Welcome to Connected, the WashU technology digest!

Connected is a news, events and announcements digest from the Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Events

FY2017 IT Capital Investment and Shared Services Proposal Process Open
Monday, August 3 ends September 15, 2015
Click here for more information.

Skype for Business Training (formerly Lync)

Every Thursday
11:00 am
Click here to join web conference (enter as 'guest'). Audio bridge is (314) 935-9500.

Unit Representatives Group Meeting
Thursday, September 17
2:00-4:30 pm
Click here for more information.

IT Professional Development Book Club

Please join us for discussion about a wide range of books relevant to the IT professional. Contact Marcia Mannen (marcia@wustl.edu) for more information. All are welcome! Learn more...

Next meeting:
Thursday, September 24
1:00-2:00 pm
Eads Hall

Washington University IT Capital Investment and Shared Services Request Process Open

The Office of the CIO (OCIO) is accepting IT Capital Investment and Shared Services Request proposals for fiscal year 2017.

Washington University in St. Louis (WashU) established the IT Capital Investment and Shared Services Request Process to prioritize information technology investment requests, creating consistency and efficiency (when appropriate) across Washington University IT services. IT Governance committees and units should use this process when seeking funding and support for IT projects or when the committee or the unit has an idea or service that may have a broader use across most or all Washington University communities.

The deadline to submit a proposal is September 15. Visit the OCIO website (click here) to learn more about the IT Capital Investment and Shared Services Request Process and criteria. Use the WashU IT Investment Request Form provided on the website for each investment request.

Washington University Awarded $475K Grant for Research Network Project

The National Science Foundation has awarded Washington University a grant of $475,590 to progress the Washington University Research Network (WURN) project.

The project will enhance WashU’s cyberinfrastructure by creating a pan-campus research network that increases access to and enables the transport, analysis, and dissemination of big data within and beyond the university. This infrastructure will support the processing of big data through high
performance computing, enabling WashU researchers to continue to make strides in a broad range of topics including materials science, molecular and mesoscopic simulations, planetary and atmospheric sciences, genomics, cellular and organ level imaging, and the development of social and public health policies.

The WURN project is supplemented by a $600K investment approved in the IT Capital Investment and Shared Services Request Process. The project launched in April. Completion is scheduled for March 2016.

Retiring Windows 2003 Servers

The project to retire Windows 2003 servers managed by the former Information Services & Technology (IS&T) organization is now complete. The project, which began in 2013, was necessary to avoid security risks posed by Microsoft's discontinued support of the Windows server 2003 operating system. The Enterprise Applications, Shared Infrastructure, and Solutions Center teams worked diligently to decommission a total of 204 servers.

Justin Hoyt, Director of Platform Engineering, said, "It was a huge effort that crossed all parts of IS&T."

A similar effort is underway on the Medical School campus where, to date, 47 Windows 2003 servers managed by the former Central Information Technology Services (CITS) organization have been decommissioned.

Project Update - WUSM Email Consolidation

The Washington University School of Medicine (WUSM) Email Consolidation Project will consolidate the email and calendar systems currently in use at the School of Medicine into the shared IT services email offering used on the Danforth Campus. As part of a university effort to standardize email services across schools and campuses, Washington University IT has been migrating students, faculty and staff to Microsoft Office 365 email. WashU IT will retain a small, on-premise solution for users who cannot move into the cloud.

The WUSM Email Consolidation Project will deliver:

- Improved visibility of BJC and Danforth directory information.
- Improved features and support for research units that are not on large department email.
- Improved visibility into calendar 'free/busy' information.
- Email service integration. (Other services may be a mix of cloud-based and on-premise
solutions.)

- Quick, effective communication and collaboration.
- A single, unified collaboration service across the University.
- Simplified spam filtering, data loss prevention, and email encryption solutions.

WashU IT will migrate WUSM students’ emails to Office 365 at the end of August and throughout September.

Have questions? Contact the service desk at (314) 362-7798 or at CITServicedesk@wustl.edu. Students can also stop by the Becker Medical Library for assistance. The library is located at 660 S. Euclid Ave., St. Louis, MO, 63110.

For more on this project, visit the new Shared IT Services website here. You can also view a summary presentation of the WUSM Email Consolidation Project here.

**Unit Representatives Group**

The Shared IT Services Unit Representatives Group met August 20 to discuss the Financial Baseline Project. This is an initiative of the new Washington University IT organization. It is not a part of the Shared IT Services Program, but this analysis will enable the Shared IT Services Program to focus on a cost neutral implementation and will help in establishing a baseline budget and a model for future Shared IT Services.

The Unit Representatives Group also learned about the Washington University School of Medicine Email Consolidation Project. Tom Imlay, the project manager, and his team presented the project’s current status and future milestones.

Last month the Unit Representatives Group discussed the IT Service Management Project, and engaged in an interactive group activity to list the IT services they’d like to see included in the shared IT service catalog. Unit Representatives Group members were asked to share the presentation with their units for discussions with their peers and leadership. You can view a recording of the July meeting here.