

IT addresses network issues

by Ben Goff
News Editor

The BC community has experienced frustration with the computer network on campus over the past few weeks, but the IT department says the problem is not serious and is being addressed.

According to Network Manager Rob Rodier, the recent downtime experienced with the network drives (such as the O drive) and email were simply due to routine maintenance and updates to the network.

An email sent to the campus community on Nov. 16 asked that everyone limit network usage during business hours. This request was made in order to alleviate network slowdowns associated with increased usage during the end of the semester, and not

because of any problems with the network.

The BC network has a 1 Gigabit (GB) connection to each building with a 10 Megabit (MB) connection for the entire campus. The network was upgraded to 10 MB from 3 MB two years ago in order to keep up with the growing needs of the college.

While there are no records kept of the number of students on campus who have their own computers, Rodier believes that the number has grown considerably over the past five years. Five years ago many students did not have computers on campus, but increasingly students are coming to school with a computer as well as a second device such as a gaming console.

The increased use of bandwidth-intensive

activities such as downloading music, streaming audio and video, and online gaming puts a strain on the network, which can be responsible for slowdowns and outages. The email sent out by IT asked that these “non-essential” activities be limited during business hours (8:00am – 5:00pm). The email also stated that if the network continued to experience problems that portions may have to be shut down temporarily during peak hours. According to Rodier, a situation where portions of the network must be shut down is unlikely. In the event that it became necessary, IT would ensure that areas of campus that require use of the network to function have access, such as classrooms, the administration building, and the library.

Rodier stated that IT is

“Always trying to...make things better” and that they would not consider placing limits on networks use or storage space as these would be a “Backwards step.”

While there have been complaints on campus about the network problems, there have only been network outages on four occasions, with other problems likely due to other causes.

IT asks that “If you have a problem put in [an IT help desk] ticket” so that they know about the problems and can address them.

Rodier feels that the college network is in fact on par if not superior to what is found at other colleges and is adequate for the college’s needs “Well into the future.” Modifications to the network that IT plans to implement over Christmas break should enhance the reliability and performance of the system.



photo by Z. Porch

BC Contra Dance

Brevard College students, staff and community members enjoy the Contra Dance held in Dunham Auditorium last Tuesday, Nov. 27.