Tech News September 2022

Top News

$250K in matching funds extended to researchers participating in GACRC buy-in program*:* The Vice President for Information Technology is continuing a matching program to encourage faculty to participate in the GACRC's Sapelo2 Buy-In Program. The matching program is renewed for this fiscal year, with a $250,000 commitment from the Vice President for Information Technology. The matching funds provide, on a first-come/first-served basis, up to $10k for the purchase of an additional computing node for any researchers participating in the buy-in program. For more information, including details about the GACRC buy-in program, please contact Dr. Guy Cormier at gcormier@uga.edu.

Fall Network Maintenance set for Sunday, October 23*:* Prepare for a fall network maintenance on Sunday, October 23. This maintenance is being conducted on a Sunday to accommodate our extended campuses which hold classes on Saturdays. Network maintenances are necessary to continue to support the network, allowing EITS to provide ample bandwidth and Internet capacity to the University in the future. Such a maintenance is performed twice a year, during which campus Internet and campus information systems are usually inaccessible. For questions, contact Rayid Tartir at rayid@uga.edu.

Submit requests for STF one-time funding: Requests for proposals for the FY23 STF one-time funding process were distributed to deans and unit heads on September 1. Units who receive base STF allocations are eligible to submit requests for proposals. This one-time funding is in addition to any support that a college or unit may receive as a part of its base STF allocation and must be of an instructional nature. This year, the committee will accept requests for multi-year initiatives. Proposals can request funding for up to three years total. The proposals must be submitted through the office of the appropriate Vice President, Dean, or Associate Provost by October 14 to be considered during the current cycle. Please direct comments or questions to Dr. Toby Graham, chair of the Student Technology Fee Advisory Committee at tgraham@uga.edu or (706) 542-0621.

IT Services in Action

GACRC teaching cluster available for fall: A small high-performance computing cluster devoted exclusively to teaching duties is available for use during the Fall 2022 semester. The cluster, which is supported by the Georgia Advanced Computing Resource Center, was also in use during the spring. Faculty members interested in discussing the capabilities of the

teaching cluster and how it might integrate with their coursework should contact Dr. Guy Cormier at gcormier@uga.edu.

Turnitin Feedback Studio now available in eLC, Google Docs: Effective August 10, UGA students, faculty and staff now have access to Turnitin Feedback Studio and Similarity within eLearning Commons (eLC). Turnitin Feedback Studio provides automated grammar, citation, and formatting suggestions for draft papers, while Similarity aids instructors and students in maintaining and promoting academic integrity. Instructors can manage Turnitin features under the Evaluation and Feedback section in Assignments tab. Instructors can enable a Similarity Report and Online Grading for assignments, as well as PeerMark, which allows students to peer review the papers of their classmates. Turnitin is also available in UGA's instance of Google Workspace. Once you have signed into your UGA Google Workspace account and opened or created a Google Doc, access Turnitin features by clicking the Add-ons menu and selecting "Turnitin Draft Coach". At this time, Turnitin features are only available for Google Docs and eLC, and cannot be used on Microsoft Word or other document formats imported into Google Drive. For more information, contact Dave Crouch at dave@uga.edu.

**Work continues on more than $1M in campus wireless upgrades*:* Work is under way on more wireless upgrades in buildings across the Athens, Buckhead and Griffin campuses. These upgrades are part of ETIS's work to continuously improve Wi-Fi connectivity and coverage to support teaching, learning and student life. The 1.2 million project, funded by Student Technology Fees, includes wireless refreshments and redesigns in many buildings. Work was completed on almost 20 buildings in the last fiscal year, with work most recently being completed in Sanford Hall room 213. Technicians are also working on more improvements to more buildings and wireless spaces across campus, including The Georgia Center, Grady College, R.C. Wilson Pharmacy and Davidson Life Sciences building. Work for phase two is expected to be completed by July 2023. For more information, contact David Stewart at stewart@uga.edu.

Major network bandwidth expansion under way to improve connectivity: EITS networking staff are working on a multi-year project to upgrade building routers, increasing network bandwidth for research and allowing for 10G connectivity. The Building Edge Router Refresh project will upgrade the current building edge routers and cabling in 180 buildings to a new platform that connects buildings back to the university's core network. Buildings completed most recently are the Georgia Center for Continuing Education.

<u>**Upcoming Changes and Maintenances**</u>

**Parchment upgrade includes better security measures, consolidated user authentication*:* Parchment, UGA's service for sending and receiving official printed and electronic transcripts, was upgraded at the end of August to better leverage its cloud platform and related services. The newest version, rebranded Parchment Award, includes increased security measures to continue supporting FERPA compliance and help ensure secure credit

card transactions. The upgrade also consolidated user authentication, so current and former students can log in to one central account to access transcripts from multiple institutions, rather than having to remember separate credentials for each school they've attended. In addition, the vendor is now able to address user inquiries upfront instead of referring them to the UGA Registrar's Office. For more information, contact Gary Pitman at gpitjr@uga.edu.

Constituo upgraded to support Graduate and Professional School Admissions: Constituo, an information system that automates uploads of student application data to the Athena/Banner system, has been upgraded to support admissions processes for the Graduate and Professional Schools. The new Constituo platform provides greater customer support, better security and data quality, and new features to enhance the business processes for the five UGA admissions offices on campus. For more information, contact Gary Pitman at gpitjr@uga.edu.

Listserv hosting enhancements coming soon: L-Soft, the exclusive provider of Listserv brand email list software, has expanded their cloud hosting options. EITS is actively working with L-Soft to transition to their new cloud hosting environment. This improvement will increase the reliability and availability of UGA's hosted LISTSERV instance. The migration is tentatively set for October 28. During the migration, users may experience disruptions when attempting to access the list management interface; additionally, there may be delays in message delivery. More details will be provided at a later date. For question, contact Ashley Henry at ashenry@uga.edu.

Biannual UGA SSO upgrade planned for September 23: Our single sign-on service, UGA SSO, will undergo a scheduled maintenance September 23. This maintenance is necessary to move the service to the latest version and to receive up-to-date security patching. To prepare for this upgrade, application owners will be asked to test their applications in dev and stage to ensure the update does not affect their applications. Dev and stage environments are now available for testing, and EITS will not move any new applications to production UGA SSO until after the upgrade is complete in September. EITS applies updates to UGA SSO twice a year, in February and September. For more information, please contact Kristi Wall at kristi.wall@uga.edu.

Google Workspace Shared Drives to be decommissioned January 2, 2023: As previously communicated, Google eliminated unlimited storage for academic customers. Due to the limitations with Google's storage management tool, UGA will no longer allow the creation of new Shared Drives in Google Workspace effective August 1, 2022. Overconsumption of storage by a few users with Shared Drives can affect everyone using Google Workspace at UGA and prevent any user from being able to save or add files. Users that currently have Shared Drives will be contacted with guidance on how to move those files to other services, such as OneDrive for Business and Institutional File Storage. Users must move their files by January 2, 2023; all shared drives will be removed from UGA's instance of Google workspace after this date. For more information, contact Ashley Henry at ashenry@uga.edu.

Campus IT announcements

SecureReports upgrade planned*:* Over the next few weeks, the Office of Information Security team will work on an upgrade to SecureReports. The upgraded SecureReports will be launched in mid-September and will have a softer look and some minor changes to terminology; for example, messages will now be called packages. For more information about the upgrade please contact Lance Peiper, lpeiper@uga.edu.

Local Administrator Password Solution required for units by end of year: In higher education and other industries, ransomware computer infections through web browsing and email are growing at an alarming rate. A Local Administrator Password Solution (LAPS) protects against ransomware outbreaks and data breaches by providing security and managing administrator account passwords on laptops and desktop computers. EITS has provided university units with instructions for implementing LAPS policies in Active Directory, and LAPS will be required for units by the end of 2022. For more information on implementing LAPS, contact Ben Myers at bmyers@uga.edu.

Tech Tips

Changes coming to UGA Holiday calendar: Beginning January 1, 2023, UGA Holidays will no longer be automatically uploaded to your UGA Outlook calendar. You can manually add the UGA Holidays to your calendar by following these steps on the EITS Help Desk KnowledgeBase. For more information about adding the new calendar, contact Ashley Henry at ashenry@uga.edu.