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## September 2019

# McMaster Connectivity Newsletter

*For the IT community, by the IT community.*

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## McMaster IT News

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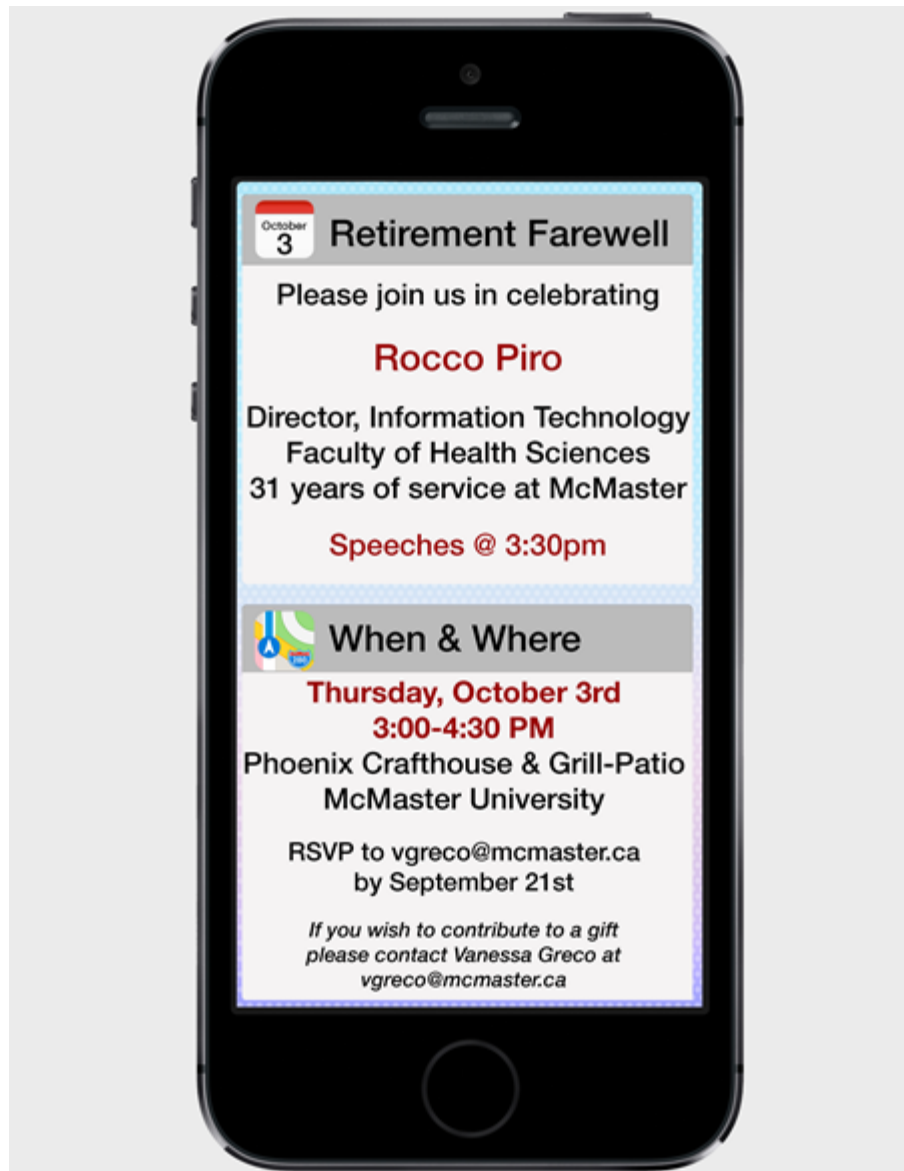
### Saying Farewell to Rocco



A key member of our McMaster IT community will soon be retiring. Rocco Piro, Director of the Computing Services Unit (CSU) for the Faculty of Health

Sciences, has served the McMaster community since July 1988. The McMaster IT community sincerely thanks Rocco for his contributions and positive impact.

[Read his parting wisdom here.](#)



## McMaster IT Strategic Plan Update

The McMaster IT community has been busy since May, participating in various strategic engagements and ensuring new and continuing projects are progressing, and completing, successfully. This collective effort is central to enhancing IT services for all members of the McMaster community and will help McMaster to achieve its institutional goals. Thank you to the many individuals and teams involved. Our exciting work continues into this fall semester as we pursue efficient, secure, and delightful technology. [Read more about specific project activities and achievements here.](#)

In related news, there is a new section on the [cto.mcmaster.ca](http://cto.mcmaster.ca) site to keep you informed on outputs and progress for [2019 McMaster IT Strategic Plan active initiatives](#). Check back regularly for ongoing updates.

*Coming soon:* Keep an eye out for forthcoming communications on [cto.mcmaster.ca](http://cto.mcmaster.ca) regarding the September McMaster IT Governance committee meetings.

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## **October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month!**

The McMaster Information Security team is bolstering its awareness efforts across the month to inform students, staff, and faculty about how they help optimize IT safety and security for themselves and the institution. Stay tuned for a weekly update from the Information Security team with tips for the McMaster community on security training for cyber awareness, data storage, credentials, and mobile security.

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## **REMINDER: Windows 7 End of Life Support – January 2020**

You may have seen a communication noting that effective January 14, 2020, Microsoft will no longer release monthly software updates for the Windows 7 operating system, including necessary security patches, fixes and security updates.

UTS is expecting to begin this process mid to late October 2019. Please contact [Sue McKinlay](#) for any questions or if you want to learn more about SCCM and how it can support your desktop management activities

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## **McMaster Mobile Application Initiative Update - Submitted by John Bell, Director IT, Humanities**

Phase 1 (Discovery) of the McMaster mobile application initiative is drawing to a close, having gathered an impressive collection of information. The purpose of this Discovery phase was to gather business requirements, including data mapping, environmental scans (internal and external), and data gleaned from student surveys and focus groups, as well as the development of governance guidelines for mobile application development at McMaster. The final deliverable of Phase 1 is a request for information (RFI) that will be made available to vendors. Following the feedback from the RFI, a full proposal for a

campus McMaster Mobile App will go through IT Governance later this fall.  
[Read more here.](#)

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## Other Highlights

[New McMaster Office 365 Hub launched!](#)

[McMaster Awarded Oracle Innovation Award in Data Management](#)

ICYMI: [Lynda.com is now LinkedIn Learning](#)

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**Save the Date: McMaster IT Forum, February 20, 2020**



**Save the Date:**

**McMaster IT Forum 2019/2020**  
**Thursday February 20, 2020**



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## Items of Interest

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**Mission to Mars: McMaster IT Sys Admins Lend Expertise for NEUDOSE Research Study**





On September 4th, System Administrators from across campus met to network with colleagues, talk shop, eat pizza, and learn about an exciting research project. Joining the System Administrators were graduate students from the NEUDOSE project. McMaster University is developing a satellite that will return information about the effects of ionizing radiation in space. This research will be essential for the NASA Mars mission, as engineers and designers need to ensure that astronauts are adequately protected from the invisible dangers of space. Before the satellite launches, the project must submit infrastructure plans for approval.

Students are leading the design of the ground-based infrastructure, which includes several servers (virtual machines), antennas, and specialty NASA applications (Linux-based). It was an enjoyable opportunity for IT staff to lend mentorship and feedback while learning about an exciting research project. If you identify as a system administrator and wish to receive invites for future meet-ups, please contact [atkinson@mcmaster.ca](mailto:atkinson@mcmaster.ca).

**Kick-off Cyber Security Awareness Month with [a free webinar](#)** from the Canadian Shared Security Operations Centre (CanSSOC) on Oct. 4. McMaster University is of six Canadian higher ed institutions involved in this proof of concept.

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**CAUBO 2019 presentations** [now available online](#)

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*2019 McMaster University,*

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