

November 12, 2010

IS&T Newsletter

Special Interest Articles

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"... whatever you do whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus – Col. 3:17.

Bandwidth and CopySense

As is no doubt evident, our bandwidth is being fully utilized. An order to increase our bandwidth was placed with our internet provider (AT&T) in August.

We expected from previous information that there would be a three week turnaround from ordering the additional bandwidth until it becomes available. However, AT&T informed us that it would be mid-December before the new bandwidth would be available. This will bring our connection up to 250mbps.

CopySense.

On a somewhat related issue, I want to talk about a new service we will be implementing to comply with the sections of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA).

The relevant section specifically deals with copyright materials. The act in part requires that Harding:

“Has developed and implemented written plans to effectively combat the unauthorized distribution of copyrighted material by users of the institution’s network, without unduly interfering with educational and research use of the network, that include—

(A) The use of one or more technology-based deterrents;

(B) Mechanisms for educating and informing its community about appropriate versus inappropriate use of copyrighted material, including that described in §668.43(a)(10);

(C) Procedures for handling unauthorized distribution of copyrighted material, including disciplinary procedures...”

continued on page 2

Brackett Library's annual report goes online



The Brackett Library Annual Report 2010 is online for the first time. Library staff and patrons have immediate access to statistical data from the past year. Highlights include:

- 635,000 database searches were reported
- 37,500 full-text, online journals are available
- 11,126 Reserve items were retrieved (electronically 7921; print 3205)
- 4,759 Interlibrary Loan requests were loaned or borrowed
- 89,214 Government Documents are searchable online
- 13,868 reference questions were answered
- 1,955,840 pages were printed on the two public printers

Registrar's Office Important Dates

- Finals will be held
December 13 – 17
- Graduation will be
December 18
- Grades are due
December 20
- New transfer students
and readmits may
begin registration
November 16 through
December 10
- New student
orientation and advising
will take place evening
of January 17
- Classes begin January
18 for spring 2011

FireSheep – The Newest Serious Security Threat



We have been warned about it for years. Unsecured, shared wireless networks allow hackers to “listen in” on other people’s network sessions. In the past it took someone who knew what they were doing to exploit this vulnerability.

Now someone has developed a program called FireSheep that is extremely easy to use and gives anyone the ability to exploit the weaknesses in unsecured, shared

networks. Over 200,000 copies of FireSheep were downloaded in a matter of a few days after it was made available.

FireSheep allows someone to literally take over your Internet session by stealing passwords and then impersonating you. This would include any type of account that you might access over wireless including bank accounts, Banner accounts, etc. I.e. FireSheep is an identity thief’s dream come true.

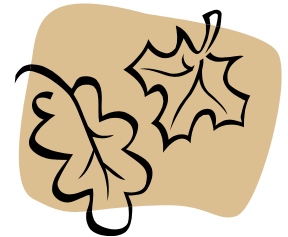
The vulnerabilities that FireSheep exploits are not bugs that can be patched. This is just the way unsecured, shared networks work. The only “fix” is to always use a secured network.

Harding currently provides an unsecured wireless guest network for the convenience of visitors to campus. With the advent of

FireSheep, we are reconsidering that offering. However, we also provide a fully secured Harding wireless network.

Everyone on campus should be using our secured wireless network.

If you are not sure you are set up to use the secured network, now is the time to check. Call Ext. 4440.



CopySense – *continued from page 1*

What are copyright materials? Again referring to the HEOA, it indicates that users are expected to:

"Respect the intellectual property rights of others. Making unauthorized copies of licensed software or copyrighted material is prohibited. Persons who violate the use of copyrighted materials, may be subject to revocation or limitation of their computer and network privileges, other disciplinary actions, or may be referred to appropriate external authorities."

In a real sense this applies to all copyright material, including music and movies.

In order to comply with this law, Harding will be implementing a service called Copysense. Copysense is able to detect when copyright material is being accessed without permission. When this activity is detected, several levels of sanctions are implemented using programmed rules. The sanctions range from a warning and agreement to comply with the copyright regulations, to having all internet access blocked. In between these extremes, those who continually access copyright material without the proper permission will have increasingly severe sanctions applied, e.g. internet access removed for 10mins, 30 minutes or 24 hours.

You can read more about this by clicking the following: [Copysense Information](#).

The up-side is, we may see that more bandwidth become available when users who heavily access copyright material are not able to do so!

Mahjong anyone?

Stetson University Chemistry Professor Tandy Grubbs, along with one of his students, created a chemistry version of Mahjong, called Mahjongchem. Instead of identical tiles, the tiles contain elements and symbols. To clear the board the player matches element names and symbols.

According to the creators of the game, its purpose is not to teach heavy concepts but to give the students a fun way to build vocabulary and practice memorization facts. Students

University Blog, *Chemistry Adds Twist to Mahjong.*

can pick from several Mahjongchem games, including Oxidation, Valence Electrons, Acids & Bases #1 & #2, Metric Prefixes, Elemental Symbol.

The game may be viewed at www.mahjongchem.org. For more information on the Mahjongchem game, visit the Stetson University Blog. For more information about using online games in your course, contact elearning@harding.edu.

Information for this article was taken from the October 11, 2010 Stetson

To eliminate tiles, match a compound/ion tile with the correct oxidation number tile (where the oxidation number refers to the atom/ion displayed in red).

Brought to you by the Chemistry Department at Stetson University. All inquiries about this game should be directed to Tandy Grubbs: wgrubbs@stetson.edu. Special thanks to Travis Cossairt for programming this application, to contributors of the Freesound Project from which audio effects have been selected, and to the AT&T Foundation for making this project financially possible.

Like 98 people like this.

Posted: no phishing!



Since the last newsletter, a faculty member and a student received emails directing them to a web site that asked for private information.

In one case the person entered their Harding username and password on the web site. In the

other case, a very legitimate looking web site mimicked the IRS and collected name, address, and social security number.

These "phishing" schemes are distributed by the millions every day now. You must never click on a link in an unsolicited email.

First, the web site may try to install spy software on your computer. But even if that doesn't happen, filling in the information that is requested is just giving the identity thieves all they

need to make you their next victim.

There are no legitimate companies that would reasonably expect their customers to respond to an email like this anymore. So even in the very remote circumstance where such an email might be legitimate, don't respond. Pick up the phone!

If the message says they are the IRS and your tax form has been refused, pick up the phone and call the IRS. If the message says your Visa card has

been compromised, pick up the phone and call Visa. If the message says your email account is being canceled, pick up the phone and call the help desk.

Never, never, never, never, never click on a link supplied in an unsolicited email.

... filling in the information that is requested is just giving identity thieves all they need to make you their next victim.