



IT Update

May 2017

New & Noteworthy

- **A task force has been established by Vice President for IT and CIO Dee Childs** to analyze technical and non-technical requirements necessary to comply with governmental standards that impact security requirements for certain types of data and federal research grants. The regulations are part of Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) 252.204-7012, Federal Acquisition Regulation (FARS) 52.204.21, and Controlled Unclassified Information standards. The task force is comprised of campus and System members and plans to conclude by December 2017.
- **Save the Date! The Ribbon Cutting for the new Help Desk Central and Incident and Operations Center** will be August 9 from 3-5 p.m. We invite the IT community to join us for tours and refreshments. Texas A&M President Michael K. Young and Vice President for IT and CIO Dee Childs will give remarks at the event.
- **Researchers now have access to the most advanced collection of integrated, advanced digital resources in the world** through the Extreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment (XSEDE). XSEDE is funded by the National Science Foundation. Texas A&M IT and High Performance Research Computing (HPRC) participate in the XSEDE Campus Champions Program and help campus researchers select appropriate XSEDE resources. More details are featured at IT.tamu.edu and the [XSEDE website](#).
- **Departments across The Texas A&M University System can take advantage of discount pricing on select Microsoft software during the two-week window for ordering licenses May 1-12, 2017.** Ordering can be done online at u.tamu.edu/Microsoft. The online ordering process has improved based on feedback from last year and will continue to evolve.
- **Wireless network usage continues to break records.** Three previous marks were surpassed April 11, 2017, with an average usage of 5.24Gbps, peak usage at 10.70 Gbps and total traffic of 50.73Tb. Most universities register about half that amount of total traffic per week. Data shows users are successfully transferring more data in less time with fewer retries.
- **The Tenable SecurityCenter vulnerability assessment platform is now available to all Infoblox users.** Tenable's SecurityCenter offers passive scanning data and true continuous monitoring at <https://securitycenter.itsec.tamu.edu>.
- **Mark your calendar for the web accessibility essentials class June 12, 2017.** Attendees will learn required web accessibility standards at Texas A&M and get hands-on experience with assistive technologies to understand how people with disabilities use the web. Details on the new [Section 508 standards](#) and [WCAG 2.0](#) will be covered in the advanced accessibility class June 28-29, 2017. Registration for both classes is available through [TrainTraq](#).

- **Information security risk assessments and findings should now be in SPECTRIM**, and the Texas A&M IT Risk Management and Policy team is drafting reports based on the submitted information. An executive summary will be sent to each division risk assessment coordinator (D-RAC) soon. Please review, sign and return the executive summary signature page within two weeks of receipt.
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Project Progress

- **The phase 0.1 project to initiate deployment of One Identity Manager (One IdM) is nearing completion.** Data has been loaded from all identity sources and the system has been tuned to handle all data. The system successfully passed a partial stress test conducted with fall 2016-to-spring 2017 semester change data. Data propagation testing is wrapping up, and a full semester-change stress test including roster data will be conducted after the end of the spring semester.
 - **The initial [IT Governance Framework](#) has been shared with the university to solicit input on the framework design and has produced almost 50 notable recommendations for change to the framework.** These changes are under review by the executive sponsors of the project, Vice President for IT and CIO Dee Childs and Associate Vice President for Academic Services Joseph P. Pettibon. Texas A&M IT will conduct a second project over the summer to operationalize the framework and establish all or a portion of the framework by late September 2017.
 - **The Texas A&M University Data Center Infrastructure project officially kicks off this month.** The new West Campus data center will be located on Agronomy Road. Two key deliverables of the project are a high-speed, high availability network services infrastructure and an on-premise, private cloud service. The project is scheduled to be complete by September 1, 2017.
 - **Remote Texas A&M teaching and research facilities located on farm to market roads 50 and 60 in Brazos County** now have access to a scalable fiber backbone. The project was a collaboration between Texas A&M AgriLife Research, Texas A&M IT, BVCNet and the City of Bryan. In addition to the benefits to Texas A&M, the fiber leg will help support emergency and disaster communications for Brazos County.
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CONTACT US

Please send feedback and questions to Texas A&M IT Product Strategy and Communication at tamu-it-coms@tamu.edu.