

New Portal Offers Options to Personalize Web Page

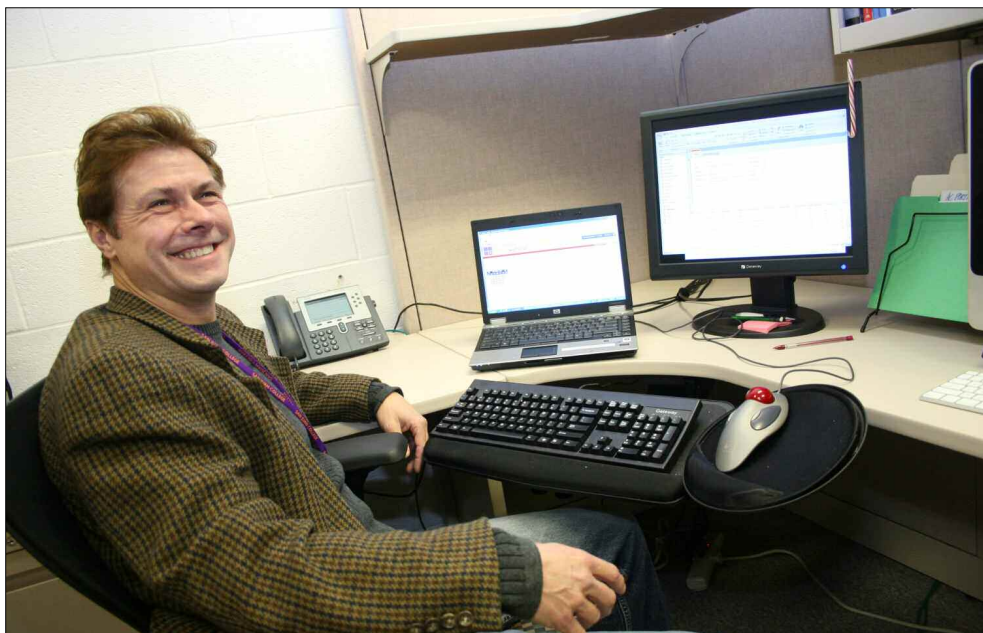
Imagine a portal that was designed specifically for your use alone – one that provided options to bookmark sites you use frequently, filter content and target messages to specified groups and users – all with a single sign-on. This and much more will be available with *Active Campus*, the new San Juan College Portal.

“One aspect that staff and faculty are sure to appreciate with the new portal is the single sign-on feature,” explains David Miller, OTS web technician. “All of the other applications including Outlook, Web Advisor and ANGEL will be interfaced. Once you log into the new portal, just click on the application and you’re there – no more entering your password two or three times.”

Personalizing your own page is also another benefit the portal will offer. Everyone will start with a “shared view,” which displays the portal content – such as the calendar, news and Web Advisor, etc. in a standard layout. Each user will have the option of “designing” their page by changing the layout or configuring the number of messages they see at one time.

Miller says that as long as a web connection is available, faculty and staff will have the option of accessing document files from home or while traveling.

The new portal is also beneficial in that it will offer options for faculty, staff and



David Miller, OTS web technician, is helping to roll out the new portal, Active Campus. It will offer an array of new options – from single sign-on to flexibility in personalizing individuals' pages.

students to better communicate with each other.

“While students’ primary e-mail access is through Windows Live Mail, they will be able to send a meeting request from their Live Mail calendar and it will show up as a meeting request on their instructors’ Outlook system,” Miller continues. “This is another example of how the web-based system makes it easy to interface with other programs and systems.”

With an option to target messages to

specific individuals or groups, students also will have the benefit of being able to receive time-sensitive information – such as messages regarding admissions or financial aid concerns.

As OTS begins implementing *Active Campus* into the system within the next few months, trainings will be offered. “The current Academus Portal will continue to be in place for a while, allowing everyone time to transition into the new system,” Miller says.

Is That Site Safe to Surf?

Protect your home computer and personal information with Web of Trust

With the millions of viruses, spams, online scams and identity fraud incidents, wouldn't you like to know whether or not a site was safe to surf, shop or browse – before you actually entered it?

Web of Trust (WOT), a free internet security add-on for Internet Explorer and Mozilla Firefox, may be just what you're looking for. As you browse the internet, the program utilizes traffic lights to indicate the trustworthiness or safety of a particular site. It also protects your e-mail accounts – Google



Mail, Yahoo, and Hotmail. If you click on a web address for a site that has a poor reputation, WOT lets you know before you enter it.

Users can view WOT's site ratings in four categories – trustworthiness, vendor reliability, privacy and child safety. A “scorecard” also provides other users' comments about the sites.

WOT can be downloaded free at <http://www.mywot.com/>.

TECH TIP

Welcome to Spring Semester!

Welcome back from winter break, I hope the semester is going smoothly for you. OTS is continuing to work on projects this semester designed to increase the efficiency of technology services on campus.

Active Campus, the portal system from Datatel, will be rolled out early this semester. *Active Campus* will replace the Academus Portal now in use and will provide a personalized home page from which you can more easily access WebAdvisor for course registration and grades, campus calendaring, newsfeeds, and other San Juan College resources. Be sure to read David Miller's article in this newsletter for a closer look at *Active Campus*. OTS will be sending out more information as we get closer to going live.



OTS continues to work on behind-the-scenes technology such as Cisco's ASA firewall technology, VMware server consolidation, and Datatel Colleague enhancements. More information will be forthcoming on these projects.

This semester OTS will be sending out San Juan College's annual Office of Information Technology survey. This survey seeks feedback on your use of and need for technology, as well as your level of satisfaction with the support provided by the Office of Information Technology (OTS). Look for more information on the survey soon.

Thank you for your support, and please let us know how we can improve our services to best suit your needs.

Tim Warren



Vice President of Technology Services

TECH SAVVY

How about that F4 key?!

This how-to-tip can make a simple task all the easier. In MS Word, MS Excel or MS PowerPoint, the F4 key repeats the last action. Example: Let's say you have applied double line spacing in a paragraph. Navigate to the next paragraph by pressing (CTRL + ↓). Now, press F4, and *voilà!* That paragraph also has double line spacing. F4 will "remember" this action until you perform a new action.

Wikis & Blogs

A Connection to Creativity

Whether she's teaching an online or face-to-face class, Danielle Sullivan has found new ways to foster creativity, interaction and student collaboration through wikis and blogs.

Sullivan piloted the use of wikis and blogs in her online English class. She has since expanded their use in her technical writing and health sciences hybrid writing classes.

"I started using blogs and wikis in my online classes as a way to create the feeling of actually being in a classroom and interacting with each other," she explains. "But I've since discovered additional benefits of using the technology."

During the first week of class, she utilizes blogs as a way for students to introduce themselves to each other. Students are asked to choose a quote that fits any particular aspect of their life, and then write a few paragraphs about how it relates to them. They are then required to reply to at least two other classmates' blogs.

"Students are often willing to share more information via a blog than they might in a face-to-face introduction," she says. "It also serves as an excellent assessment tool. It gives me an opportunity to see what level they are in their writing, and fosters the sense that this is still a class that requires interaction."

She incorporated another idea from fellow instructor Vicki Holmsten, which includes assigning a different student each day to write a blog about the discussions or activities that occurred in class that day. This increases their opportunities to write, as well as provides a place where those who may have missed class to catch up on assignments.



Danielle Sullivan is implementing new uses of wikis and blogs in her face-to-face and online English classes.

Sullivan also draws on wikis to brainstorm essay and major project topics. Students post their ideas for potential topics. They can see what's already been listed so nothing is duplicated. "I can also edit ideas and help guide and structure the topics," she adds.

Group editing is another advantage of using wikis. Students post their papers online, and each member of their group can go online, make their edits and explain their point of view and the reason for their revisions.

"When the suggestions for edits are done online, students tend to be a little more honest and willing to give real, constructive feedback," Sullivan explains. "Students receiving the feedback are also very receptive. Because students work in teams of four or five, they foster a relationship, learn each others' strengths and weaknesses and ultimately develop a trust. That gives them a safe place and encouragement to expand and further develop their writing."

"I think some may worry that classroom interaction can get lost in all the technology – but using wikis and blogs is proving just the opposite," Sullivan says. "There are so many great options to incorporate them in both face-to-face and online classes."

For more information about her use of blogs and wikis, contact Sullivan at sullivanand@sanjuancollege.edu.

TECH Update is the bi-monthly newsletter of OTS. Our goal is to keep our customers informed and seek input. If you have questions or comments, please write to: TECHUPDATE@sanjuancollege.edu or call 566-3166.