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November 2019 McMaster Connectivity Newsletter

For the IT community, by the IT community.

McMaster IT News

IT Community Gathering: Wednesday, December 11th



A reminder that an IT community gathering will be held on **December 11th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at CIBC Hall**. 'A Holiday Celebration of Digital Moments' will include treats, a warm cup of cocoa, and a chance to catch up with your colleagues! [Please RSVP here.](#)

Introducing...*Mosaic Rapid Releases*

In partnership with business professionals from HR, Finance, and Campus Solutions, University Technology Services (UTS) is working to make the Mosaic experience better. The team is looking to deliver one to two updates per month that will increase efficiency and improve overall Mosaic workflow. Importantly, these rapid changes are taking advantage of PeopleSoft features that can be configured, rather than customized. [Learn more about this collaborative initiative here.](#)

Highlights from the McMaster-Hosted Canada Alliance Conference



The Canadian regional chapter of the Higher Education User Group (HEUG) delivered the [third annual Canada Alliance conference](#) earlier this month. With over 300 attendees from across North America, a cross-institutional planning committee delivered 56 sessions on topics ranging from the future direction of Oracle products to insights on the utilization of new and existing functions and processes.

McMaster hosted this year's conference and members of our university delivered 18 of the conference sessions, including a keynote presentation by AVP & CTO Gayleen Gray on digital transformation and the importance of people in this process. Peppered throughout the event were networking opportunities, where McMaster's Mosaic technical and functional users engaged with and learned from peers.

Thank you and congratulations to Sophia Holness (conference chair), Doris McGuire (program chair), and Stacey Farkas (track chair) for over a year of planning and coordination to make this event happen. Stay tuned for more information on the 2020 Canada Alliance conference to be hosted by the Université de Montréal.

Upgrade to Windows 10: Where to Find More Information

As mentioned in the October issue of Connectivity, Microsoft will no longer be supporting Windows 7 with regular updates as of January 14, 2020. To ensure critical updates are provided on a regular basis, computers across the campus

must upgraded to Windows 10.

Open Houses were held earlier this month for IT support across campus to share tips and exchange ideas. Please email project manager Janice Tsang at jtsang@mcmaster.ca if you would like to be added to a Microsoft Teams channel to discuss this topic with other members of the IT community.

How Students Help Shape the Future of McMaster IT: Q&A with Karl Knopf

Earlier this month, the Information Technology Student Advisory Committee (ITSAC) met for their final gathering of 2019 to discuss important projects and technology trends on campus. Learn more about how students contribute to the IT governance process through this [Q&A with ITSAC alumnus Karl Knopf](#).

Consolidating file servers with a little help from our friends

The School of Geography and Earth Sciences (SGES) recently completed the consolidation of 18 network attached storage devices (NAS) into a single unified storage server. Leading the project was Science's own Alex Poulin with support from colleagues at UTS. The new storage server resides in the Gilmour Hall data centre, it houses nearly 140TB of research data in a RAID 10 array, leveraging M.2 SSD caching for speedy file delivery. Serving a variety of SGES research groups, this move will help reduce administrative overhead and provide greater peace of mind regarding physical security, uptime, monitoring and network access. A note of gratitude to Wayde Nie, Gerry Gysbers, Mike Diggins and Mike Masotti for their flexibility and support. For technical information, please feel free to contact Alex (apoulin@mcmaster.ca)

Items of Interest

CanSSOC Webinar: Wednesday, December 4th



Join the CanSSOC team for a dynamic conversation around the value of proposed services, as well an update on lessons learned. This webinar will provide further detail on the Threat Intelligence services that CanSSOC could provide to institutions moving forward. [Register here.](#)

Project Update: Accessibility Improvements for Blended Learning in Science

The Faculty of Science, with support from McMaster's Strategic Alignment Fund, is undertaking a conversion of our (online) blended learning courses to meet AODA requirements. Leading the audit process is Jessica Blackwood in her role as Course Developer. She is excited to facilitate the conversion of a wide array of Blended Learning courses in the upcoming year with the Science media team. Her work will incorporate inclusive design principles and legislative requirements to allow thousands of students to utilize accessible learning materials.

A McMaster alumnus from the Faculty of Health Sciences, Jessica is currently completing a Master of Rehabilitation Sciences and uses evidence-based practice throughout her work. In early 2020, the Science team will be publishing their auditing methodology and tools for the community.

If you would like to learn more about this project or meet Jessica, please [fill out this form to join our list of community stakeholders.](#)

New McMaster Continuing Education Program: Professional Communication in the Canadian Workplace



To provide resources for individuals who wish to hone their professional communication skills, Marzena Kielar, Manager of IT Reporting and Data Warehouse with University Technology Services, collaborated with McMaster Continuing Education (CCE) over the past two years to create the Professional Communication in the Canadian Workplace course. [Learn more about this professional development opportunity here.](#)

Innovation Factory's New Collaborative Space to Become Hamilton's "One-Stop Shop for Innovation"

This new space will provide entrepreneurs with access to resources including skill-building workshops, meeting rooms, and advanced equipment. [Read more about the collaborative hub at SofwareHamilton.com.](#)



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