



— TECHNOLOGY UPDATE —

February 2021

Upcoming Technology Events

Date	Event	Time	Location
Feb 25	Section 508/ Accessible Design	12:00pm	Zoom
Mar 2	Tech Committee	3:15pm	Zoom

February IT Birthdays

Chris Maldonado - Feb 2
Mike Gunther - Feb 4
Justin Smith - Feb 9
Chris Neal - Feb 25

If you see them on their special day, please wish them a Happy Birthday!

College of the Canyons' IT Dept. Wins 2 Major Tech Awards

The College of the Canyons Information Technology department was recognized with **two** tech awards at the 2021 California Community College



Chief Information Systems Officers Association Virtual Technology Summit on Thursday, Feb. 11 for its outstanding support in transitioning the college's operations and instructional programs to a remote environment in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The division's Computer Support Services Team received a **CISOA 2021 Technology Excellence Award**, which annually recognizes demonstrated excellence through technological advancements by a community college.

In addition, Dr. James Temple, the college's Vice President of Technology, who leads the IT division, received a **2021 Excellence in Technology Leadership Award** by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, which distinguishes individuals demonstrating exemplary leadership contributions within the technology profession.

See full article on [SCVNews.com](https://www.scvnews.com)

MIS Updates

Take note of some important dates, as well as some new and exciting things happening in MIS!

- MyCanyons and Self-Service for students, faculty and staff will be moving to CanyonsID on **Feb. 26**.
- The LACOE Best Project is moving forward with testing and is expected to go live for Fiscal Services in July.
- Preparations are under way for spring patches, with a tentative time frame for late April.
- Our next Colleague Standup Meeting is Scheduled for **Feb. 18**. We encourage everyone to join!

With the new semester already under way, the Information Technology department has extended remote support hours for the *first 2 weeks of the semester!*

From Feb. 8 to 19, our [Zoom Help Desk](#) will be open 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Apple's M1 CPU - The ARM Revolution

By Peter Hernandez

Apple recently unveiled the new M1 processor that it plans to include in all future Mac laptops and desktops. Most folks may miss the importance of this, but the M1 processor is monumental because it signals a fundamental shift in CPU technology from x86 architecture to [ARM SoC architecture](#), which aims to enable more processing performance while also using a lot less power.

What makes the M1 processor so special, you might ask? For starters, it is the first time Apple has produced its own CPU for desktop and laptop use. In the past, Apple has used Intel CPUs like most of the PC industry. But now Apple is making its own CPUs, which are based on years of experience gained from producing iPad and iPhone ARM-based processors.

This level of control will allow Apple to create better CPUs than what Intel is offering – not to mention that these new systems can run apps originally built for iPad and iPhone because of the similarity in architecture under the hood.

Another major advantage of the M1 processor is that it is based on ARM architecture rather than Intel's x86 architecture. While Intel's x86 development has

slowed somewhat in recent years, Apple's ARM-based CPU architecture has pushed forward offering substantial gains in power savings and performance. This new architecture also generates much less heat as a result of the efficient design. Like an iPad, the new M1-powered MacBook Air does not even have a CPU fan because it doesn't need one. This means the M1-based laptops will be silent, which is a nice advantage today when using video conferencing apps like Zoom, where loud fan noises can be a distraction.

The disadvantage of the M1 CPU is that software has to be rebuilt to take full advantage of the new processor's capabilities. However, older software originally built for Intel still functions well under emulation mode using built-in software Mac calls "Rosetta 2." Early reviews of the M1-powered MacBook Air have been overwhelmingly positive. Tech review site [The Verge](#) states that "*The new Arm-based system has exceeded almost every expectation.*"

Apple offers three ARM-based M1 Power Macs that you can purchase right now, the new MacBook Air, the MacBook Pro 13" and the Mac Mini. Other models are due to be out later this year. To learn more about these products, visit www.apple.com.

6 Simple Tips for Securing IoT Devices

IoT (Internet of Things) devices have become features in our homes and businesses, like connected kitchen gadgets, security monitoring systems, and drones. Read on to learn how you can keep these devices secure from cyber threats and vulnerabilities.

Security monitoring systems

Use caution when investing in one of the various “smart locks” on the market. Investigate the strength of the system’s security mechanisms before purchasing. Having your front door opened by a malicious attacker can be troubling – and being locked in or out of the house due to a malfunction can be frustrating. Home thermostats and security systems are other popular items in this category. When installing, be sure to change the default password to something unique and complex. A security system with default passwords isn’t very secure at all.

Connected kitchen devices

The newest kitchen gear often comes with an app to help ensure your meal comes out perfect. Sous vide devices, crock-pots, and large appliances like refrigerators all come “smart” these days. To stay secure, consider creating a separate wireless network in your home just for IoT devices. By using separate wireless networks, you’ll ensure sensitive data like banking credentials and saved social media accounts stay separate from IoT data. Never connect a “smart” gadget to your other personal devices that have sensitive information.

Laptops and tablets

Anytime you receive a new personal laptop or tablet, ensure your default user account is non-administrative. By using a “locked down” account with fewer privileges, you limit the damage that a cybercriminal could do if your credentials were ever leaked or stolen. For everyday activities like web browsing and playing games, an admin account with full program installation privileges is unnecessary. To keep your machine running smoothly over time, use caution before installing new software applications. Ensure any applications you install are from a trusted source.

Home assistants

Once a distant vision of the future, home assistants are now available for under \$30. These voice-controlled devices help with everything from quick internet searches to

home automation projects. However, their well-known “wake words” – “Hey Alexa!” “OK, Google!” – are also a security weak point. Imagine a home invader being able to lock doors or turn off lights with a simple voice command. Consider changing the nickname on your home assistant from the pre-installed default to something only you and your family know.

Gaming devices and drones

Gaming has become ubiquitous, with titles like Fortnite surging in popularity across mobile devices, gaming platforms, and PCs. No matter what or how you play, protect sensitive credit card information by never saving it on to a console or within a mobile gaming application. This will protect against accidental purchases and malicious credit card theft. Drones of all types – from toys to hobby investments – are another hot item this year. Be sure to update your drone with the latest security patches before flying, and change the default password.

Bluetooth headphones and phone accessories

From embedded smart assistants to sophisticated touch controls, headphones are getting more complex each year. You should start secure by choosing any Bluetooth or wi-fi connected smartphone accessory carefully. Select a reputable vendor whose products you trust won’t come with malware or bloatware. Stay secure by only connecting accessories to devices you know. Never store personal information on a Bluetooth or wi-fi enabled smart accessory which may be connected to others’ personal devices.

Staying secure in a connected world

Our ever-growing, interconnected world is an exciting place where you can turn off your stove from the office, set a reminder from your headphones, and compete in global gaming challenges anywhere, anytime. The expanding possibilities also carry the responsibility to protect our personal information and data. By practicing strong security habits like using strong passwords and connecting with caution, we can keep cyber space safe for all. The [CIS Controls](#), when implemented, can help improve your IoT environments’ security posture. They’re a consensus-developed security standard used by organizations around the world to mitigate against cyber attacks.

The post [6 Simple Tips for Securing IoT Devices](#) appeared first on [CIS](#).

Level Up Your Valentine!

By Justin Smith



Is your loved one still checking email on a Palm Pilot? Does their email address end in *earthlink.net* or *aol.com*? Do you need another excuse to bring your loved ones into the modern age of technology? Look no further! Here's a list to help your loved ones love YOU more! :)

For the Travelers: Matching Tablets (to [video chat with](#)). The brand doesn't matter as much as the compatibility. iPads' video chat better with other iPads, and same goes for other brands. There are many software platforms that you can use for video chatting

such as Apple's FaceTime, ZOOM, Microsoft Teams, Google Duo, and more! You can check out your device's app store for top downloads!

For the Active: *Lululemon workout clothes, and a smart watch.* Not every advancement has a microchip. Lululemon prides itself on the alchemy side of [embedding silver into its fibers](#) to chemically neutralize the odors as you sweat. Or, maybe matching workout bands for your Apple Watch could be the fuel you need to stay active too!

For the Romantic: [LovePop 3D](#) pop-up card, and a [wine subscription](#). These speak for themselves. Just something to add to that dinner you're already planning on cooking!

For the Movie Buffs: Subscription services [HBO Max](#) and [Disney+](#). Feeling burnt out on that Netflix subscription? Gift a hefty supply of movies to play on your smart TV!

For the Stunning: [Dyson Curling Iron, straightener, or Hair Dryer](#) and [Stitch Fix](#). *Sometimes, nothing beats a fresh head of hair and slipping into some new threads, every month!*

We're always looking for topics to include in the next newsletter. Please let us know what YOU want to hear about by sending me a quick email!

Protecting the health of students and employees remains our top priority, so during remote operations, Computer Support directs anyone seeking support to utilize one of the three communications methods listed below.

**Regular hours of support during this time are Monday-Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm*

February 8th - 19th 7am-9pm

Send us an email:
helpdesk@canyons.edu

Call & leave a message:
(661) 362-3953

Connect with us via Zoom:
<https://intranet.canyons.edu/departments/it/>