



Lincoln University

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A Publication about Teaching, Learning and Technology published by the **Faculty Technology Committee and IMC**

Lincoln University
1570 Baltimore Pike
Lincoln University, PA
19352
Phone: (610) 932-1248
Fax: (610) 932-1217

Please forward submissions and letters to the editors.

EDITORS

Nancy J. Evans
evans@lu.lincoln.edu
Safo Kwame
kwame@lu.lincoln.edu

Seeking Submissions

The editors are seeking articles related to technology and learning from the Lincoln community. If you have an interesting technology project, are creating a new website, or using an unusual technology to teach or conduct research, we want to hear from you. Please limit submissions to about 250 words. Submit in MSWord, via email to the editors.

Lincoln to Go Wireless

Lincoln has contracted with Edu-Tek, Inc. of Woodstock, GA. to design and implement a wireless Local-Area Network (LAN) for the main campus. This network, based on Vivato, Inc. technologies (www.vivato.net), will be in place by the end of September. The network will provide wireless access to university servers and the Internet, in the Library, all residences, classrooms, labs, office spaces, the Cafeteria, and all green spaces.

Wireless network cards will be provided by the IT Department for all current University laptop computers, and for desktop computers in buildings where wired networking is not available. For faculty, staff, and students bringing their own equipment to campus, wireless cards will be available for resale, but in most cases any wireless network card supporting the 802.11b standard will work. Some specific computer security practices will be recommended and some will be required on the new wireless LAN.

Student Information to be Available over the Internet

The IT department has now completed upgrades to POISE, our student information system, that are required as a foundation for Campus Connect. Campus Connect will allow students to securely view their basic name and address information, their financial status, their financial aid, and their schedule and grades over the networks on campus and over the Internet from home. Faculty will be able to electronically submit course grades, and add and drop classes through Campus Connect as well. Campus Connect will be available in October.

Main Campus Internet Connection to Triple in Speed

Lincoln's connection to the Internet from the main campus is currently based on 2 "T-1" circuits: one for data transmission, and one standby circuit as a backup. Two additional circuits have been installed, and are awaiting connection equipment. When they are brought live the total bandwidth to the Internet will increase from 1.5 to 4.5 million bits per second.

Lincoln-based E-mail Addresses for Students Coming this Fall

In September the IT Department will issue network User IDs and e-mail addresses in the lincoln.edu domain for all undergraduate and graduate students. E-mail can be managed through a web-based interface from computers on campus or over the Internet. Later in the semester the use of individual network IDs will be required, in order to improve network security and accountability.

- Steve Carol, IT

WebCT's First Year In Review

In the spring 2003, 43 WebCT courses were set up in which at least one tool was actively used with students. Of those 43, 14 instructors added a significant WebCT component to one to four courses and completed Progress Reports. All 14 instructors worked on WebCT-enhanced courses in the spring 2003.

Eleven two- or four-hour workshops with 35 participants were offered in the spring 2003 and 10 two-hour workshops with 39 participants were offered in the fall 2002. Three online workshops were offered for two participants in March and April 2003.

A support structure has been established for faculty using technology, including WebCT, and includes the following components:

- Faculty Technology Lab, 146 Dickey Hall, open 8:00 - 5:00 p.m. M-F.
- Faculty Technology Mentors work 4 hours per week in the lab providing 1:1 assistance in using technology.
- Mentors demonstrated WebCT classes at School meetings. WebCT and other technologies will be demonstrated again this year.
- Technology Tools Workshops will continue fall and spring; look for announcements.
- WebCT Users Listserv will be continue to be used for announcements, questions, and concerns.

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How to Get Rid of Junk E-mail

Safro Kwame, Philosophy Department

Using E-mail and the Internet

Next to computer viruses, junk electronic mail (e-mail) and browser pop-ups as well as adware and spyware seem to be the most troubling in our cyber experience. Unlike computer viruses, however, junk e-mail and browser pop-ups are often more annoying than devastating. Sometimes, they all seem to work together or are even created by the same people. In general, junk e-mail tends to be more offensive than pop-ups. Adware and spyware, which are software programs which install spies and advertisements on your computer without your permission, are frightening; but, often, they are often not harmful. Once you realize you have merely lost some control over your computer to adware and spyware, they usually become less frightening than computer viruses but more annoying than junk e-mail even though not as offensive as junk e-mail or computer viruses. There are free programs such as Ad-aware (<http://www.lavasoftusa.com/software/adaware/>) which would remove spyware and adware from your computer or protect you from them, and there are also free programs such as Pop-Up Stopper (<http://www.panicware.com/>) for dealing with internet pop-ups. You may also put a firewall "around" your computer. (See e.g. the free Sygate Personal Firewall from http://smb.sygate.com/products/spf_standard.htm.)

With junk e-mail or "spam," it is a trickier business. While I do not seem to receive much of the e-mail that I look forward to in my Lincoln University e-mail account, I seem to get much of the information sent to me about pornography and medications that I am not interested in. In the light of my experience over the last five or so years, it is apparent to me that the key to getting rid of junk e-mail is not to receive it (in the first place). To not receive junk e-mail, you will have to avoid using e-mail, re-define junk e-mail or get someone to get rid of it for you. Much of this, however, has to do with the definition and cost of junk e-mail. Thus, by implication, the key to getting rid of junk e-mail lies in how one defines and costs it.

If you use email, it is difficult, if not impossible, to avoid junk email. Since junk e-mail is a type of e-mail, the safest way to avoid getting junk e-mail, is to avoid getting email. However, one cannot avoid getting email altogether without being left behind in this electronic age which is currently defined by the use of computers and communication tools such as e-mail and cell phones. The solution, then, would seem to be not to avoid electronic mail altogether, but just the kind that one does not want. Let us see how one attempts that.

Defining Junk E-mail

One of the biggest problems in regulating junk e-mail, as reflected in the American Federal Trade Commission's May 2003 forum on "spam," has to do with the definition of junk e-mail. One person's meat or food, it has been recognized long ago, may be another person's poi-

son. What some people characterize as spam or unwanted e-mail, is considered direct marketing and a source of revenue for others. Traditionally, junk e-mail has been defined as unsolicited commercial or bulk e-mail better known as "spam." Unfortunately this definition is too inclusive. If the manufacturer of my computer or software sends out unsolicited e-mail to everyone who has purchased its product, asking customers to upgrade for \$1 in order to avoid a dangerous computer virus or take advantage of current and cutting-edge technology, I do not consider it junk mail even though it is unsolicited commercial or bulk e-mail. The key to the definition of junk e-mail, it would seem, is subjective and lies in whether I like what I got. However, if one were allowed to define junk e-mail subjectively, any how, one could simply solve the problem of getting rid of junk e-mail by simply defining all e-mail as wanted or cultivating one's taste to like all e-mail. Unless one believes in word magic, persuasive definitions or simply begging the question, this course of action is unlikely to recommend itself to anyone.

Paying for Junk E-mail

The better solution to getting rid of junk e-mail would seem to be for one to take the trouble to develop rules to discriminate between wanted and unwanted e-mail or secure a program that does it on one's behalf. These programs range in cost from free (\$0) to about \$70, depending how much one is willing to spend in time and money for the convenience of getting rid of junk e-mail. Here are some of those I have evaluated for the Windows operating system with different measures of success. They are mainly stand-alone programs, with a few proxy servers or local hosts, that work independently of other e-mail programs or clients. Note that all of these programs listed here are free, but they require differing levels of configuration or set-up by the user to be operational.

LetterBox 4.2.2 (Simplest. General Ranking: 3 Stars. Size: 710 kb Cost: Free. Website: <http://www.ultima-thule.co.uk>)

MailWasher (Most Cost effective. General Ranking: 4 Stars. Size: 1.5 mb Cost: Free. Website: <http://www.mailwasher.net/>)

Magic Mail Monitor (Flexible and Effective. General Ranking: 4 Stars. Size: 118 kb Cost: Free. Website: <http://mmm3.sourceforge.net/>)

Foxmail (Excellent and Comprehensive. General Ranking: 5 Stars. Size: 2.3 mb Cost: Free. Website: <http://fox.foxmail.com.cn/english.htm>)

Despammed (A Simple but Effective Web Alternative. General Ranking: 3 Stars. Size: Not Applicable. Cost: Free. Website: <http://www.despammed.com/> Download: None.)

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"Spam is out of hand. In fact, unsolicited e-mail is so bad that students have written academic papers regarding your likelihood of receiving spam. Enough, we say."

From 'Slam that spam' by Daniel Tynan (April 24, 2003), CNET Networks, Inc.

A Look at the “Magic Square”

Ali Barimani, Department of Computer Science & Mathematics

A Magic Square is a grid of cells or matrix containing the sequential numbers 1..n, in such a way in which all column sums, row sums, and diagonal sums have the same value, with no redundancies allowed. Below is an example of a 3 by 3 magic square, in which all the rows, columns, and diagonals have the same total value of 15.

4	9	2
3	5	7
8	1	6

The following algorithm (*C++ style*) can be used to create a Magic Square of size n, where n is odd. Assume i and j denote the location of the cells in magic square in terms of rows and columns. Assume that the function OutOfRange(index) yields **true** if index is outside the range of 1..n. Also, the function NotEmpty(M[i][j]) yields **true** if the square is not empty at the location given by i and j. Please note that for simplicity the rows and columns of the array M are numbered 1..n, instead of 0..n-1. For example, the top left and bottom right corners of the magic square are represented by M[1][1] and M[n][n], respectively. Can you use the algorithm to generate a **5 by 5** magic square?

```

i= n;
j= (n+1)/2;
SeqNum = 1;
M[i][j]= SeqNum;
while (SeqNum != n*n)
{
    SeqNum++;
    i++;
    j++;
    if (OutOfRange(i) && OutOfRange(j))
    {
        i -= 2;
        j--;
    }
    else
    if (OutOfRange(i))
        i = 1;
    else
    if (OutOfRange(j))
        j = 1;
    else
        if (NotEmpty(M[i][j]))
        {
            i -= 2;
            j--;
        }
    M[i][j]= SeqNum;
}

```

Learning Objects Available at MERLOT

MERLOT is an excellent website to gain access to "learning objects" you may reuse in your course. The materials are organized by discipline, but that not all disciplines are covered by the MERLOT project.

What Is MERLOT?

MERLOT is a free and open resource designed primarily for faculty and students of higher education. Links to online, peer-reviewed and other learning materials are collected here along with annotations such as peer reviews and assignments.

MERLOT is also a community of people who are involved in education. Community members help MERLOT grow by contributing materials and adding assignments and comments. Many community members make their professional information available in MERLOT's member directory.

- § MERLOT is a COOPERATIVE
 - Institutional Partners
 - Organizational Affiliates
 - Individual Members
- § MERLOT is a SET OF PROCESSES
 - Building, organizing, reviewing, and developing applications of online teaching-learning materials
 - Building and sustaining online academic communities.
- § MERLOT is SOFTWARE
 - A user-centered, searchable database of online learning materials, pedagogical support, and people.

MERLOT's Three Primary Web Sites

MERLOT supports three primary sites:

<http://www.merlot.org> – this site contains the peer reviewed and other learning materials, the peer reviews, user comments and ratings, assignments developed using learning materials at the site, and the means to join MERLOT and contribute to the community's resources and reviews.

<http://two.merlot.org> – this site is organized just like the main MERLOT site. However, the materials contained in it are focused upon faculty development. Faculty and faculty development personnel may both find resources here that will enable them to improve their use of the learning materials on the main MERLOT site.

<http://taste.merlot.org> – this site contains information about MERLOT, its history, and its participating institutions.

-NJE



“While schools continue to be dominated by print, our lives are increasingly dominated by visual images, from the nightly news to MTV. Learning how to “read” the meanings of these images is a necessary adjunct to print literacy.”

From 'Media Literacy: Education for a Technological Age', by The Center for Media Literacy, http://www.medialit.org/reading_room/article337.html

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Spamus (A Complex but Effective Web Alternative. General Ranking: 4 Stars. Size: Not Applicable. Cost: Free. Website: <http://www.spamus.com/> Download: None.)

Spamihilator (A Simple but Effective Local Server. General Ranking: 4 Stars. Size: 687 kb. Cost: Free. Website: <http://www.spamihilator.com/>)

Steven (Complicated but Effective Local Server. General Ranking: 4 Stars. Size: 7.3 mb. Cost: Free. Website: <http://www.softwaredevelopment.net.au/>)

If you want to sort out e-mail yourself rather than send it through a website such as Spamus.com, MailWasher and Magic Mail Monitor seem to have the more flexible filters as compared with most of the other programs listed above. Foxmail is the best overall (combined) e-mail (including "anti-spam") program. After Foxmail, come the more limited but effective MailWasher, requiring more manual deletion of junk e-mail, and Magic Mail Monitor which allows more automatic deletions of junk e-mail. MailWasher is more effective in reading e-mail headers and more flexible in configuring filters than Magic Mail Monitor; but Magic Mail Monitor makes it easier to delete unwanted e-mail than MailWasher. If you can forward your e-mail to Spamus.com or Despammed.com, however, you can obtain free web-based "anti-spam" service. A free (1.3 mb) E-mail Redirecting Client (ERC) from <http://www.chimera.co.nz> allows you to automatically forward your e-mail from one (POP3) account to another.

Holding Spammers Accountable

The problem with most filtering devices and anti-spam software, including those that use lists (of spammers and friends) and challenge-responses, is that they either reject or block too much or let through too much unwanted e-mail. Like all criminals, spammers or senders of junk e-mail are often one step ahead of the police. Those who send unwanted e-mail tend to use deceptive advertising and misleading subject titles or familiar e-mail and internet server addresses, so that it is not always easy to distinguish wanted from unwanted e-mail. Hence, the more flexible the filters and "anti-spam" techniques, the better the anti-spam program or service; but there is also a need for other tools and help besides software and websites.

The alternative to using these software and services, is to make the "spammers" pay a heavy price for sending you unsolicited mail. Senator Charles Schumer, for example, announced in April 2003 that he plans to introduce legislation to impose penalties of \$5,000 or more on senders of junk mail who violate "do not spam" lists, fail to include the notation "ADV" in subject lines to indicate that an e-mail is an advertisement or harvest e-mail addresses from the internet. America Online Inc., Microsoft Corporation and Yahoo! Inc., representing the world's largest block of e-mail users also announced in

April 2003 that they would work together to block unidentified messages, fraudulent e-mail accounts and cooperate with law enforcement to reduce the cost of preventing unsolicited e-mail from clogging e-mailboxes and network space.

Unless you think the government, politicians and corporations have done a good job of getting rid of junk snail or post office mail and telemarketing calls, one should not have much faith in their efforts. Like the "spammers," they would not take getting rid of junk e-mail seriously unless they were made to pay a high price for allowing it. There is an African proverb which says that if a naked man offers to clothe you, take a good look at him! In the end, only you can get rid of junk e-mail either directly or indirectly by one or more of the measures discussed above. If everything else fails, just change your e-mail address. The amount of junk mail received is often a function of how old and public your e-mail address is.

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- 24-hour WebCT support is available; call 1-800-340-5462 or e-mail questions to webct.help@lu.lincoln.edu.

- Faculty and student resource links are available on the website at www.lincoln.edu/webct.

- *Orientation to WebCT* is a PowerPoint presentation available on CD and online to introduce students and faculty to WebCT.

- Student orientation and WebCT instructions hand-out are available online and at the IMC, 150 Dickey Hall.
-NJE

Resources on Intellectual Property in Education

Two recent issues of WEB TOOLS NEWSLETTER (<http://webtools.cityu.edu.hk/news/>) provide an array of links to intellectual property and copyright resources:

"**Intellectual Property in Education**", July 28, 2003 issue. A look at the ideas involved in intellectual property rights and the implications for education. <http://webtools.cityu.edu.hk/news/newslett/intellectual1.htm>

"**Copyright in Education**", August 4, 2003 issue. Continuing the topic, this issue focuses on the practical aspects of intellectual property rights in education, with particular attention to the impact of copyright laws and practices. <http://webtools.cityu.edu.hk/news/newslett/copyright2.htm>

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MIT OCW : OpenCourseWare MIT course materials free to the world

MIT has opened the pilot site of MIT OpenCourseWare (OCW).

MIT OCW is a large-scale, Web-based electronic publishing initiative which provides **free, searchable, coherent access to MIT's course materials** for educators in the non-profit sector, students, and individual learners around the world. MIT/OCW has created an efficient, standards-based model that other universities may emulate to publish their own course materials.

OCW offers courseware in 31 subjects from Aeronautics and Astronautics to Linguistics and Philosophy and Science, Technology and Society.

<http://ocw.mit.edu/index.html>

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