

Blackboard Learn Goes Live

On July 19th, the new Blackboard Learn went live.

To login, go to <http://learn.montevallo.edu> and login using your ForUM username and password.

Blackboard Learn offers faculty and students all of Blackboard's current tools and features plus new ones, including Performance Dashboard, Mashups (Flickr Photos, SlideShare Presentations and YouTube Videos), blogs, journals and wikis.

Training on the new interface is available through documents and short videos.

They can be accessed using the "Help for Instructors" link in each course.

Take the 3 minute, 25 second "Blackboard Learn – Your Course Environment" video today to find out more about the new interface.

CIO Corner *(by Frank Whidden, Ph.D., Interim CIO)*

Ode to an iPad

As some of you may know, I purchased an iPad about six weeks ago. So, I thought it might be of some interest to convey a few thoughts on what my experience has been thus far. First of all, you should know that this is the first Apple product I've ever owned. I never even had an iTunes account previously (my 17 year old son still doesn't believe that). In order to activate an iPad, one is required to set up a free iTunes account. Not a big deal maybe but it's not necessarily clearly conveyed prior to purchase. This also means downloading iTunes onto whatever PC platform you have and that means you MUST have access to some other computer (Mac or PC) to dock the iPad to just to enable it. Said computing device must also have an active Internet connection.

Once I worked through all the above details it didn't take long to activate the iPad and bring it up. The model I purchased is a 3G device meaning that it will connect over WiFi (like our wireless at the university) or via AT&T like an iPhone. I really like the 3G capability given my travel needs. It has come in extremely handy when I needed to pull off the road (in case my son reads this) and handle some quick email. I've used this capability all over Alabama, Mississippi, and central Florida so far. The one dead spot I've found is on Highway 25 south of Montevallo on the way to Tuscaloosa. But that's about it and I live in the deep woods of east Mississippi. WiFi is faster so I use that when I

can. We have had no problems so far on the university network either from the network side or from the iPad side. In fact, Michael Martin, our system administrator, also has an iPad which he has been using extensively.

I have used the iPad extensively for email, reading the Wall Street Journal (paid subscription), and for Web surfing. The WSJ application was recently upgraded and is working much better. It's really nice to be able to read it wherever I am. Being on the road constantly, a print subscription is pretty useless and I'm too cheap to buy it from a newsstand. I wish more magazines were available. I also paid for a subscription to "Practical Boat Owner" which has been very enjoyable. The pictures are great. One of the great features on the iPad for an old guy like me is the ability to increase the fonts and pictures simply by using my fingers like on the iPhone. It really makes Web surfing more enjoyable. For magazines I used the free Zinio application.

The other application that I paid a whopping \$2.99 for is Penultimate. This is a note taking program. One can use one's finger but I found a stylus was a better tool. So I purchased one of those online from Amazon (Pogo sketch for \$10.54). I'm also messing around with Evernote in conjunction with Penultimate. I think both of these applications have implications for teaching and learning, especially for students.

We are seeing a lot of potential applications for the iPad in the corporate world (one hat I wear) but we are also seeing a lot of potential in higher education.

(continued)

CIO Corner, *continued*

Rich media content coupled with truly ubiquitous computing is pretty compelling. I will continue to update folks as we learn more. And, yes, this article was composed on the iPad using the included notebook application with the external keyboard which was an added cost option.

Single Sign-On Comes to ForUM

Passwords, passwords, passwords! Ever get frustrated with all of the usernames and passwords you have to remember to access all those online services you depend on every day?

Beginning this fall, Single Sign-On (SSO) will be coming to the University of Montevallo's portal, ForUM, to provide access to both your Blackboard online classes and your Microsoft Live online applications (email, SkyDrive, OfficeLive, etc).

What this means is that when you login to ForUM and click on either the Blackboard or Microsoft Live links or icons (for example, ForUM Email), the ForUM portal will take care of the signing in to those services for you and you will not be asked to enter a username or password.

Technology Services hopes you will enjoy this new feature. Feel free to call the Help Desk at any time, 24/7, with any questions.

Library Lab Relocation

The Technology Services' Library Computer Lab is being relocated. Currently, the lab is housed in a room in the southern corner of the Carmichael Library basement. This location, however, is now slated to become the new home for the Library Archives. As a result, the lab will be moved into the open northern quadrant of the basement.

The Library Lab will continue to provide the same hardware and software for student use as it does now, and will still be monitored by a student worker. However, the way in which the Lab is accessed and used will change.

In its current (soon to be former)

location, the Library Lab is in a closed, controlled environment. Students must swipe their ID cards at the door to get in. In its new location, there won't be any doors or walls and thus it will be impossible to physically control access to the computers.

As a result, the card swipe will be abandoned and will be replaced with a login requirement. Students (and faculty and staff) who wish to use the computers in the lab will have to login to the computers with their ForUM username and password.

Preparations for the move are already underway and we currently expect it to take place soon after Summer II has ended.

SNOW Goes Live

On July 1st, Service-Now (SNOW) went live as the new Help Desk tool. Within the 1st week, 10 individual faculty and staff members had logged in to create, update and/or view their own technology-related incidents and requests! As with the Help Desk, SNOW is available 24/7. Access it via the internet from your favorite web browser. The login link and information about setting your SNOW password can be found at www.montevallo.edu/cs/helpdesk/default.shtm. Instructions on the use of SNOW's Self Service module are also available by visiting www.montevallo.edu/cs/helpdesk/snow.shtm.

For More Information:

Technology Services
104 Morgan Hall

Office:
(205) 665-6512
8 am – 5 pm
Monday - Friday

We are observing UM's summer hours. The office is open 7:30 am – 6:00 pm Monday – Thursday through August 6th.

Help Desk:
(205) 665-6520
(866) 520-2401
24 hours a day
7 days a week

Email:
helpdesk@montevallo.edu

On the Web:
www.montevallo.edu/cs