During the past few semesters, we were reviewing our Learning Management System (LMS) choice, which is currently Blackboard. We decided to undertake this review because Blackboard 9 is going to be significantly different from our current version (BB 8) and we had not looked at other LMS systems in over 10 years – though the market has matured significantly. We've now completed the process and recommended to the Technology Committee on September 12 that we continue with Blackboard as our LMS through 2015.

Our strike force had 28 dedicated volunteers, including 19 faculty. We contacted all the major LMS companies and hosted individual product demonstrations. Our review team spent a great amount of time researching each system, running test scenarios in demonstration (sandbox) environments, and spoke with a variety of references. In the end, the strike force voted overwhelmingly in favor of remaining with Blackboard.

During Spring 2012, a limited number of accounts in Blackboard 9 will be deployed to test the system. An extensive schedule of training in Blackboard 9 will be available throughout the spring and summer. In July 2012, our current version of Blackboard will be replaced by Blackboard 9. Blackboard 8 will remain up and available until December 2012 so that instructors will have adequate time to archive and import their classes from previous terms.

Datatel Reports Through Informer

MIS recently acquired a new web-based reporting tool called Informer, which extracts information from Datatel in a real-time environment. Informer was purchased to replace Query Builder, the application built into the current Datatel interface that will be replaced next year. Informer has an intuitive interface that allows users to create custom reports and do real-time data analysis. It also allows for chart building as well as output in Excel and PDF formats. The system can set up your query to run on a reoccurring schedule and have it automatically emailed to you or anyone else you designate.

The web-based interface comes with drop-down menus, autocomplete functionality, drag-and-drop capabilities, self-service analytics, field look-ups, and is very easy to navigate. You can create both public and private queries that are stored on the server, allowing you to share queries with everyone, individuals, as well as accessing queries from computers other than the one at your desk. Informer has extensive report management capabilities including a user-defined report home page, tagging, searching, and archiving. MIS is currently designing training classes on Informer and will be coordinating the sessions through Professional Development.

Fall Patches

It’s that time of the year. Fall patches for Datatel are here! Twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring, the MIS department applies patches and updates to our Datatel (CISAR) system. The patches and updates are necessary to implement new enhancements to the system, fix existing bugs, and update information to comply with legal mandates. This year, we have tentatively scheduled the fall patch load for October 21. During the patch installation and initial testing, the system (Datatel and Web Advisor or “My Canyons”) will be unavailable. The time it takes to install the patches and test the system varies, so the MIS department will send out an email once the system is back up. We will be posting messages on My Canyons and on the District’s website to inform people about the outage.
Technology Tips And Tricks

Did you know that you could customize the look and feel of Microsoft Outlook, including Outlook Web Access?

For outlook 2007 Users:
Open up an existing email, then click the **Microsoft Office Button** on the top left of your Outlook window. Once there, you can choose **Editor Options**, and Choose **Popular**. This will allow you to choose a different Color Scheme.

For Outlook 2010 Users:
Right after opening up Outlook, click on **File** menu then choose **Options**. You will find in the **General Window** on the right that you can choose from three different color schemes.

For Outlook Web Access:
Log in to Outlook Web Access. Choose **Options** in the top right hand corner of the Window, and you can select from 27 different themes.

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EduStream

“**EduStream.org**” is a cost-effective, centralized resource for providing participating institutions with the video-on-demand capabilities they might not otherwise be prepared to implement or manage. Envisioned by the San Bernardino Community College District and realized through its strategic partnership with Seattle Community College Educational Television, EduStream.org was initially conceptualized as a means of addressing the increasing concerns of academic rigor with traditional television courses. Today, EduStream.org is poised to help educational institutions embed educational videos into their online content, expand staff and professional development programs, increase the reach of their workforce and economic development programs, and so much more!

EduStream.org provides participating institutions with:
- Captioned-ADA compliant access to educational video Playlists that can be seamlessly linked from within any learning management system.
- 24/7 live educational broadcast channels.
- Ability to embed captioned general education video playlists from within Blackboard.
- Ability to upload and embed their own instructional/information videos.
- Provide their own 24/7 streaming video channel.

Generally speaking, EduStream is seen by College of the Canyons as the means by which we can host video content in a secure medium. The content that College of the Canyons provides through the EduStream web site will playable only by end users who have accessed the content from an authorized source. This means that you can determine who will have access to your video content rather than having the content freely available to the world.

For more information on how you can get your video content hosted on EduStream, please contact the Information Technology Help Desk at x3953.

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Section 508 Short Checklist

Are you currently developing online content or designing a departmental/academic web page? If so, the DSP&S department offers a valuable resource that will help keep your project on track and in compliance with **Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act.** The Section 508 Short Checklist, located in the faculty resources section of the DSP&S web page, provides a quick and easy checklist for you to review as you are developing your online content or web page. The Long Section 508 Checklist, also found on the DSP&S faculty resources page, provides the same information but with more detailed explanations for those who wish to learn more about the process of making digital content compliant. To access the faculty resources page, simply visit the home page of the DSP&S department, or type this address into your web browser: **http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/dspS/Section508/default.asp**

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Noel Lopez joined College of the Canyons part-time in January 2002 as an adult hourly employee. In February 2003 Noel left his employment at Warner Bros. studios to become a full-time employee in the Audio Visual Department at College of the Canyons. Noel worked as an Instructional Media Technician for several years and always enjoyed helping others. In May 2006 he received the Employee of the Year award for his efforts.

In 2009, Noel made a smooth transition between the Audio Visual department and the Computer Support Team. The merger between both departments has given Noel the opportunity to learn from other very knowledgeable employees who share the same enthusiasm for technology and supporting others. Noel is currently an Information Technology Specialist working in both computer and audio visual support services.

When Noel isn’t working on campus support or converting classrooms into smartrooms, he likes to spend some of his time creating new designs for his clothing company **1910co.com**, and traveling, which he tries to do at least once a year. He also enjoys spending time with his wife Raquel and two children, son Mar, 7, and daughter Sol, 11.