

IT Update

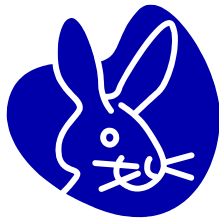
Consolidating the “Rabbit Farm”

With approximately 600 servers currently in our server environment and with a growth rate of approximately 100 new servers annually, it is no surprise that our environment is often referred to as “The Rabbit Farm.”

As enterprises grow, IT organizations must rapidly add computing capacity -- “We are in line with what has happened in organizations everywhere,” said Jim Livingston, Data Resource Center Director. “Server farms continue to grow using the same methodology for deployment as in the past, which is to add new servers to support each new projects or initiative,” he said.

In the data center, servers were once requested based on new projects and applications and each new project had a designated server and redundant server for failover.

Livingston said problem become organizations data center



that this creates a cause server environ- too large to effec- and as a result, many run out of power and capacity, which is what is happening in The Data Center.

“We are out of space and power in our Data Center and new servers cannot move into the Data Center until others are removed,” said Livingston.

After the realization of a problem, the data center received funding from Hewlett-Packard, allowing the center to fund a complete assessment of its server utilization.

The assessment, completed by Avnet, revealed that the center has an average peak utilization of 20 percent, an average utilization of 7 percent, and that the Data Center has a large opportunity to consolidate and realistically achieve a 4:1 consolidation ratio.

The Data Center chose VMWare, software that allows multiple virtual instances of servers to run on a single box, as its server consolidation solution.

In addition, the Server Management team has created an action plan towards server consolidation. The plan includes the implementation of the VMWare infrastructure and the establishment of a server review committee, which have already been completed.

Other plans include the review of each new server request to determine if a physical or virtual server is needed, and the inventory of current server resources are being taken and will be consolidated over the next year where applicable.

Slim Down: Get Your E-mail to 300 MB or Less

Don't wait until it's too late. Slim down your mailbox size now before conversion to the new e-mail system.

Did you know that the more storage space we use, the higher the cost of our systems? With the need for more storage comes the need to purchase more storage devices. The wise management of computer resources, including e-mail, alleviates this problem.

500 MB is the maximum mailbox size that will be allowed on the new e-mail system. If your mailbox size has exactly 500 MB at the time of conversion, you will not be able to send or reply to messages in the new system.

E-mail accounts must start below 500 MB when converted from GroupWise to Outlook.

Slimming down to 300 MB or less is highly recommended.



To weigh in on your personal mailbox size, click on the "Mailbox Size" tab in the lower-right corner of your GroupWise window. Refer to this website for more information on mailbox sizes.
<http://uuhsc.utah.edu/newemail/faq.html#mailboxsize>

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3 Success Tips to Maintain your Mailbox Size:

- 1) Save important messages to your G: or H: drive
- 2) Delete all unnecessary e-mails and empty your "Trash" folder
- 3) Archive only those messages that you absolutely need to keep

Detailed instructions for these 3 Success Tips can be found on the New E-mail Website under "What can I do Now?" Look for more information about the E-mail Conversion project in future issues of IT Update. Questions may be referred to newEmail@lyris.med.utah.edu

Evaluate your messages and appointments closely before deleting them, and wait a few days before emptying your Trash folder. Fees may apply if ITS is asked to restore messages or appointments.

Website: <http://uuhsc.utah.edu/newEmail>

ITS Acquires Space in Richfield Data Center

The institution, under the leadership of the Emergency Management Department and Information Technology Services (ITS), is undergoing business continuity and disaster recovery planning. This planning will help to ensure that in the event of an emergency or disaster, the Health Sciences Center can recover critical business operations.

As part of these efforts, ITS has acquired space in the State of Utah Richfield Data Center. Richfield is located 175 miles south of Salt Lake City and is on a different geo-plate, which virtually eliminates the risk of damage during an earthquake in the Salt Lake Metropolitan area.

Travel time to Richfield via multiple routes is reasonable without the need for access to a major airport. The State also has data center staff living in the Richfield area to help during an emergency or disaster.

The Richfield site will serve as a back-up data center ("cold-site") during fiscal year 2006. Its use will grow over the next several years to provide full redundancy of critical business processes with automatic failover during unplanned events.



175 miles south of Salt Lake City is the State of Utah Richfield Data Center, where ITS recently acquired space.

The IT Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery committee is co-chaired by Colleen Connelly and Brad Nelson.