool within their Brightspace course.

PC Refresh Complete

ITS has finished refreshing all PC's on campus. We worked through all faculty/staff installations as well as all classroom replacements. Classroom computer replacement involved the removal of VGA connection, old equipment, and installing HDMI connections for clear display in the classrooms.

Online Forms & Digital Signatures

We have begun using Dynamic forms to provide the WU community with a tool for creating digital forms on campus. Dynamic Forms is a could-based forms system that provides a simple, effective way for end users to create web-based forms for data collection and electronic signatures. Dynamic Forms also includes automated approval routing that can capture electronic signatures and forms can be pre-filled with WU data to reduce error and require less typing.

Action Item Processing

A new feature of Banner has been implemented. This feature is called Action Item Processing. It can be used to collect information from students and can be configured to prevent registration until after the action item is completed. Initially, it will be used to ask the students to agree to a statement of financial responsibility, but you can imagine other types of future applications for it as well.

PlayPosIt

PlayPosIt is an online platform that integrates with D2L and Ensemble to turn videos into interactive and more informative content. The number of courses will continue to grow even when the pandemic is over. The need for software to help faculty design quality, engaging content becomes imperative.

Being able to add in-depth interactivity to videos will help faculty assess student learning and better engage and interest students with online content.

We started the Pilot program in Fall of 2020 and this past Spring all Washburn faculty and students had access to PlayPosIt. This will continue to be used moving forward.

Watermark EKit Ethos Integration

ITS staff has completed their first successful integration of third party software with the Ellucian Ethos Data model. This integration allows for near time data transfers between Banner and the Watermark EKit course evaluation system.

Washburn Tech Virtual Tour Server

Due to the pandemic, Washburn Tech was unable to host in-person tours for potential students. Interactive video tours of each lab and classroom were created and ready for use on our website. The files, however, were quite large and a specific server to host them was needed.

Degree Works Upgrade

DegreeWorks is a comprehensive, way-to-use, web-based academic advising and degree audit tool. The Degree Works academic advising and degree audit system has been upgraded to the latest version. This provides the ability to run Degree Works on any device, adds new features, and provides a new technical architecture replacing the one going out of support.

Cybersecurity Month

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month (NCSAM) - keep an eye out for security tips in your email on ways to secure your Washburn and personal accounts, and effectively combat identity theft.

Security Awareness Training

All faculty and staff are required to complete online security awareness training every year. Please look for an invite in your inbox from support@washburn.edu.

Report Phishing

Use the Report Phishing button in Outlook to easily report all necessary information to ITS. For more information visit http://washburn.edu/its/files/How-to-Report-a-Phishing-Email.pdf

Enhanced Online Security For Students & Employees

2-Factor Authentication (2FA) combines your username and password with something you have (phone, tablet, etc.) to verify your identity. This way, hackers are unable to use your account even with the password. All students and employees have access to 2FA through DUO. This will allow remote access to internal resources. (i.e: VDI, VPN, Office 365, Zoom).

Please expect a DUO enrollment email if you have not yet enrolled and registered a 2-factor device. It will be sent from no-reply@duosecurity.com with a link to duosecurity.com in the body. Click the link provided and follow these directions: https://washburn.edu/its/files/enroll-in-duo.pdf