

Google Apps on the horizon

By Nick Bunitzky
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In September, the plan to replace Lotus Notes with another service finally received a green light—the majority of students and staff could be migrated to Google Apps by spring 2010.

Already this year, new and readmitted students have been issued Google accounts rather than the usual Lotus Notes accounts. This allows them full access to the Google Apps suite of Web-based applications, including but not limited to Gmail, Google Docs, and Google Calendar.

This also means that the amount of storage for mail and other documents is bumped up from 100 megabytes in Lotus Notes to seven gigabytes with Google Apps. The average e-mail is only 59 kilobytes. In simpler terms, the maximum amount one could archive (a feature of Gmail) rather than receive and delete was raised from roughly 1,700 e-mails to about 118,650.

Of course, this mail option is not only available to newly admitted students, but will be given to all of Guilford over the next 18 months. About 75 percent of the IT&S staff currently uses this service through a staff-exclusive migration tool to transfer e-mail, calendar data, address books and documents from Lotus Notes.

"I think this will benefit Guilford by being much simpler to use and much less convoluted than Lotus Notes," said student and IT&S employee, Adam Clark.

After using Gmail for himself for over a year, he praises the decision to move to Google Apps because of its many advantages.

"The Web interface, coupled with archiving and filters, make it really simple for anyone to use."

In addition to less stress on the users, there will be far less stress on the server infrastructure. Normally, all of the data for Lotus Notes is stored at Guilford, but Google Apps will store it at data centers across the country instead. However, IT&S stresses

migration tool. When this process finishes sometime next semester, IT&S expects students to begin making their accounts.

The migration entails signing up for a Google Account and then having your mail transferred to it from Lotus notes over a two- to three-hour time span, during which you can still use both accounts. Even afterwards, the old account on Lotus Notes is still accessible and will be through 2010.

Gmail is capable of POP and

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that this is not an invasion of privacy – your data still belongs to you.

"We worked with Google on the legal agreement to make sure we still own all the data," said Director of IT & S Kyle Johnson. "Faculty own faculty data and student own student data but it's all hosted outside."

Once all of IT&S migrates, the plan will continue by transferring the staff of Hege Cox Library and then move on to every department. Faculty and staff currently have the capabilities to migrate themselves without the aid of the

IMAP downloading of e-mail from a Lotus Notes account, which means that anyone can get mail from other accounts forwarded to the new Gmail one or vice versa. Both POP and IMAP will forward mail received at one inbox of an account to the inbox of another, simply by giving the username and password for the old account in the POP tab of the preferences.

Because of these capabilities, students may either begin getting the e-mail that would be sent to their Lotus Notes accounts copied or forwarded to their Google accounts.

GAZA



Guilford alum Tamara Asad responds to a question at the Palestinian panel on Jan. 15.

Guilford supports peace in Gaza

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president of Community Senate and Palestinian by birth, opened the meeting with a quote from Rachael Corrie, an American member of the International Solidarity Movement who became a victim of the Israel/Palestine conflict in 2003.

Corrie was an advocate of peace in the region, writing according to the peace foundation established in her name, "I think it is a good idea for us all to drop everything and devote our lives to making it stop...I still really want to dance around to Pat Benatar and have boyfriends and make comics for my coworkers. But I also want this to stop."

Audience members received fact sheets about the conflict in Gaza and viewed several videos detailing the violence occurring in

the region and calling it "the largest open-air prison in the world."

The overwhelming response at Guilford seems to be a drive to help, and there are several avenues students and faculty may take.

"One of the most important things Guilford students can do at this time is educate themselves about the conflict which means seeking out alternative media resources, even if it's just the BBC," said Diya Abdo, assistant professor of English and former resident of Palestine.

The Palestinian community at Guilford has worked with Max Carter to organize a money, clothing, and food drive. The announcement for drop off places is pending. Money will be sent to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency and the American Friends Service Community, a Quaker organization.

RECESSION

Guilford seeing minimal effects of recession

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enrollment were to decrease, the expanding CCE population could potentially compensate for such a loss.

"We're protected a bit with the adult student population," Chabotar said. "Adults tend to go to school more consistently whether the economy is good or bad."

However, this increased enrollment still reflects the effects of the economic crisis in terms of how students are electing to pay their tuition during the application process.

"Deposits (to hold accepted students' spots) are running behind," Chabotar said. "Over the last several years students usually sent multiple deposits; now we're seeing more students doing only one deposit."

Since the final deposits for students enrolling in fall 2009 are not due until late spring,

it may appear as if Guilford is running behind in terms of tuition payments when they actually are not. Come May 1, 2009, if Guilford has not received such payments, they will be running behind, but until that date arrives, it is too early to tell.

In light of the recession's effects and the numerous

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Kent Chabotar, president

adjustments that Guilford is, and will have to make in the future with regards to its budget and the allotment of funds, students want to know where the first "cuts" are taking place.

"I want to know more details in terms of the admin-

istration's priorities in terms of what and who (faculty/staff) gets cut," said junior psychology major Alicia Johnson.

Most noticeably to students, the health, mailroom, and housekeeping departments have all lost staff members.

When asked why such

positions were cut more so than academic ones, Chabotar said, "The last thing that I would do is cut our core business, which is our academic program, and we're certainly not freezing any faculty searches."

In response to students

who were more concerned and angered about the loss of health, mailroom, and housekeeping staff, Chabotar said, "I hope students came to Guilford more for the faculty and the academic experience than for the mail service and the dorms."

"I came to Guilford for the academics," said senior sociology major Chelsea Hornick-Becker. "But I also came for the core values which include respecting and involving all types of staff members whether we're in an economic recession or not."

In sum, Chabotar wants to remind students that this economic crisis is an international issue, and that it is not just affecting Guilford.

"Thus far we've been pleased by the relatively small effect the economy has had on us...otherwise, we're doing the best that we can," said Chabotar.

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