Write on your Presentations with Sympodium

Ever wondered if you could learn how to use that fancy smart monitor on the podium in your classroom? Well now you can! On Sept. 3, 2014 from 11 AM to 12 PM, Dr. Kurt DeGoede of the Physics and Engineering Department will be conducting an interactive workshop on using Sympodiums in the classroom. Find out how to make annotations and bring more interactivity into the classroom. Click below to read more and sign up for the workshop.

Sign Up »

“Always Been True”

As young freshman take to the halls and classrooms on campus this year, they may be feeling the same joys and anxieties that all first years’ experience. However, these young minds of the Class of 2018 hold a unique perspective on the world and no one recognizes that more than Beloit College. Beloit recently released the Mindset List for the class of 2018, detailing what experiences may have been different for the incoming freshman as opposed to what their professors may have experienced. Find out how the world appears to freshman and what they know to have “always been true”.

See the List »

Avoid Phishing on the ‘Net

Have you been contacted by email from someone claiming to have money waiting for you? Has someone asked in an email for your log in information to "confirm your identity" lately? Don’t be fooled into giving up your username, password, or other information by phishing messages! These messages can get past the spam filters and still wind up in your inbox. Find out what a phishing message is and what to do with it if you receive one by watching this short Phishing Video.

Spotlight: iClickers

This issue of IT Matters is spotlighting an ITS resource: iClickers. This student response system can be used in a variety of ways and for courses in all departments. From taking attendance to formative assessment and surveys, iClickers can bring a new
level of interactivity to the classroom. When the same iClicker is used by a student in a class throughout the semester, it can be used to track not only student learning but also teaching effectiveness.

Find out more by watching the spotlight video as Dr. James MacKay discusses the uses and benefits of iClickers in the classroom.

iClickers can be checked out by faculty and staff or by department. Simply email macaulayl@etown.edu to find out more.

More Bandwidth!

Over the summer, our networking team was hard at work with a variety of projects. One of the largest projects was completed about three weeks ago and involved a complete overhaul of the College’s Wide Area Network (WAN) connection to the Internet. This process required a replacement or upgrade to almost every component that our Internet connection touches. It also improved the security of the connection to the internet.

In order to ensure the connectivity between the College and the Internet, ITS maintains two connections to the Internet via CenturyLink and Comcast. These connections total over 1Gbps to the Internet. That’s roughly 250x the 4Mbps the FCC defines as High Speed Internet! To ensure that traffic can always reach our campus, these connections (while both in use) are redundant to each other. In the event one connection fails, all traffic is automatically switched to the other connection. Later this year, a Windstream connection will be brought to campus increasing our total bandwidth to 2Gbps. This upgrade also has room for future expansion as Internet usage is expected to continue to double in growth every two years.

September Technology Workshops

Have you signed up for an ITS workshop recently? With a world so technologically focused, it is easy to be left in the dust as updates come out one after another. Don't fall behind. ITS classes and workshops are here to keep you in-the-know. This month features workshops on Atomic Learning, Office 2013, and Sympodium. Find out about upcoming classes and workshops by clicking on the training session names or times below.

Atomic Learning Overview »
Office 2013 - Getting Started (Tuesdays) »
Office 2013 - Getting Started (Thursdays) »
Sympodium - Add Interactivity to Your Classroom »

Sign up for Workshops »

Tech Tips from the ITS Blog

Did you know that you can hide previous courses in your My Courses module on Blackboard? This doesn’t delete the courses; it only hides them from view. This can unclutter your landing page and make it easier to navigate to your current courses.
Find out how and read more Tech Tips on the ITS blog by clicking the links below.

- How to Edit PDFs in Word »
- Word 2013 - Missing Ruler Features »

See all the Tech Tips »

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Knowledgebase: Helpsheets and videos for 24/7 tech support
Atomic Learning: On-demand video tutorials on common technology topics