

## IT&S: back on-line

**Carlos D'Agostino**

Staff Writer

Since early July, members of Guilford College's Information Technology Services (IT&S) have been working diligently to remove computer viruses present in the new network installed in the institution's directory. The primary motive for installing a modified network was to speed up the typing process and eliminate the Blaster Worm Virus, which plagued the system a year ago, causing the IT&S staff to initiate a campus-wide shut-down.

In the past, such an event would cause students to lose hours of work, in addition to radically slowing down the typing process - not to mention the burden on the IT&S staff, who had to reboot the system.

"We've been working day and night over the past six weeks to tweak out all the bugs in the new system," said IT&S director Leah Kraus.

"Among two of the technological dilemmas currently attacking the sys-

tem are the Sasser Worm and the Korgo Virus," said junior James Lyons, an IT&S staff member.

A computer worm and a virus are alike in that they both have the potential to shut down a system, but they differ in the way they penetrate it. A worm spontaneously generates itself and spreads, whereas a virus is gets into a system through a personal computer (PC) user, either accidentally or intentionally.

With the help of Guilford students and two sub-contracted consultants-one from Elon University and the other from Data Services Incorporated (D.S.I.)-the college's network was separated into two independent systems. One system controls residential buildings, while the other revolves around academic, administrative, and staff buildings.

Overall, the network received a 14 mega-byte per second (mbps) increase from 6 to 20 mbps, which drastically speeds up access to the Internet and office software programs.

Several new software programs have been implemented into the directory, among them Windows XP Professional.

Prior to the recent installation of Windows XP, Guilford students had access to Windows 2000, a four-year-old software program that was limited in mbps.

"With Windows XP Professional, users have increased security access control, further allowing them to block out unwanted pop-up ads," said Geoff Leister, director of IT&S user services.

Additionally, Microsoft Office 2003 was installed, which helps speed up the typing process. Students now have the capability of performing multiple tasks at once without losing valuable work.

Furthermore, Lotus Notes received an upgrade to version 6.5.1, which at this point only affects freshmen. Now students can send e-mails with colored text. Unfortunately, upper-classmen will not be upgraded until around October due to the virus elimination process.

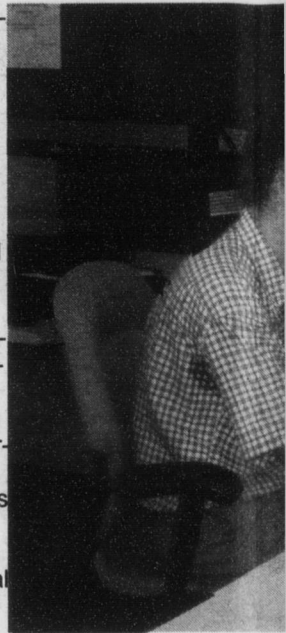
In terms of statistical data, 153,624 out of a total 249,524 e-mail messages were blocked as a result debugging the system of the worms and viruses still present.

On a more positive note, however, 4,613 viruses were blocked out of the system, further illustrating the new network's capabilities.

IT&S is also providing a Virtual Private Network (V.P.N) for off-campus students, which allows undergraduates to access

Guilford's network without having to worry about being infected by viruses.

In the upcoming months, IT&S expects to have wireless access to the college's directory from the soon-to-be-completed Founders terrace. This will increase computer access and ease campus-wide clutter. Other



IT&S Help Desk worker

## Clubs participate in activities fair

**Rebecca Spence**

Staff Writer

On Friday, Aug. 27, more than 30 of Guilford's student clubs set up tables outside Founders hall to share information and recruit new members.

Despite the warm weather, students lined up to sign e-mail lists, talk to club leaders, and enjoy free goodies given out by the different organizations. The Student Union table was a popular one on the hot afternoon, with free sunglasses and snow cones. Among others were WQFS (Guilford's radio station), who distributed stickers, and Pride who provided visitors with free condoms.

First-year Jack Samuels was disappointed that he "browsed by the fair too quickly."

"I didn't get any free stuff," he said, "but I wish I had."

The lucky students who did receive freebies were pleased. Ben Yocum, also a first-year, said, "the snow cone I had from the Student Union was

absolutely fabulous!"

Student Union helped plan the event along with Adrienne Craig, Director of Student Involvement and Leadership. Craig has been at Guilford since July and was excited to be a part of this long-standing tradition.

In organizing the fair, Craig and Student Union sent e-mails to every club who got a budget last year and put up flyers letting them know about the event.

"It is a great opportunity for everyone to see the really diverse number and type of activities that students may not know about," said Sarah Green, Student Union president.

Despite these efforts, Heidi McIver, vice president of the Revelers for the fall semester, did not feel well informed. "There doesn't seem to be an effective system in place for the organizers of the activities fair to communicate with participants in the activities fair," McIver said.

Other club leaders, however, had no problem with the organization of the event. Jonathan Henderson, a senior

and a member of Guilford Action Network (GANe), had no complaints about the communication. "I didn't see a problem with it," he said.

Henderson was pleased about having the chance to recruit new members for the organization. "GANe had a tendency to be really cliquish in the past," Henderson explained. "The more perspectives, the better"

The table run by GANe generated great enthusiasm. They gave away their traditional Disorientation Guide, which includes advice on how to be environmentally friendly, suggestions for activism, and information on health, voting, and campus resources.

Several students walked away with the guide exclaiming: "This is awesome!"

The only complaint about the student-produced guide was that it was hard to read.

"They wouldn't let me leave without it," said first-year student Scott Reichhelm, who signed up for GANe's mailing list. "It's ok, but it's kind of unintelligible."

Reichhelm still plans to become involved in the organization. "They seemed like anarchists. I want to check it out to make sure those kids don't get into any trouble," he said with a grin.

The Guilford College Democrats were also active at the fair, registering voters and recruiting volunteers.

Adam Waxman, College Democrats president, made clear the importance of the club's presence at the fair. "Where there are a lot of people, you have to have organizers," he explained. "We're going to invest a lot of time and energy to make sure everyone on campus is registered to vote."

Many students signed up to be on three, four, or even more mailing lists.

First-year Katie Yow was excited about taking part in new activities. Yow hopes to become involved with the Guilford College Democrats, GANe, the Revelers, Pride, and WQFS.

"It rocks!" she said, "I'll get overwhelmed really quickly, but it will be awesome."☺