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Official Announcements

Summer Session Instruction Evaluation Surveys

Instruction Evaluation Survey memoranda will be distributed on the following schedule for Summer Sessions A-C, with the associated evaluation dates as also noted below. The procedures to be followed will not deviate from those of the regular sessions.

Special administration dates for particular courses in a Session, if any, are listed in the right hand column. Any other requests for special arrangements should be brought to the attention of this office at least two weeks in advance of the desired evaluation date, and the request should be endorsed by the appropriate Dean.

	<u>Final Exam Date</u>	<u>Memo Date</u>	<u>Evaluation Dates</u>	<u>Special Administrations (if any)</u>
Session A	7/6/88	6/29/88	6/30/88 or 7/5/88	None
Session B	8/10/88	8/5/88	8/8/88 or 8/9/88	EDUC 300-30* EDUC 300A-30* EDUC 404-30* EDUC 405-30* EDUC 415-30*
Session C	8/4/88 and 8/10/88	7/28/88	7/28/88 through 8/3/88 (inclusive)	None

*Special administrations to take place one week early, i.e. on 8/1/88 and 8/2/88.

If you have any questions about the Instruction Evaluation Surveys schedule for the summer, call Dennis Ridley at 7392.

-- Asst. to the VPAA
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Unauthorized Charges to State Telephones

The following policy reminder has been issued to all State agencies by the Director of the Commonwealth of VA Department of Information Technology:

This is to remind you of the Commonwealth's long-standing policy prohibiting charges to State telephones for long distance calls not involving official State business. In our effort to reduce telecommunications costs, it is important to periodically reinforce our employees' awareness of this policy. The State might otherwise incur substantial charges for unauthorized long distance calls, a consequence which is unacceptable.

Accordingly, please ensure that your employees are aware that they may not charge personal long distance calls to the State, whether through the State Controlled Administrative Telephone System (SCATS), or otherwise. Mobile (cellular) telephones are also covered by this policy, and local calls should be treated the same as long distance calls because they incur a separate charge for each minute of use.

If employees must make personal long distance calls while at work, they should use a pay phone, have the call charged to their home telephone number, or use a personal telephone credit card. The mechanisms for auditing and obtaining reimbursements for personal calls are burdensome, and it is in everyone's interest to avoid unauthorized charges, rather than depend on periodic audits to enforce the policy.

-- Logistics

News and General Information

"Lehigh Virus:" - Another Case of Vandals Using Software

Kenneth R. van Wyk, a User Services Senior Consultant at Lehigh University's computer center, has reportedly warned UseNet subscribers about the effects of a vandal program which has been named the "Lehigh virus." Rather than being a "virus" which computers can "catch," this is, stated plainly, an unauthorized, undocumented, and illegitimate program which has been maliciously inserted into some existing public-domain and "bootleg" software, with the intent of destroying the software and/or data in personal computers.

As with many of the media reports associated with information processing, the reports lean toward the hysterical, with words such as: "infecting," "epidemic," and accounts of the vandal program being "alerted and rewriting itself," as well as of the "virus...tell[ing] a disk] to take a specific action. Nonetheless this program -- and similar illegitimate programs -- can, at best, be very disruptive and annoying to personal-computer users. In the worse cases, these programs can be disastrous.

Reportedly, the Lehigh problem has occurred on machines which are IBM personal computers (PCs) or PC-compatibles. The reason is that the vandal program uses the COMMAND.COM file of these computers.

Articles describing the apparent purpose of the vandal program state that the program is put into personal computers, by embedding it in one or more public-domain or "bootleg" programs which are appealing to personal-computer users.

Once a user inserts a disk containing the embedded, vandal program to start ("boot") a personal computer, the vandal program is transferred to the computer's memory via the COMMAND.COM file. Subsequently, if another hard disk or diskette is used during that session -- and, if this "target disk" contains a COMMAND.COM file -- the software is surreptitiously transferred to the other disk's COMMAND.COM file. In this way, all of the user's storage media is made ready for the final step in this process. After four such transfers have taken place, every disk which is accessible at that time is completely erased. Disks which are not accessible at that time will, nonetheless, contain corrupted COMMAND.COM files.

Presently, the only way to recover from this event is to take the last backup copies of all applications and data, reformat all affected storage media, and restore affected files. Users should remember that, if they are not careful, they could also reinstall the vandal program, once again setting the stage for another disaster. Restoration should include only those files which users know do not contain the vandal program, keeping in mind that the vandal program will be embedded in a public-domain or "bootleg" program (at least for now).

The following are clues which should help in detecting the presence of the vandal program:

- . The date of the COMMAND.COM file will change (It's always a good idea to make sure that the PC contains the current date and time).
- . Attempting to list a disk's directory (DIR command), while write-protecting the disk, will produce a WRITE PROTECT error (This happens because the vandal program attempts to write to the disk, during this operation; the legitimate program does not).

Users should, whenever practical, evaluate the source of interesting public-domain software and should be wary of public-domain software that does not contain the author's name and mailing address, as well as supporting documentation.

This article has addressed only one of many potential threats against which users of personal computing must be on guard. Such vandalism of users' software and data is not new; but, reminders such as this one should encourage each user to practice sound business practices, such as regularly copying (backing up) their software and data files.

The information in this article was provided by Paul N. Peasley, a Computer Systems Chief Engineer in DIT's Customer Liaison/Information Management Branch and Editor of Virginia's Information Technology Bulletin.

Richmond Centrex Converted to 5ESS Digital Technology

On the first day of April, the C&P Telephone Company converted approximately 17,000 State-office telephone lines, in Richmond, from old, 1AESS equipment to new, digital, central office 5ESS Centrex switching equipment. The actual time for the conversion was 6:12 PM on Friday, April 1st.

The new switching equipment will provide digital connectivity within the Centrex, as well as simultaneous switching of voice and data on the same line. This simultaneous switching will be done using the software capabilities of the 5ESS integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN).

Coordination of the conversion, with C&P, was begun by the Department of Information Technology's Telecommunications Division, more than a year ago. The conversion process involved agencies in four of C&P's central switching offices: Grace Street (786 and 225 exchanges), Hermitage Street (371 exchange), Patterson Avenue (662 exchange), and Stuart Avenue (367 exchange). All tieline networks associated with inter-agency, local, toll, and SCATS calling were affected. With the 5ESS Centrex, the four central offices were reconfigured into a host and three optical, remote switching modules (ORMs), to provide more efficient call processing. Prior to conversion, each central office was functionally independent with tieline networks interconnected.

One aspect of the conversion which significantly affected users was the change to new access codes for using Centrex features (see below). In addition, some features -- such as "Call Forward, Variable" -- now work differently than they did before the conversion took place. This particular feature now has a one-ring reminder tone associated with it, when calls have been forwarded to another telephone. The purpose of the short, one-ring, reminder tone is to signal users that calls are being forwarded, rather than being received at the user's normal telephone. In addition to working differently, some features (see facing page) have had problems associated with them. For example, with "Call Forward, Variable," the ring-reminder tone is now too long. However, changes are being implemented, to shorten the tone, using a software update. Efforts to "fine tune" features will continue, for the next 90 days.

Although some features were lost during the conversion, cooperative efforts between DIT's Trouble Report Management Center and C&P's counterpart have resulted in the majority of problems being corrected.

Plans to convert several other Centrex locations to 5ESS digital technology are also underway, with the Norfolk area scheduled for a June 25th conversion. This conversion will involve approximately 1,250 telephone lines serving 21 agencies.

The information in this article was provided by Linda Hardwicke, Acting Operations Manager in DIT's Telecommunications Division, Voice Operations Branch, Telephone (804) 786-3836.

New Access Codes

<u>Centrex Functions</u>	<u>Pushbutton</u>	<u>Rotary</u>
Call Pickup	.11	1111
Call Hold	.12	1112
Call Forward, Variable - Activate	.02	1102
Call Forward, Variable - Deactivate	.03	1103
Speed Call, Six-number capacity (Program)	.05	1105
Speed Call, Six-number capacity (Use)	# plus code	12 plus code
Speed Call, 30-number capacity (Program)	.06	1106
Speed Call, 30-number capacity (Use)	# plus code	12 plus code

-- Submitted by James D. Eagle, VPFA

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Printing

Effective July 5th, the IBM copier located in the Smith Building will no longer be available as a walk up copier. It will be used as a backup for the offset press, only. Multiple copies or work beyond the capability of departmental machines should be submitted to the print shop to be press run.

Information is forthcoming concerning changes in the print shop, which we believe will be to your advantage in budgeting time and expenses for duplicating. Meanwhile, two days advance request is adequate for average printing runs.

Please turn in auditizer cards, at your convenience, to the duplicating or purchasing office.

Thank you for your assistance in making this a smooth transition.

-- Logistics

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Telephone Number Changes

In order for C&P Telephone Co. to provide improved voice and data capabilities to CNC and other area agencies, a "new modern generation" of switching equipment is scheduled for installation in the Centrex System. This means that a uniform dialing plan for the Newport News area Centrex and SCATS users will go into effect on September 24, 1988.

Under the new dialing plan, the college's three digit prefixes for 591 and 599, including SCATS 535, will be replaced by one three digit prefix (594) for SCATS and Centrex.

Notification and assignment of the new numbers at this time will assist you in planning changes in stationery, business cards, publications, etc. If there is enough interest in cards for notifying frequent callers of our number change, we will have them printed and distributed by requests.

Please direct questions to Corky Babcock, Ext. 7281.

-- Logistics

Faculty, Staff, and Student News

George Teschner attended a conference at the Center for Semiotic Research in Law, Government and Economics at Penn State University from May 12-15 in which he delivered a paper entitled Deconstructing the First Amendment: Speech in Oral and Literate Cultures.

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Mario D. Mazzearella served as a commentator at a session on Soviet history on June 2 at the World War II Conference at Sienna College in Albany, New York.
