

General Purpose Labs Information You Wanted to Know But Were Afraid to Ask

By P. Phillips

IS&T manages 7 General Purpose Labs which have 287 computers. At these labs over 9,500 different students logged onto a computer over 215,000 times during the Fall Semester. 4,187 of the students logged on at least once per week. The average time spent logged onto these computers was approximately 30 minutes. 54% of program executions were Microsoft Office related programs, 21% were web browser sessions, 19% were Adobe products (primarily Adobe Acrobat Reader), and the remaining 6% were Star Office, Internet utilities, media players, specialized lab software and statistical packages.

Print limits were introduced in the Fall. We had seen a small number of students (about 100) print enormous amounts of paper each semester. Since the labs are funded by technology fees, we did not feel it appropriate that all the students should bear the cost of the printing by this small group. We implemented a generous 2000 page limit for each student per semester which we estimated would meet the needs of 99% of the population. We allow students who need to print larger quantities of paper to purchase additional pages at 2 cents per page. These print limits affect a savings of approximately 600,000 pages per semester. The money saved will be spent improving the General Purpose lab facilities.

Other projects IS&T is piloting in the labs include the introduction of diskless terminals, dual monitor PCs, and the general beautification of some of our labs by adding themed pictures to the walls. Diskless terminals will reduce the cost of Lab PCs and reduce the amount of effort required to maintain them. Dual monitor PCs will make it easier for code developers to write their programs and see the results simultaneously. IS&T has taken on the management of the Urban College labs. They are in the process of becoming new General Purpose Labs available to all CSU students.

If you have suggestions for the IS&T General Purpose labs, please feel free to contact either Dan Mortimer at x5049 (d.mortimer@csuohio.edu) or Peter Phillips at x3779 (p.phillips@csuohio.edu).

Mac OS X Leopard Upgrade

By R. Garcia

A few departments are planning to upgrade their Mac operating system to OS X Leopard within the next month. The cost of the upgrade depends on the volume of the order. Apple's standard educational discount is as follows:

1 - 9 copies	\$69/unit
10 - 99 copies	\$59/unit
100 + copies	\$49/unit

If we pool all orders into one, we may be able to take advantage of the 100+ pricing.

IS&T will facilitate a one-time purchase for those who wish to take part. If your department is interested, please email Rowen Garcia at r.d.garcia31@csuohio.edu with a request containing a firm order and a departmental account number to charge.

Our target is to place an order by the end of February.

Agent 000 Goes For a Ride

By F. L. Ferreri

A strong wind was blowing leaves across the pavement. When it hit a building it would swirl rising, rising, until the wind scattered and dropped the leaves far out into the street to be picked up by another gust. The sky was a scary grey-green color; the color that precedes a drenching rain. It was a color that screams *get inside*. The color that makes you feel especially sorry for the homeless and the pigeons. And where was I? I was ten blocks from the office and no umbrella. Not that an umbrella would have done any good. When the heavens open up in this kind of upcoming storm the only safe place to be is in an ark; one that's cubits long.

I was wearing my good suit, too, and cursed my predicament. I resigned myself to getting wet and hoping that Zeus would not use me as target practice when the lightning bolts hit. People get on my case for mixing up religions, but if you have more than one in your pocket then you can pull the best one out for the job at hand. It hasn't failed me yet, thank Buddha.

That's when the limo pulled up. A black tinted window eased down and a sultry voice said, "Hey Zero, Zero, Zero, need a lift?" huskily and slowly. Expensive cigarette smoke and perfume wafted from inside the car.

Of all the limos in all the towns in all the world, she has to pull up next to me. Natasha! My nemesis. The Moriarity to my Holmes. The Jarvet to my Jean Valjean. The Yosemite Sam to my Bugs Bunny!

"What do ya' want, Natasha? And where are your two flunkies, Boris and Mr. Big?"

"In the trunk. They were bad boys this morning," she purred.

Natasha was a bad one, all right; the queen of the spammers, the goddess of the phishers, the vixen of viruses. Her underground organization was responsible for half the nefarious acts perpetrated upon computers in the world. I tried to thwart her evil by telling people to not open unexpected attachments, to not believe emails from their bank asking for information, to scan for spyware on a regular basis, to have an up-to-date antivirus product on their computers, to patch their machines. She didn't like this. She wanted to get even and would stop at nothing until she had her way.

It started to rain. Drops like fat berries fell around me, marking the sidewalk. I looked at my suit. I looked at the limo. It's a shame to pay \$69.50 for a broad pin striped jacket and pants and ruin 'em in the rain.

"Move over, sweetheart," I said. "You talked me into a

Agent 000 (cont.)
ride.”

A gorilla-like chauffeur came out to open the door for me, real professional like. When I bent over to get in the car, he blackjacked me in the back of the head.

I woke up two hours later in the trunk of the limo with Mr. Big’s shoe resting on my ear. You could hear it raining cats and dogs outside. At least I saved the suit.

“Hey, Zero, izzat you?” asked Boris in a hushed whisper.
“Yeah, it’s me.”

“Were you bad, too?” he cackled. Boris; always a comedian!

I moved Mr. Big’s foot from the side of my head and took off my own shoe. There in a hollow heel was a micro torch. I borrowed a pack of matches from Boris and lit it.

“Be careful, Zero. The gas tank’s under us.”

“Don’t worry, Boris. I’ve gotten out of more trunks than you can imagine.”

With a stroke of luck, I burned through the latch at the same time the rain slowed and stopped. I burst out of the trunk and got immediately into a karate stance, waiting for the gorilla. He and Natasha were gone. “*Lucky for them,*” I thought as I hitched up my pants. I made good my escape on foot.

The city had a clean smell then that you only get after a heavy rain that washes down into the gutter all the stuff you know is there but don’t want to think about. Two hours later I made it into the office. My boss came up to me and said, “Natasha stole one of our department’s best cars! And some idiot cut through the trunk latch!! We have to get that woman, Zero.”

“I’ll jump right on it, Chief,” I said hiding the micro torch in my pants pocket.

“Oh, and Zero...”

“Yes, Chief?”

“Get a new suit, will you?”

What the... I thought. Polyester is supposed to last for years!

PowerPoint 2007 Tip of the Month

Go To a Specific Slide

To move quickly to another slide, type the slide number and press Enter. For example, if you’re in the middle of a presentation and want to jump back to the beginning, type 1 (for the first slide) and press Enter.

Word 2007 Tip of the Month

Document Readability Scores

How readable is your writing? Is your writing appropriate for your intended audience? Do you eschew obfuscation and espouse elucidation or do you avoid ambiguity and adopt clarity? Is there a way to tell how easy your document is to read?

You becha! Think about it, would I ask these leading questions only to say “no” and end the article here at the second question mark? Huh?

Word has a built-in Flesch-Kincaid readability assessment test. To enable this feature, click the Microsoft Office Button



, click Word Options, Proofing, make sure *Check grammar with spelling* is selected, and under *When correcting grammar in Word*, select the *Show readability statistics* check box. After you enable this feature, open a file that you want to score and check the spelling. When Word finishes checking the spelling and grammar, it displays information about the reading level of the document.

For example, checking the readability score for the Agent 000 article tells me that it’s written so that it’s understandable for someone with a 4th grade education, which, not surprisingly, is the highest level that the author of that article completed.

50 Tips and Random Thoughts About Email: Part 11 (continued from past months and to be continued)

- 39. Wait to fill in the "TO:" email address until you have thoroughly proofed the email and you are sure that it is exactly the way that you want it. This will keep you from accidentally sending an email prematurely. I have accidentally clicked on the send icon, when I really meant to click on the attachment icon on a half composed email. It was embarrassing.

- 40. Go easy on the punctuation when composing email. There’s nothing I hate more in an email than receiving one with a line of exclamation points or question marks. For example, I can’t believe they did that!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Are you sure???????????????????????????????? One exclamation point and one question mark will do nicely, thank you.

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