NPS Information Technology and Communications Services (ITACS) Technology News / September 2015
To review your annual training requirements, please visit NPS’ Online Training and Certification page at (NPS Login Required):

https://www.nps.edu/technology/webbasedtraining/

NHEITC Visit

There has been no time more critical for collaboration, innovation, and strategic planning amongst Information Technology (IT) leadership. Chief Information Officer (CIO) representatives from NPS, the Naval War College, and the Naval Academy (known as the Navy Higher Education IT Consortium, NHEITC) held their annual meeting to discuss best practices, identify new opportunities for growth, and explore potential synergies. This year, however, was a little different. Invitations were extended to each school’s respective Librarians, Comptrollers and Contracting Officers. This inclusive approach was intended to be a catalyst for a truly cross-functional team to address IT opportunities at the Schools at the direction of the Vice CNO, ADM Howard, who chairs the Navy’s Advanced Education Review Board (AERB).

From an educational standpoint, every point in a Navy Officer’s educational career was represented at the table: undergraduate, graduate, and professional education. In a resource and budget-constrained environment, the simple act of comparing and contrasting IT practices reaped definite rewards. Topics included cybersecurity, communications, project management, organizational effectiveness, and budgetary efficiencies. Above all else, the most consistent theme was how IT can best enable our students and faculty in their educational and research requirements. In summary, leadership from Navy higher education demonstrated that teamwork and peer engagement continue to play a large part in steering a well-functioning educational IT enterprise.

For questions contact Chris Gaucher at x 3417

New Students Guide for IT Services

What Services are Available:
The ITACS (Information Technology and Communications Services) name reflects the incorporation of all communication services, telephone support, and network support into the core computing functions that have been provided by the Naval Postgraduate School since 1953. This is a “quick start” guide to computing at the Naval Postgraduate School, containing a summary of the services available.

All requests for IT-related service — whether for problem resolution, new computer equipment, application or web services, network questions, firewall requests, or project-related needs — begin with the Technology Assistance Center (TAC).

Contact the TAC:
831.656.1046 –or– x1046
Ingersoll Hall Room 151
Monday-Friday 0800-1600
tac@nps.edu
https://wiki.nps.edu/tac

*The TAC is closed Fridays from 1315-1445 for mandatory training.

Staff Members are prepared to handle questions dealing with NPS IT facilities and services. If they cannot provide a direct answer, they will forward your query to an NPS individual who specializes in that area.
The NPS KO. The next step is to acquire Amazon Web Services by 1 Sept. The pilot candidates have been selected and they will actively participate in establishing, testing, and documenting the AWS pilot objectives. Results will be periodically briefed to the ITTF.

Classified Computing A&A:
Following a months-long process involving thousands of hours, certifications were attained to operate SVTC suites and 3-year ATO (Authority to Operate) for the STBL. Congratulations to Classified Computing staff and ITACS.

Windows 10:
Microsoft's newest operating system, was recently released. TAC technicians are testing compatibility for applications, the PC shop is building an image. NPS Employees will be able to request Windows 10. Windows 7 can continue to be used until end-of-life. New computers will be imaged with Windows 10 unless otherwise requested.

Web Content Management Update:
The Web Advisory Board was formed 6–7 months ago, comprised of members across campus to recommend policies, procedures, and guidelines for NPS web presence and web-related issues. This board has decided to discontinue the license for Rhythmx and for NPS to migrate to Liferay. Liferay includes a Content Management System and other tools to modernize NPS' web presence. Liferay can empower content managers to update in a timely manner with drag-and-drop functionality for a product that is viewable on any number of platforms including mobile. The next step is to announce to campus. The board will be meeting with content managers to discuss progress, strategies, and a roadmap that includes content inventory and exports of documents and images. An NPS Style Guide (print and web) has been developed and released. Tutorials are available on how to use Liferay.

Moving forward, content managers will be offered a chance to hear from existing customers regarding post-migration success. Anticipate migration strategy meetings in mid-September, and additional Brown-Bag meetings.

NHEITC Meeting:
During the period of 24 thru 27 August, the NPS, NWC, and USNA CIO’s and their leadership teams will hold our annual meeting at NPS. We will also host the IT Services IDIQ MAC Industry Day on 24 September as well as a host vendors from Silicon Valley to demonstrate their technical capabilities and discuss their roadmaps. The duration of the time will be spent discussing IT issues common to all three Schools. Additionally and new this year, we will include the Finance, Contracting, and Library leadership from the three organizations. An update will be provided at the next ITTF.

All meeting agendas, comments/ideas, links and presentations are posted on the Information Technology Task Force Wiki page:

https://wiki.nps.edu/x/qYCWEQ (case sensitive)

For questions contact Chris Gaucher at x 3417
Poisoned Advertisements on Websites

Poisoned ads on websites are becoming more prevalent, which could infect your computer. Here is the situation in a nutshell: Advertisers do not sell their ads to websites one at a time. Websites that want to make money sell their advertising space to an ad network. Advertisers sign contracts with that ad network which then displays the ads on the participating websites. The ad network sits in the middle between the advertisers and the websites and manages the traffic and the payments.

There is the problem. Cybercriminals fool the ad network into thinking they are a legit advertiser, but the ads which are displayed on major websites are poisoned. If you browse to a page with a poisoned ad on it, that is enough to run the risk your PC will be encrypted with ransomware or be affected by some other malicious code.

Here are a few things you can do about this. First, disable Adobe Flash on your computer - or at least set the Adobe Flash plug-in to "click-to-play" mode - which blocks the automatic infections. Second, keep up-to-date with all security patches and install them as soon as they come out. Third, download and install Ad Blocker plug-ins for your browser, these prevent the ads from being displayed in your browser to start with. Also, make sure you take these actions for each of your preferred browsers, (i.e. Safari, Chrome, Firefox, I.E.). ITACS can implement much of this for ITACS managed machines; however, it is important to protect your personal devices as well.

For questions contact Bob Goodwin at x1048

Installing Software Yourself

Did you know you have the ability to install certain software programs on your office computer without the assistance of the TAC? Even if you don't have administrative rights on your computer, you can still install software yourself through the LanDesk Software Portal Manager. You can access the Portal Manager on your Windows computer by doing the following:

> Start
> All Programs
> Landesk Management
> Portal Manager

Once the Portal Manager is open, you can select from a number of popular software packages that have been provided by the TAC. If you do not see any software listed, click the refresh button in the upper right of the screen. Once you see the software you'd like to install, put a check mark in the box next to it and click the Launch button. The selected software will then be installed automatically without any further assistance. No need to contact the TAC. The software packages available are continuously updated by the TAC technicians.

If you have any questions or don't see the software in the Portal Manager that you are looking for, please do contact the TAC:
tac@nps.edu
831-656-1046

STBL Re-accredited for another Three Year Term

On July 31 NPS earned a third consecutive three year Authority To Operate (ATO) for the Systems Technology Battle Lab (STBL).

Achieving this ATO is all the more significant in that it came less than two months after the STBL Secure Video Teleconference (SVTC) suites were also granted a three year ATO. The STBL Accreditation and Authorization (A&A) effort that resulted in the ATO was an ITACS department wide project. Lead by the classified computing team and supported by all other areas within ITACS this was an in depth validation of the STBL’s implementation of DoD and DoN IT and physical security requirements.

The team demonstrated the STBL’s compliance with security requirements to the Navy’s Certifying Authority at NETWARCOM and the Navy Authorizing Official at U.S. Fleet Cyber Command / U.S. Tenth Fleet.

For questions contact Don Free x7921
IT Scheduled Maintenance

- **Who:** NPS faculty, staff, and students utilizing the network.
- **What:** ITACS coordinates with representatives from the academic, administrative, and technical areas to plan and schedule maintenance events that affect services, which may cause services to be unavailable for up to 5 hours.
- **When:** Every Tuesday from 1730-2130.
- **Where:** Visit the NPS Intranet Home page for the latest IT maintenance announcements.
- **Unplanned Emergency:** Maintenance or special circumstances (power outages or hardware failures, for example) that require downtime are announced as necessary.

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*1730 - 2130 Maintenance on System-Wide Network and Email*