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Could the end be near for IT&S problems?

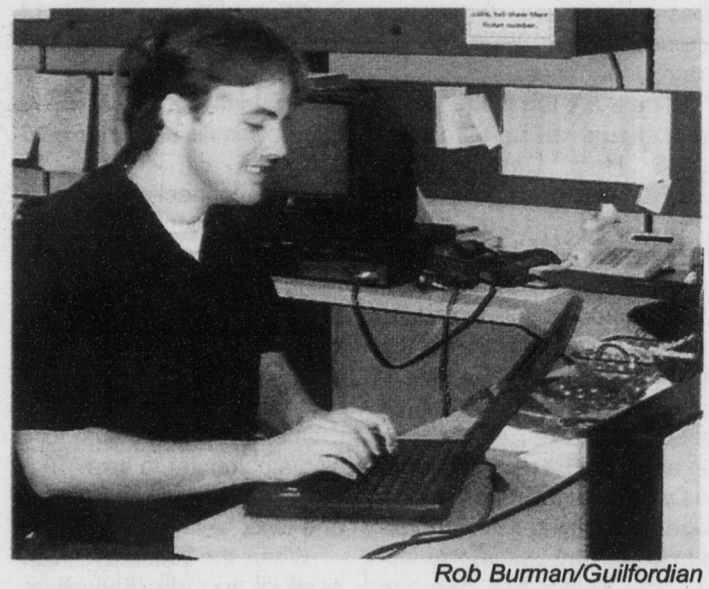
Taleisha Bowen
Associate Editor

Students, faculty, and staff have experienced problems with the campus server since the beginning of the school year.

Hopefully, the end to those problems is near.

Information Technology & Services (IT&S) will have a new server installed by Feb. 9. Student share spaces will be moved from the server Hobbs to the as-yet-unnamed server. The new server should help split campus traffic so that the time it takes to log in and out should decrease drastically. IT&S staff hopes this will solve the campus network problems.

"The servers are not cutting-edge technology but they're still powerful," James Lyons, a sophomore IT&S Help Desk worker, said. "They are fully capable of doing their jobs. It's just that they're being asked to do huge amounts of work."



Rob Burman/Guilfordian
IT&S employee Kitri Waterman hard at work

What caused the problems?

Students arrived in August bringing worms, viruses, and trojans with them. The three biggest threats to the campus were the Blaster worm, worms in the Mimail family, and the Admin virus.

The Blaster worm attacked computers running Windows 2000 and XP, causing infected computers to pass on the worm and then crash. Mimail affected both computers and the campus's connection to the Internet by sending out mass e-mails and attempting to collect secure information from computer users, including credit card and Social Security numbers. The Admin virus also sent out mass e-mails and attempted to crash computers.

IT&S workers contained the threats by turning off dorm Internet access and providing disks to clean computers.

All three threats are still present on networked computers, mainly because many students are not aware of the problems, or that they can be fixed. IT&S still offers disks that will eradicate the Blaster virus, and IT&S Help Desk workers can walk students through the process of "virus-proofing" their computers.

These problems were mainly contained by the time midterms hit, though access to the Internet campus-wide was sporadic at best. The unpredictability of the network was then due to multiple causes.

First, the backbone of the residence hall connections to the Internet was a separate network. Over the summer, the technology of that network was upgraded and put back on the main campus network.

Also, the campus installed a restricted firewall fall semester in an effort to minimize risk of infection from other major worms and viruses. This meant that only a certain number of connections to the

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Duking it out over renovations

Matt Haselton
Staff Writer

When students returned to campus after winter break to begin the spring semester, many were surprised to find that they could no longer access Duke Hall due to renovations. Students have also been surprised by the total estimated cost of the project: $1,985,000.

"Usually when [the college] spends that kind of money I don't like it, but in the case of Duke, it's pretty much needed" said senior Daniel Worrall, an Office of Enrollment tour guide.

Worrall says that when his tour groups walks by Duke, he jokingly says, "This is Duke Hall. It was built in the 1800's, and I don't think it has been renovated since."

In actuality, the building was built in 1897, with the last major renovations completed in 1967, with "very little" done since, according to Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Phil Manz.

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Rob Burman/Guilfordian
Duke Hall is closed due to renovations, as shown by sign

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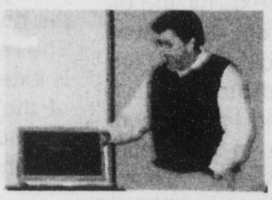
The Horoscopes return! Page 6

Changes in office of Campus Life Page 8



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