Welcome!

With 2016 we begin a new year. And with this “issue” of Cuesta Tech News we begin a new tradition where, each semester, we’ll review successes and reveal upcoming technological advancements at Cuesta College. Read on to discover recent upgrades and peek at pending projects within our ever-improving institution.

If you have questions or suggestions, we’d love to hear from you. Send your communiqué via e-mail to techtrainer@cuesta.edu.

Computer Services Rebranded & Expanded

It’s true. “Computer Services” is no more. Renamed to better reflect its scope and mission, Information Technology (a.k.a. “IT”) has expanded, with the return of the Audio/Visual team.

After 4 years under “Facilities”, the A/V team (Mark Hunter, Alex Erisman, and Sean Grometer) have rejoined IT, confident this move will improve the support of all classroom and lab technology.

The new Information Technology will consist of two groups, “Information Services” (programming and database/web administration) and “Technology Services” (network, computer and A/V support).

Accomplishments Reviewed

In 2015 Cuesta College saw numerous technological improvements:

Windows 7 / Office 2010
Information Technology has upgraded over 75% of Cuesta College computers to Windows 7 (from XP) and Office 2010 (from Office 2007). Self-paced online resources minimized the need for face-to-face training.

myCuesta Pathway
The audit portion of myCuesta Pathway (a.k.a. DegreeWorks), a web–based tool to monitor student’s progress toward degree completion, was made available to counselors and students.
**Instructional Equipment**
Improvements continue to be made in instructional areas. Aging hardware has been replaced on both SLO and NC campuses, with upgrades to over 50 lecture workstations and 100+ lab computers. Affected labs include Music, Open (3400), Math, BioSci and LangCom.

**OU Campus v10**
Cuesta’s content management system, OU Campus, which is used to maintain the college’s website, was updated to the newest version (10!). All of the “Content Specialists” received hands-on training.

**Argos Web Viewer**
Argos users now have access to a web-based version of our report generation app that works across platforms (Mac and Windows). The clean and simplified interface makes use easy for all.

**And let’s not forget…**
In addition, IT has updated Banner FA and the R25 room scheduler (now called “Live25”). Enhancements were also made to Class Finder, the VA Post Certification, and 3SP Reporting (SSSP reporting requirements to the state chancellor’s office).

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**Coming Soon…**
But wait! There’s more! Some of the exciting projects in the works include:

**Edirectory**
*(scheduled spring 2016)*
Recreated from the ground up, the new Edirectory will allow folks to quickly locate employees by name, department, and even (phone) extension. The data is pulled directly from Banner, assuring it will always be current. Employees will have the option of sharing additional information, like location or even a self-photo. Plus there’s a map option that identifies the building location of the employee.

**IMPORTANT!**
**Don’t Click That Link!**
If you receive an e-mail from a questionable source, do **not** click on any hyperlinks or open any attachments. To do so may make you the sad recipient of malware that can destroy data and/or steal information.

**Office 2013**
*(scheduled spring 2016)*
For Office 2010 users, the transition to similar-looking “2013” should be simple. But don’t be fooled. This upgrade includes plenty of new features to please the masses, including:

- [Read Mode](#) in Microsoft Word
- [Presenter Mode](#) in Microsoft PowerPoint
- Improved [touch](#) and [inking](#) in all of the Office programs
- Ability to insert [video](#) and audio from online sources into Word
- [Broadcast PowerPoint presentations](#) on the Web.
- Sync the location within a document in Word or PowerPoint between different computers using [bookmarks](#).
Coming Soon… (continued)

Office 365
*(scheduled spring 2016)*

Those remote e-mail users hoping to see a replacement for Citrix will be pleased when Office 365 gets rolled out. But Office 365 is much more than just “easy e-mail” from home. This web-based suite has features that include:

- Access to online versions of Office apps, without having them installed on your computer or mobile device
- Save documents on the cloud for accessibility from anywhere
- Share documents with coworkers, with the ability to edit simultaneously
- Device and Mobile compatibility

**Wi-Fi in 4000**
*(scheduled spring 2016)*

Student access to Wi-Fi should be active in buildings 4100, 4300, 4400 and 4500 on SLO campus.

**Website Redesign**
*(scheduled late 2016)*

A complete redesign of the Cuesta website is underway. In addition to improving and simplifying site navigation, the new website will incorporate responsive design, allowing each page to reformat based on user’s device. This means our website will look good on all devices, whether a computer or tablet or smart phone.

**Areas of Study**
*(scheduled late 2016)*

The Areas of Study is an addition to our website that will make available division, degree and program information in one location.

**myCuesta Pathways – SEP**
*(scheduled April 2016)*

myCuesta Pathways is a web-based tool to help monitor student's progress toward degree completion. The Student Ed Planning (SEP) portion of myCuesta Pathways is scheduled to go live April.

**Instruction Equipment**
*(scheduled 2016)*

New PCs and related hardware will continue to be deployed to labs and lecture rooms on both NC and SLO campuses, with the goal to always replace older systems first.

**North County Internet Connection**
*(scheduled spring 2016)*

A new internet connection for the North County campus has received state (CENIC) approval and funding. In preparation, the existing firewall and network will be modified, after which the new connection between SLO and NC campuses will be added while retaining the existing as backup. The result will create much needed redundancy as well as increased internet speed for North County.
What about the Bond?

How is the recent passage of Measure L affecting the future of technology at Cuesta College?

Planning
WTC Consulting has been hired to assist with creation and completion of a Technology Implementation Plan, the scope of which will carry us through the duration of the bond (10 years). This plan will complement the existing tech plan and inform the new plan due in 2017, addressing:

- Data and voice network and infrastructure
- Servers and storage
- Classroom technology
- Enterprise systems

WTC has been working closely with a working group made up of members from Information Technology, Facilities, and Public Safety. The working group has sought input from faculty, staff and students throughout the SLO and NC campuses. The working group answers to the Technology Committee, which is functioning as the steering committee for the Technology Implementation Plan.

Currently the working group is midway in the planning process, reviewing the current environment and examining alternatives. Once done, financial budgets will be prepared and a strategic direction set. Finally the findings will be presented and the Technology Implementation Plan will be developed with an expected completion date of February 2016.

Implementation
Core infrastructure changes have begun. The network staff have ordered new storage arrays and switches to replace the existing outdated and failing systems. Cuesta also has obtained a “seed server” which is being evaluating as the possible new server standard. Once the evaluation is complete, the network and administration staff will be purchasing and implementing a new server farm to replace our existing hardware, including the Banner server.