Leaving Campus But Don’t Want to Leave Your Email Behind?

Complimentary Email Forwarding Service

The campus now offers an expanded email forwarding service, which allows you to have your @ucdavis.edu incoming mail automatically sent on to a new address for as long as you like. Graduates, retirees, and others leaving the campus since the end of the 2004-2005 academic year can take advantage of this optional and complimentary service by registering at emailforwarding.ucdavis.edu. Click the “Begin” button on the left and off you go.

Not So Fast! Before signing up for email forwarding, do yourself the favor of signing up for the Online Password Reset Service. This way, if you forget your password after having left UC Davis, you’ll be able to change it, because you will need it to renew the Email Forwarding Service every other year.

Visit computingaccounts.ucdavis.edu, select the “Change Your Password” button, and click on “Begin.” Note: You must change your password (or go through the motions of changing it by entering the same password as your “new” password) prior to setting up the identity verification questions.

Drew Talley’s Rural Scientific Research

Drew Talley is one busy man. In any given week, he can be found researching in the labs of Davis, knee-deep in the estuaries of San Francisco, or collecting specimens on Mexican beaches. A marine ecologist, Talley is always on the move and often in the field. Deep in the estuaries of San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, the Centro de Investigación Científica y Educación Superior de Ensenada, and New Zealand’s National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research. As a UC Davis Associate Ecologist, Talley furthers this university’s studies on ecosystem interactions and habitat conservation. To that end, Talley’s work, which—ironically—relies heavily on modern technology, often takes him to remote and uninhabited locations.

Building on the success of the Fall Convocation podcast, the team has developed an MP3 pilot project for class lectures, hoping that the popularity of MP3 players will make the lectures available to more students.

What’s an MP3? MP3s are computer files that can be downloaded and listened to on a computer or other electronic device. Invented in 1991, this type of file was designed to reduce the amount of data required to represent audio, while maintaining its sound quality. MP3s are the type of files downloaded to iPods. “Podcasting,” a term derived from iPods, involves subscribing to a series of MP3 files, which are then automatically delivered to the subscriber.

Vino, Vidi, Vici

UC Davis Hilgard Project Poised to Conquer the Mysteries of Winemaking

The sign on Roger Boulton’s door reads, “Where there is chaos, there is opportunity.” It’s small and not really part of the Hilgard Project, but it explains it succinctly. Dreamed up in August 2001, the project is tackling some of the existing chaos within winemaking and turning it into worldwide research possibilities—with the help of Professor Boulton, whose life passion resides within a small acre of north campus, some of it underground.

Keeping the Baseline: Boulton is Professor of Enology and Chemical Engineering, the Hilgard Project’s administrator, and, today, a tour guide, explaining how the various project parts fit together. At the heart of the project, in a non-descript part of Wickson Hall, is a simple Dell computer. Although not impressive technologically, the computer serves an important purpose. It houses a growing stockpile of information from UC Davis and around California: experimental values from the department’s many research projects, such as how cover crops affect carbon levels below the ground and how vine roots behave under different irrigation regimes (and, soon, weather data amassed over the years by the California Irrigation Management Information System).

Large Tanks, Rubber Boots, and a Wire to the World Though just a few steps from Wickson Hall, the teaching winery is a decidedly different place. More industrial than academic, it houses large stainless steel tanks, a concrete floor with center drain, and a large jumble of rubber boots for winemaking students to wear in the winery. Boulton is clearly at home here, sprinting up the metal stairway to a series of MP3 files, which are then automatically delivered to the subscriber.

The Pilot Project The pilot team helped four Davis instructors record and post their Fall quarter lectures, a process that became easier for the instructors to do themselves as the quarter went on. Victoria Cross, a pilot participant, posted her Psychology lectures weekly in a process that “took about five minutes and seldom failed.”

The goal, says Tim Leamy, one of the pilot team members, is to “make uploading and downloading the files both simple and reliable,” and it seems to be working: early surveys show that 10 to 25% of students downloaded recorded lectures each time they were offered.

Cross points out the usefulness of such lectures: one student, whose attendance was otherwise perfect, had to miss classes for a funeral and found the podcast lectures “meant one less concern while he was out of town.”

Want to Get Your Lectures Online? Based on the success of the pilot, the IET podcasting team is expanding its MP3 program. For details, call Roderick Kleinschmidt at 752-8121.
Keeping Data Safe on Your Home Computer

You know you should back up your computer data, so why wait until the emergency situation makes it too late? Start the year right by following this guide to backing up data.

1. **Backing Up Data: Explore Your Options**

   **Floppy Disc:** Floppies are rarely used anymore; the discs are unreliable, have minimal storage capacity, and newer computers no longer have floppy drives for reading such discs. However, if they’re all you have, take advantage of them.

   **CD, DVD:** These are safe, take up very little space, and are portable. This backup solution is considered best for most home computer users. What’s more, you can buy rewritable discs and reuse them as you save new data, thus cutting back on the amount of plastic you use.

   **Zip Disc:** These can fail without warning and, with the advent of USBs and CDs, are no longer commonly used, so you’re better off making the jump to a different form of data storage. Note: “Zip” is a brand name, but has become the generic term for these “superfloppy” disc storage units.

   **Data Storage Software:** Many newer model computers come outfitted with backup software. What the software won’t do, of course, is protect your data should something happen to the computer itself (e.g., theft, fire, water damage). For this reason, you should also back up your data to an offsite location (i.e., off and away from your computer). If you want to run schedules backup or have critical data to back up, you might want to look at specialized backup software. Some of the more popular choices are Retrospect by EMC2 (www.emc2.com), designed for individuals (both PC and Mac), and Yosemite Backup (www.yosemitebackup.com) designed for individual users (both PC and Mac), and Yosemite Desktop (Visit yosemitebackup.com and click on “Yosemite Desktop”).

   **Internet-based Storage:** These services keep your data safe from disasters that might strike data stored near your computer (e.g., fire, earthquake) and they’re automated, so you can set them to store data automatically. Note that your computer must be on and connected to the Internet while backing up data. Moreover, for an online service to be effective, you should have a high-speed Internet connection; without it, backing up time is multiplied exponentially.

   **CD, DVD:** Internet-based storage is the solution for those who want to back up data automatically. Some of the more popular choices are BackUp.com and 1Sale/day.com. These services keep your data safe from disasters that might strike data stored near your computer and they’re automated, so you can set them to store data automatically. Note that your computer must be on and connected to the Internet while backing up data. Moreover, for an online service to be effective, you should have a high-speed Internet connection; without it, backing up time is multiplied exponentially.

   **Smart Computing Magazine** (April, 2005) offers the following Internet-based backup options: Data Deposit Box (www.datadepositbox.com), BackUp Solutions (www.backupsolutions.com), and Professional Offsite Data Backup (www.backmeupoffsite.net).

2. **How Often Should I Back Up My Data?**

   It varies depending on your computing practices. If you work with sensitive data, back it up as often as nightly, but at least weekly. Less critical information can be backed up monthly.

   Hint: If you’re backing up your data manually (as opposed to automatically, as with an online service), you might link the task to some other regular event, such as payday or a regularly-scheduled meeting: you’ll be far more likely to stick with your new backup habit.

3. **ET Partners to the Rescue**

   Educational Technology Help for Faculty—In Your Office!

   In addition to the quarter-long service the Educational Technology Partners have provided to campus departments and faculty, the Partners now offer ad hoc, one-on-one assistance for instructors needing help with educational technology matters. If you’re having difficulty using the Website Builder in MyUCDavis, setting up a chatroom for teaching purposes, or importing a video clip into a PowerPoint presentation, for example, ET Partners can help you through your bind.

   Instead of applying for a partnership, you can now receive aid from a student on an as-needed basis, and in the comfort of your office! This allows you to learn on your own computer so that when the Partner leaves, you can keep working, rather than recreating the work you learned elsewhere. Alternatively, as in the past, the Partners can assist you at 161 Everson Hall.

   To make an appointment, call or email the Partners. Sessions can be from five minutes to one hour, and after the session you may make another appointment if you continue to have difficulty or should another problem arise.

   Note: As always, you should contact the IT Express Computing Help Desk for quick assistance with software and hardware questions. If your particular query is best addressed by one-on-one personal assistance, they will forward you to the ET Partners.

   **Contact**

   Phone: 530-754-2115  
   Email: etpartners@ucdavis.edu  
   Web: etpartners.ucdavis.edu  
   Walk-In: 161 Everson Hall  
   M-F, 8 am to 6 pm

   **IT Express**

   The Campus Computing Help Desk

   **Drop In**

   182 Shields Library  
   M to F, 8 am to 6 pm

   **Call In**

   754-HELP

   **Send In**

   ightelp@ucdavis.edu
Data Storage: It’s Not Just for Word Docs Anymore

There is likely information on your computer—other than documents—that you’d want to protect: your email address book, for instance, or the emails themselves; and what about your Web sites? IT Express has developed a how-to guide for taking care of just these items. Visit email.ucdavis.edu/backup for directions.

As for software programs (e.g., Microsoft Word, Adobe Acrobat), you should keep the original installation discs and licensing keys (i.e., the serial numbers) in a handy location. In the event that something happens to the programs on your computer, or should you buy a new computer and want to use those old programs, you’ll have them close at hand and ready to re-install.

Now To Safeguard the Backups

The physical safety of your backed-up data must now be ensured. To that end, or floppy discs in a safe deposit box, a home safe, or some other invulnerable location.

Is That It? Well, Nearly...

Don’t forget to get out your data backup device from time to time and check to see that it actually works. Again, you might tie this task to some other, such as the end of each quarter. This way, when you actually need the data, you know it will be there for you, and this new year will be a happy one.

If you’re having trouble with any aspect of the spam filtering system, call IT Express at 530-754-HELP or email them at ithelp@ucdavis.edu.

4. Create your own Allow/Deny list.

email.ucdavis.edu/secure/adlist.pl

If you use Outlook, Eudora, Mozilla, or another non-UC Davis email program, you might be able to set up spam filtering there as well or, if the filtering is automatic, train it to recognize what you consider to be spam.

If a message is tagged as spam, but the address is on your Allow list, it will arrive in your inbox, and if it’s not seen as spam by the filter, but is on your Deny list, it will be sent to a spam folder. An Allow list may be especially useful if you subscribe to mailing lists, magazine, or news services.

Note that you must first sign up for the spam filter to establish an Allow/Deny list.
slowly forward from vision to reality. Rosemount Analytical and OSI Software have augmented the university project, and via this combined effort, Hilgard moves first of a state-wide—and eventually global—network of web- would perform at different locations, whether surrounded by the wired vine, a grower would be able to estimate how a vine for grapevine measurements. Based on the information from relations like these will help take the guesswork out of choosing water loss, or how the hour of sunset affects its growth. Calculations like these will help take the guesswork out of choosing places to plant, and UC Davis will become the online reference for grapevine measurements. Based on the information from the wired vine, a grower would be able to estimate how a vine would perform at different locations, whether surrounded by hills or in a flat, sun-filled place. Boulton sees this as only the first of a state-wide—and eventually global—network of web-based vines.

Although the wired vine doesn’t yet exist, and neither does the massive compilation of raw data, this doesn’t seem to be an overwhelming concern to Boulton. Private companies such as Rosemount Analytical and OSI Software have augmented the university project, and via this combined effort, Hilgard moves slowly forward from vision to reality.

Fine Art and the UC Davis’ Wine Cellar

At the tour’s conclusion, Boulton heads down into the campus wine cellar. Inside this dimly lit and befuddlingly musty space are floor-to-ceiling wine shelves. More than wine, however, rests here. The cellar contains a lot of history, explains Boulton, as he motions to where Ansel Adams once stood, aiming his camera at the cellar’s far wall.

The resulting photograph now hangs in a room in Wickson, and beneath it is a painstakingly-carved wooden table bearing the UC Davis campus insignia. Such works of art, while of a different type than the Hilgard Project, reflect that endeavor’s features: carefully-crafted, unique, and long-lasting. Completing the project will surely take time, perhaps years—but that’s just as long as it takes to make a good bottle of wine.

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The ensuing thread is about “increasing the number of brains” thinking about winemaking and grape-growing research, and thus breaking the barrier between researchers who have the vineyards, time, funding, and equipment to create experimental conditions (such as those in the tank) and those who don’t.

Tellingly, when Boulton talks of the Hilgard Project, issues of copyright don’t come up. Instead of viewing this project strictly in terms of what it can bring to UC Davis now (which is substantial), he has raised his sights to include wine-making worldwide. Once UC Davis posts its research data, other institutions around the globe will follow suit and, in the process, broaden everyone’s informational base and hasten the rate of scientific return.

Moreover, Boulton believes this system of information sharing and technological innovation could work in other fields, not just in viticulture: “This type of aggregate research approach could be used to track farming procedures for pears, strawberries, apples, or be used in the field of chemistry...” His voice trails off as he imagines countless possibilities.

The Wired Vine

One of the Hilgard Project’s several goals is to create a “wired vine,” a reference vine at the Department’s Oakville vineyard hooked up to a host of sensors and cameras. As the vine grows, the sensors and cameras will measure how well the vine does in response to its environment, taking in factors such as how a mountain range in the distance affects the plant’s water loss, or how the hour of sunset affects its growth. Calculations like these will help take the guesswork out of choosing places to plant, and UC Davis will become the online reference for grapevine measurements. Based on the information from the wired vine, a grower would be able to estimate how a vine would perform at different locations, whether surrounded by hills or in a flat, sun-filled place. Boulton sees this as only the first of a state-wide—and eventually global—network of web-based vines.

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TechNews

The IT Times is a revision of TechNews, a Web site providing timely information and educational technology news for the UC Davis campus community. Visit technews.ucdavis.edu for the latest issues, and click on “TechBrief” to have the headlines delivered straight to your inbox.

Please send stories and comments to the IT Times editor, itpubs@ucdavis.edu

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Drew Talley

Lessons in Technology

The teens involved in Talley’s Mexico program come from economically-disadvantaged backgrounds; as such, many lack experience in science and technology. They are often using Microsoft Excel and PowerPoint for the very first time. Talley and his colleagues handle this situation in two ways: before the program, students receive training in necessary skills such as basic computer use. During the program, Talley has “the tech-savvy students help their peers” with the technology. The students strengthen their skills and utilize technol- ogy to better understand their data, through using programs such as ArcGIS. Moreover, they return to San Diego with an unexpected benefit to the science-focused program: a greater knowledge of computing technology.

Conservation Research in Action

For Talley, technology is just the means to a very satisfying end: “the insights we gain with the help of technology will help us better understand the world around us and also train young scientists at the graduate, undergraduate, and even secondary-school level, so we might make strides in environmental public awareness.”

The quest to learn, teach, and improve ecology is one that Boulton Talley all over the world, but for this week, he’s happy being in Davis, working from the comfort of an insulated building, complete with electricity and running water.

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