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September 2021

McMaster Connectivity Newsletter

For the IT community, by the IT community.

McMaster IT News

Cyber security: a year-round team effort

To kick-off McMaster's National Cyber Security Awareness Month (NCSAM) efforts, AVP & CTO Gayleen Gray reflects on the team effort involved in strengthening our cyber security posture this past year and moving forward.

[Read more](#)

National Cyber Security Awareness Month



For October's National Cyber Security Awareness Month, McMaster's Information Security Services team presents the **GetMFA campaign** — a campus-wide contest to share cyber security awareness and your chance to win some cool prizes! Other activities include a Women in IT Security panel discussion. Stay tuned throughout October for details.

Read on for other ways you can support IT security at McMaster:

Phishing awareness course

Think you're actually good at spotting phishing? Phishing attempts have come a long way from princes and lost family members. Learn the top tactics hackers use to try and steal your credentials. Take the course on Avenue to Learn!

[A2L phishing course](#)

IT security drop-in sessions

McMaster virtual IT security drop-in sessions

- Thursdays 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- September 9 - October 28, 2021
- Led by our Information Security team



Join in IT security drop-in sessions provided by the Information Security Services team! These sessions are open to all McMaster community members covering topics such as multi-factor authentication, password security and phishing. Sessions will run every Thursday, 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. ending on October 28th.

[Register here](#)

MacCheck digital tool and vaccine mandate

A BIG thank you and congratulations to McMaster IT and beyond as many cross-institutional teams and individuals brought MacCheck to life in such a short timeframe. MacCheck has had tens of thousands of uploads and daily check ins since it launched. McMaster is grateful for this hard work that helps keep the community safe.

A reminder that staff must [upload proof of vaccination or receive an approved exemption](#) by **October 17 at 11:59pm ET**. Please do not wait — upload your vaccination proof as soon as possible.

Students, faculty members, and staff who are coming to any McMaster location or affiliate location for the first time ever or for the first time since the start of the pandemic in March 2020 are required to complete [Back to Mac COVID-19 Training](#).

McMaster instructors can check out the [Technology Resources page](#), a curated and extensive catalogue on all things tech for this semester.

NEW! Microsoft 365 features and updates



See a demo above of the Office 365 Hub for the McMaster Community.

Microsoft has announced changes to how [Teams meetings recordings and transcriptions work](#). More changes will roll out over the next few weeks.

Microsoft Teams for Education has rolled out [new features, app integration and updates](#) in time for September.

Microsoft Teams presenter modes also get an [update to better engage](#) with your audiences during presentations. Check out a [video demo](#) too!

McMaster students can [sync their personal class timetable to their Outlook and Teams calendar](#) through the Timetable to Outlook tile in Mosaic.

Get the most out of Outlook and check out [20 tips and tricks for Outlook web](#) in 2021.

Head to the [Discover Microsoft 365 and Zoom page](#) if you're looking for ways to

[communities of practice too!](#)

SAVE THE DATE: Holiday social



MCMASTER IT — HOLIDAY SOCIAL

Wednesday, November 24, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Join the virtual fun on Microsoft Teams!

Save the date, McMaster IT! Bring your favourite cozy drink and join IT colleagues in conversation on November 24, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Microsoft Teams.

IT Spotlight: Campus-wide Wi-Fi enhancement

The September IT Spotlight peers into the world of wireless. In a coordinated effort, the Campus Wide Wi-Fi Enhancement project has been accelerated to coincide with [Back to Mac efforts](#). Facility Services and University Technology Services (UTS) have come together to provide the community with enhanced wireless coverage across buildings and campus grounds.

[Read here](#)

Listen in! Virtual hallway chat with Gayleen and AVP & CFO Deidre 'Dee' Henne

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VIRTUAL HALLWAY CHATS

With Gayleen Gray

Featuring:
AVP & CFO Deidre 'Dee' Henne



Listen in as Gayleen chats with AVP & CFO Deidre 'Dee' Henne and hear these two leaders discuss a variety of interesting and timely topics in two parts:

Part 1: Chipmunk voices, catching squirrels and getting strategic projects done - <https://youtu.be/6OtUFXUIFTw>

Part 2: Rollerblading in hallways, supporting Hamilton and feeding large families - <https://youtu.be/Gdm70cfjI6Q>

P.S. For the full effect view at double speed!

If you're missing the delightful run-ins and impromptu conversations on campus and want to chat with Gayleen, please reach out to Tanya Reid at tanya.reid@mcmaster.ca to set up a Virtual Hallway Chat.

[Catch up on previous Hallway Chats.](#)

Items of interest

Building Cyber Resilience: Securing Ontario's Public Sector

Building Cyber Resilience is the Government of Ontario's **second annual cyber security conference created for senior IT and cyber security professionals, organizational leaders and board members from across Ontario's broader public sector.** This year's conference, in partnership

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offer insights on how to build organizational resiliency, with a focus on people, process and technology.

Gayleen Gray will be presenting "**Recent Cyber Attacks in Ontario: The Executive Perspective**" and representing McMaster and higher ed IT.

EDUCAUSE Annual Conference

The higher ed IT event brings together professionals and technology providers from around the world to discuss their discoveries, grow professionally and explore solutions to continuing challenges. The conference runs from October 26 to 29 and provides an in-person and virtual experience.

Our AVP & CTO will be presenting with peers in a session entitled: "Good Security is Shared Security: A Canadian Approach", discussing CanSSOC.

[Register here](#)

Cisco Connect Canada 2021

Cisco Connect will deliver the technology knowledge and inspiration you need in this moment. And this year you can do it from your favourite comfy chair. Cisco Connect is free and accessible to all. Join October 20 and 21 from **11:30 to 3:30 EST**.

[Register here](#)

Have a story you want to share with the IT Community? Email Peter McDonald at mcdonp1@mcmaster.ca to feature an article!



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