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The recent reorganization of colleges within the university has been accomplished with minimal disruption to the faculty, staff, and students. This was made possible with careful analysis and planning by the administration, from the Provost’s Office down to the dean’s offices and the departments. We in Information Services and Technology have been proud to have played an integral role in making sure that the infrastructure has been updated to reflect these changes – in as seamless a way as possible. The purpose of this coverage is to give an idea of what had to happen “behind the scenes” – in several different areas:

- Web Services
- Administrative Computing
- Client Services
- Telecommunication and Networking
With the recent reorganization, Academic Computing played a huge role in making significant changes, especially within the highly utilized myWCU. Faculty, staff and students all use myWCU for numerous reasons, such as academic advising, scheduling, etc. With the reorganization many changes had to be made to the PeopleSoft Student Information System.

Prior to the reorganization, PeopleSoft utilized Academic Groups to identify which College departments fall under; and utilized Academic Programs to determine which College academic plans (majors) fall under.

By using Academic Groups and Programs there is no way to structure schools within colleges for reporting and security. To solve this problem, we utilized a more robust PeopleSoft tool called Organizational Tree. This PeopleSoft tool is ideal for creating and maintaining hierarchical relationships. The Organizational Tree is now used to reporting and security within the system. Therefore instead of pulling a report by Academic Group to see everything within that college; the report is built off of the tree to identify which students, plans, and departments are “owned” by a college or school.

The Organizational Tree is behind the scenes in PeopleSoft, it does not tie directly to course or student records which makes it more dynamic. Therefore in the future if the academic organizational structure changes, we can update the organizational tree for reporting and security reasons without having to update student, course and other records.

The Organizational Tree allows us to systematically create as many layers as we have culturally. For example we can now support a new layer of schools within a college. This approach allows us to develop a flexible PeopleSoft structure that will insulate the system moving forward, limiting the impact of any future adjustments. In the future if a college’s structure is adjusted; there would be no need to adjust the group or programs in PeopleSoft. This makes for a highly dynamic system.

This was a major shift to the architecture of our PeopleSoft setup. By moving to an organizational tree model for capturing hierarchy instead of relying on group/program; all of the transactions, reports, processes, and queries currently utilized by the university needed to be redeveloped. This was a major effort for Administrative Computing team. Every object in PeopleSoft had to be analyzed and potentially modified to meet this new structure. Over 600 PeopleSoft tables and views, 200 transactions, 400 reports and 200 queries required modification. Clean up jobs were developed to modify the actual data of records. Over 18000 program plan records, 21000 advisor records, 4400 course catalog records and 9400 class section records were cleaned up to reflect the new structure.

The following is an example of the kind of system changes put in place for the reorganization.
Now, after the reorganization, the Academic Group search prompt for “WCU Dean’s List” has been replaced with drop down list selectors for College and School.

Dean's List Report

Creates Excel formatted file to create labels and letters
Select Format Type - CSV on the run page

Term:  
College  
School  
Department  
Program  

Or Check for Non-Degree Only  
Non-Degree Dean’s List
In the following example, you can see how the “Show Class Sections” transaction was modified to allow the user to select any valid combination of college, school and department to generate a list of classes at any hierarchical level.
The reorganization of the WCU website to reflect the college reorganization was a multi-layered project that was completed over a 7 week period this past summer. The top priority of the Web Team was to ensure zero disruption to our clients and website visitors during this process. For a smooth transition, only one college site was updated/moved at a time. Each update/move took approximately one week to complete.

To keep the department links in the Academic catalog functional during this process, quick URLs (also known as marketing URLs) were created to redirect users to the appropriate department site. Over 80 of these quick URLs were created. Some examples are wcupa.edu/Marketing, wcupa.edu/English, wcupa.edu/Music, etc. This allowed for changes to happen within the catalog prior to the reorganization on the WCU website. Once the site folders were reorganized, the quick URLs were redirected to the new site location.

After each new college folder was created and pages moved, a search was performed throughout the entire WCU website to locate and fix any broken links that may have resulted from the reorganization. Editing permissions for users were updated, and - in some cases - new ones created to reflect the new folder structure. New URLs were created for each college site to match the new “breadcrumb” trail and improve search engine optimization.

To address any bookmarked or shared links (i.e. links in PDF’s) that pointed to the old organization, redirects were created at the folder level to point to the new location. For example, if someone searched for a specific document or page through a search engine, even if the old URL was displayed, they would be redirected to the new page or document.

Three new college homepages were created
- College of the Sciences and Mathematics
- College of Arts and Humanities
- School of Interdisciplinary Studies

Existing college pages were updated
- College of Education and Social Work
- College of Business and Public Management
- College of Health Sciences

Over 50 department pages were moved and their URLs changed
REORGANIZATION – Client Services, Telecommunications

Client Services/D2L and their contribution to the College Reorganization...

D2L worked very hard with other areas of Information Services & Technology to ensure a smooth transition for all who uses their application. Specifically, D2L Services and Administrative Computing worked together during the academic reorg by preparing, testing, and updating code in PeopleSoft and D2L. Due to diligent testing, the team loaded the new templates and course offerings seamlessly into D2L without a hitch. As a result, all faculty and students in their new colleges can access their coursework easily.

Telecommunications and their contribution to the College Reorganization...

Contacting and connecting folks around campus is important to all, and when they move it is important that we are able to follow and find them.

The College Reorganization created personnel moves for many and with that, phones had to be moved and contact information updated. The Telecommunications staff was integral in ensuring that directory information was updated and that personnel moves were seamless and efficient, particularly since the College of Arts and Sciences was split in half. A few moving projects included several people who moved from Anderson to Swope and then within the Dean’s suite at Swope. The telecommunications staff worked very hard to accommodate the moves and make sure that all of the details were taken care of. Also updating the directory within PeopleSoft was an important part of the College Reorganization. In this case, Colleges and Department group listings needed updating. Also, new college distribution lists had to be created for each college. In addition, during the transition, both the old and the new DLs had to be kept up to date. Now, with the new set-up, each college Distribution List membership is updated on a daily basis based on PeopleSoft data.
Active Learning Labs

The Active Learning Lab, located in Recitation Hall, is embracing an entirely new way of learning. The furniture and technology surrounding it plays a major role for this new way of learning. Active learning is described as collaboration among students that engage in activities such as problem solving, reading, writing and discussion. This past summer, the College of Education implemented new Steelcase furniture in order to achieve an active learning atmosphere.

The College of Education Dean, Dr. Ken Witmer, is a big supporter of the new Active Learning Lab. “We don’t want to tether students or faculty to some spot where we have to adjust the learning to the environment, but rather we like to adjust the environment to the learning,” says Dean Witmer, in a recent video spotlight about the Active Learning Lab. General lecture halls and classrooms can often be mundane and inactive. Because the furniture is easy to maneuver, there are endless types of arrangements that can happen with the furniture. Exploring new ways to learn, easier and more open ways to take part in discussion, and even improved lesson planning are just some ways the furniture is providing a more active learning environment. The furniture is designed to make it easy for various set ups to happen while the technology even further enhances the student experience.

Technology is at the forefront when it comes to achieving a quality education. The Active Learning Lab incorporates a lot of technology, making it easier to take part in collaboration with small groups or an entire class. Each pod or section in the classroom is equipped with a flat screen monitor. Wired or wireless, students can connect to the monitor and take part in small group discussion with a touch of a button and sharing each other’s content easily. Even more impressive, the front of the classroom showcases two smart projectors that utilize the new technology, Mersive Solstice. Mersive Solstice, better known on campus as RAMCast, is software that allows for any number of users to simultaneously share content, no matter what device is being used. Certain content can be shared wirelessly onto the front projector while another student shares a different piece of content onto the other projector. The professor also has the ability to extend content out to the individual pod monitors. Similar to furniture arrangements, the combination of content sharing is endless. Dean Witmer comments about technology in the classroom, “As new technology develops, we will incorporate that to show how best pedagogically it has value.” The RAMCast solution is being deployed in phases and has already been installed in various buildings such as Anderson and Sturzebecker. The Business and Public Management Center (BPMC) will have this solution deployed when the building opens in Spring 2017.

The student experience is a very important aspect to a college education, and West Chester University takes it very seriously. Keeping up with the new technologies and even updating the classroom furniture is just one small yet powerful strategy to enhance the WCU student experience.
The Computer Science department at West Chester University is growing in numbers each year. One way to get more involved with this department is through participation in the clubs organized to support the education of computer science students. Both the Computer Science Club and the Women in Computer Science Club have seen record numbers of student interest in the last few semesters, and it is clear to see why.

**Faculty Advisors**

Computer Science Club: Dr. Si Chen ([SChen@wcupa.edu](mailto:SChen@wcupa.edu))

Women in Computer Science Club: Dr. Bin Lu ([BLu@wcupa.edu](mailto:BLu@wcupa.edu))

**Student Member and President**

Computer Science Club: Jason Jackson ([JJ603835@wcupa.edu](mailto:JJ603835@wcupa.edu))

Women in Computer Science Club: Carla Tamburro ([CT860800@wcupa.edu](mailto:CT860800@wcupa.edu))

**Club Activities**

**Computer Science Club:**

October 21st-23rd: Hackathon

In the Works: Intern U "Meet the Experts," Major League Hacking "Hack Day"

**Women in Computer Science Club:**

Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing (International Conference)

Super Science Saturday (local)

Women in Aerospace and Technology Mentor Program (local)
Computer Clubs

The Computer Science Club was founded with the purpose to provide a club that enables students to develop their skills and explore their interests in the area of Computer Science, and to provide opportunities to become familiar with the many professions in the field of Computer Science through community outreach, mentoring, and tutoring. The membership has exploded with recent efforts, and there are currently 126 active members.

Students participating in the Computer Science Club have the chance to work with new technologies, gain experience through exposure to different topics and internship opportunities and individual studies. They have regular club hours 2-3 times per week where students can drop in to work on projects, try out new technology equipment, get help with homework, or simply socialize with other members. They hope to develop the group through a selection of guest speakers, as well as hosting computer science related events on campus in the future.

The Women in Computer Science Club was founded in Fall 2010 and became an official WCU organization in Fall 2015 in an effort to promote female students, as the gender gap in Computer Science has been a nationwide concern during the past decade. They currently have 2 faculty advisors and 48 student members, including Computer Science majors, minors, and some students who are interested in computer science.

Students in the Women in Computer Science Club have many travel opportunities to attend conferences and events related to Women in Computer Science. They are working to develop a mentorship program for local high schools to provide young girls with early exposure to technology. This organization provides a community of women with similar interests the opportunity to collaborate with each other and advance their knowledge of Computer Science. They hope to increase membership over the coming semesters and develop stronger ties with the community through their mentorship program.
Screenpresso is billed as “the ultimate screen capture tool for Windows”. To get the free-download version, sufficient for most users, go to www.screenpresso.com. You can put a shortcut to it on your taskbar at the bottom of the screen, but there is also a wonderful feature allowing you to hover near the top-center of your screen to display a choice between screenshot region and record video. For screenshot region, it gives you horizontal and vertical lines that you can drag to frame and crop whatever you want. Then click on Edit and then on Save (as a Picture file). It can be used to email as an attachment or to insert into a Word document or a PowerPoint.

• An example is the second picture in this issue’s Active Learning Lab coverage. We hit the pause button on a video demonstrating this lab, then used Screenpresso to obtain the second picture.

• Another example is the need to send just a part of your screen to someone else (faculty, staff, or student) to explain an idea.

• A third example is trying to copy and paste from a pdf file – the results can be unpredictable, but Screenpresso is “what you see is what you get”.

• Finally, you can capture a cropped area on your screen and copy/paste into an email without even saving it to a file!
The Faculty and Staff Training (FAST) unit supports WCU faculty and staff in becoming proficient in various applications, in addition to providing best practices in trending platforms (i.e. Social Media, D2L, RamCloud). Courses are designed to accommodate all levels of learning and are run in succession, allowing users to build on acquired skills. FAST staff also produces reference documentation to support the training initiative. Browse through the FAST Course Offerings to access information about the classes, as well as the corresponding documentation.

View the Training Schedule for the current month. All training sessions are held in Anderson Hall, room 24.

For more information, please visit the FAST website wcupa.edu/fast.

UPK (User Productivity Kit) Online Tutorials are tutorials for myWCU, Employee Self Service (ESS), 25 Live, RamCloud, and more. The tutorials can be found at wcupa.edu/upk.

You can also enter UPK into the search box on the WCU Homepage.
Tech Trivia

Sponsored by the Student Services Inc. (SSI)

The winner will be chosen at random from those submitting all correct answers to Dr. Fabrey at fabrey@wcupa.edu within 48 hours of the appearance of this issue of Tech Notes. Prize will be determined and awarded by SSI.

1. Some of you have heard of the C programming language. Did C stand for a) computer, b) compiler, or c) the next letter after the B programming language?

2. Who got the highest SAT score: Bill Gates (Microsoft) or Mark Zuckerberg (Facebook)? What were their scores (out of 1600)?

3. Fifty years ago (1966), the first photo of the earth from the moon’s orbit was taken. What was the spacecraft and on what day did it happen?

Answers to the Tech Notes Summer 2016 contest: 1. ALASKA is the only state that can be typed on one row of a QWERTY keyboard. 2. Bill Gates DID receive a Harvard degree – an honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 2007. 3. David Bradley, Mel Hallerman, and Bill Gates (pick at least 2 of 3) established the Control-Alternate-Delete combination. Winner: Sandra Jones!!!
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# Contact Information

## VICE PRESIDENT’S OFFICE

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President &amp; CIO</td>
<td>Dikran Kassabian</td>
<td>x2828</td>
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<td>Donna Beckett</td>
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<td>Special Assistant</td>
<td>James Fabrey</td>
<td>x3228</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kathleen Barimani</td>
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<td>25UNA</td>
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## DIVISION CONTACTS

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<tr>
<td>Client Services</td>
<td>Paul Gargiulo</td>
<td>x3397</td>
<td>Anderson</td>
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<td>Technical Services</td>
<td>JT Singh</td>
<td>x1045</td>
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<td>Kim Slattery</td>
<td>x0043</td>
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## TECH NOTES STAFF

Theresa Boppell, James Fabrey, Madelyn Lauver, Will McGrory, Alyssa Riccio, Juli Szonntag, Joseph Watts