

News from Academic Computing

HMC COMPUTING COMMITTEE

As part of the WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) review, the HMC Computing Committee is looking at the “use of information technology to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of teaching and learning.” We are in the idea gathering phase and would appreciate input from the HMC community. Please either send e-mail to the committee (hmccc-1@hmc.edu), or drop by to talk with one or more of the committee members—Zach Benz (student rep), Bill Alves, Josh Hodas, Jeevan Hoole, Alex Rudolph, or Richard Parker.

To help suggest other areas, some of the topics the committee expects to consider include:

- ▼ Classroom facilities: What is the appropriate mix of Audio/Video/Computer equipment permanently installed in classrooms vs. available to be reserved and rolled into a class? How much equipment and of what type is needed? What are reasonable expectations for “ease of use” that will encourage use?
- ▼ Computer intensive courses: What facilities and procedures are needed to support and encourage intensive use of computers in conjunction with courses?
- ▼ Access to student records: For advising students, what records do you need access to?
- ▼ Computer labs: Do Academic Computing’s public labs offer the capabilities you need?
- ▼ Computer classrooms: What kinds of computer classrooms would you make use of in teaching your courses?
- ▼ Supported hardware and software lists: Are additional products in widespread use and need to be added to the lists? What can be removed?

A NEW UNIX MACHINE FOR ACADEMIC COMPUTING

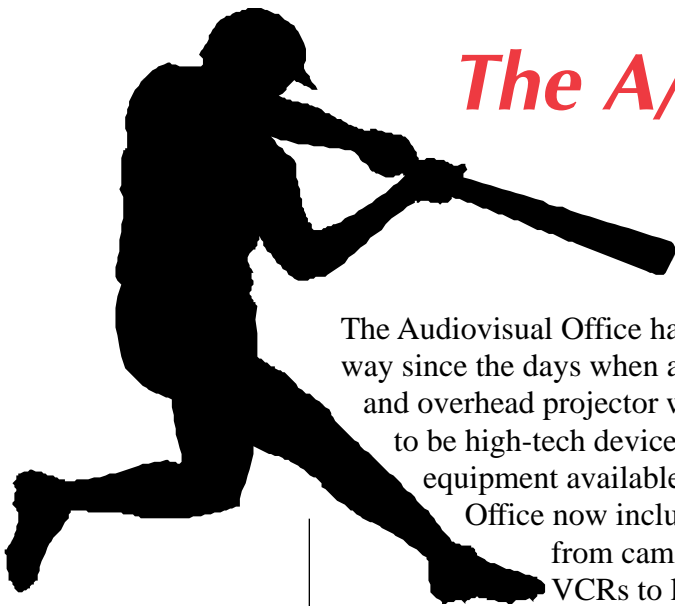
Academic Computing has installed a new general purpose Unix system which will replace *Osiris* over winter break. The new machine is a dual processor UltraSparc Enterprise 2 running Solaris 2.5.1 and has a 100 megabit Ethernet card for speedy connections to the network. All software has been freshly installed to make best use of the new 64-bit architecture of the machine. This new machine is now available for your use under the name *Orion*. AC.HMC.Edu. Your *Osiris* account will work and all your *Osiris* files are available. We encourage all of our *Osiris* users to try it out since the more use it gets the better we can get it set up for January.

If you find problems on *Orion* please send us mail and then complete your work using *Osiris*. We will attempt to take care of reports promptly and let you know.

Documentation on the software installed on *Orion* is available at <http://www3.hmc.edu/docs/>. Supported software includes the following: pine; elm; trn, tin, and nn (newsreaders); procmail; emacs; gcc/g++; Sun’s Java Development Kit; encrypt; TEX; perl; nedit (a user-friendly editor); metainit; g77; Maple; ispell; groff; and PGP.

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The A/V Office: It's a whole new ballgame!



The Audiovisual Office has come a long way since the days when a slide projector and overhead projector were considered to be high-tech devices. The equipment available from the A/V Office now includes everything from cam corders and VCRs to laptop computers and sophisticated projection devices. While these advances in the audiovisual technology available have made it possible to do many more interesting things in the classroom, they do come with a price.

The more complex equipment requires more time and expertise to set up and its expense means that we have fewer of each item available. Both of these factors make it necessary to have procedures in place for users to request audiovisual setups for a class or event. The entire text of the Audiovisual Policy can be found on the World Wide Web at http://www.hmc.edu/comp/policy/av_policy.html, but its main requirements are that A/V setup requests be made at least 48 hours in advance and that requests be made by sending e-mail to the address av-request@hmc.edu. This policy makes it possible for us to be sure that the equipment is available and that a technician will be on hand to setup and test it. The use of e-mail to request the setup allows us to schedule and track each request on the A/V calendar. We have also added an on-line form which can be used to request A/V setups. Users can access the on-line form from the Audiovisual Services menu on the Web at <http://www.hmc.edu/comp/av/>. The form should be especially useful for users who have never requested an A/V setup before, since it will walk them through all of the information the technician will need to schedule the setup.

A recent addition to the policy is the section on setup options. Traditionally there have been two setup options with the default being that the A/V technician sets up and tests the equipment for the user but doesn't stay for the duration of the class or event. We recently added a third option which should make it easier and faster for experienced users to request equipment. The three setup options are as follows:

A. The Audiovisual technician will bring the requested equipment to the designated room, set it up, and test it to make sure that it is working properly. The user is then responsible for running the equipment during the event. The technician will break down and pick up the equipment when the event is over. While 48 hours advance notice is preferred, this setup option can usually be requested 24 hours in advance as well. This is the default setup option for A/V requests.

B. The Audiovisual technician will bring the requested equipment to the designated room, set it up, test it, and will then remain in the room for the duration of the event to oversee running the equipment. This option requires at least 48 hours advance notice in order to be sure that a technician will be available for the duration of the event. Greater advance notice would be appreciated.

C. Users can request that equipment be set aside for them in the A/V office. Users can then pick up the equipment themselves from the A/V office, set it up and then return it to the office at the end of the event. Advance notice is still required for this setup option in order to make sure that the equipment will be available during the entire time period requested. Forty-eight

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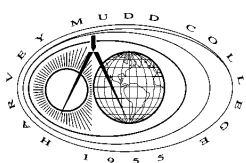
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Occasional Downtime is composed on a Apple Power Macintosh 6100/66 using Adobe PageMaker 6.0 and Microsoft Excel 5.0. The primary typefaces used are Times and Optima. We wish to thank Sally Rich Arroyo of the HMC Office of College Relations for all her help.

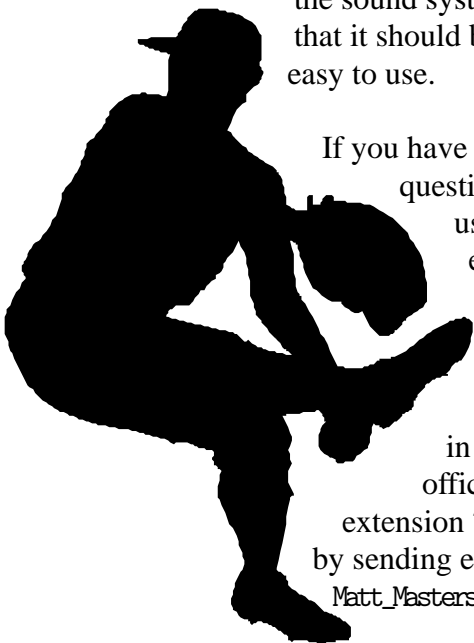


hours is still preferred, but 24 hours advance notice is also usually sufficient. Users will also be requested to “sign out” the equipment when they pick it up and will be advised when they need to return it.

Another new audiovisual service is the availability of two new computers—the “Mac on a cart” and the “PC on a cart.” The A/V Office now has two desktop computers on carts which are intended primarily for use in Galileo McAlister and Edwards Auditoria. They will be available for use in Galileo Pryne by next semester. The “Mac on a cart” is being used for Clinic presentations on Tuesday mornings and has been very well received. It has an internal CD-ROM drive and has also been used by several professors for multi-media presentations with great success. The Macintosh’s built-in sound can be plugged into the sound system in McAlister and Edwards for the full multi-media effect.

Next semester we should have another new service in Beckman Auditorium. Academic Computing has ordered a custom-built podium which will contain a resident Power Macintosh computer. The Macintosh will have an internal CD-ROM drive and a PC card so that it can also be used to run PC-specific software. It will be permanently hooked into the projection system in Beckman Auditorium and into the sound system so that it should be very easy to use.

If you have any questions about using A/V equipment please contact Matt Masterson in the A/V office at extension 73498 or by sending e-mail to Matt.Masterson@hmc.edu



Editor's Notes

If this month's issue of *Occasional Downtime* seems a little shorter than usual, that's because it is! This month we temporarily switched to a 6-page instead of an 8-page format in order to be able to publish the issue before the end of classes. We should be back to the normal 8-page format for the next issue in February.

This month's issue concentrates on various newsworthy items from Academic Computing. The Audiovisual Office has also gone through a lot of changes in the past year so it is the focus of the other main article. We've also included the solution to the crossword puzzle published in the last issue.

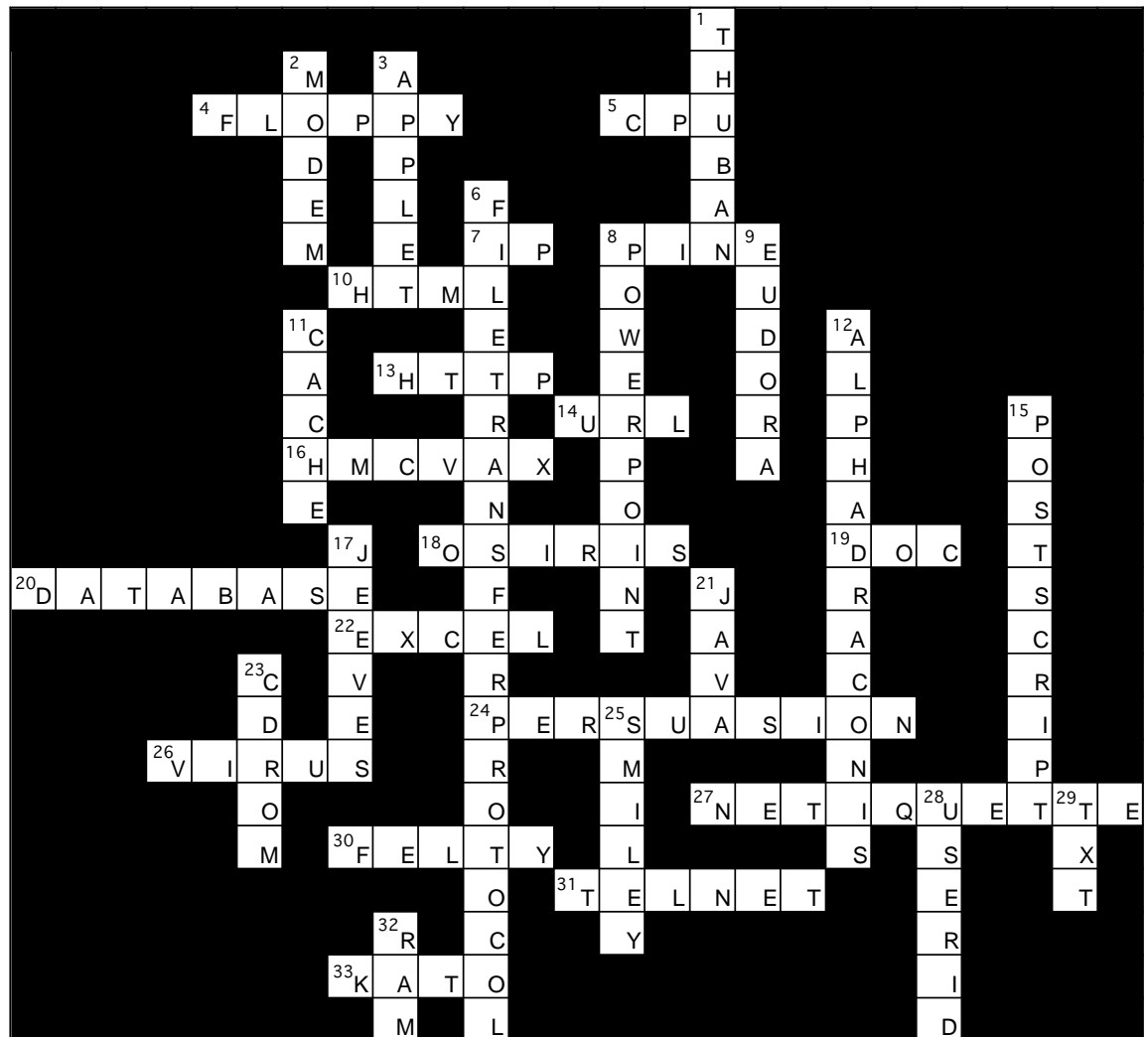
In the next issue of *Occasional Downtime* look for a return to our series on software use in the academic departments at HMC. We also expect to publish some articles on computer ethics and software piracy in subsequent issues.

One of the news items this month is the arrival of a new staff member in the departments of Academic Computing and Administrative Computing. We hope you will take a few minutes to welcome Beverly Kelley to HMC.

—Elizabeth Hodas

Occasional Downtime is published bimonthly by the Academic Computing Department at Harvey Mudd College. It is also available in a variety of formats on the HMC Web Server. Comments and questions can be directed to downtime@hmc.edu.

Solution to October's Crossword Puzzle



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One major difference you will notice on *Orion* is that e-mail is now delivered to the user's home directory. You won't have the problem of running out of quota on the mail disk because of your scratch files. Mail will be in the Mail/mbx directory in your home directory.

Over winter break *Orion* will completely replace *Osiris* which will be retired to other uses. At that time *Orion* will answer to both *Orion* and *Osiris* so no e-mail will be lost.

To ease the transition to *Orion* some of the responsibilities of Chris Marble and Joe Youn have been changed.

Chris Marble, Unix Systems Manager

Chris sets up and maintains Unix machines for Academic Computing and for other academic departments on request. This can include both departmental machines and desktop machines that professors may have. Machines used for class work will have precedence over personal machines.

Supported operating systems include: Solaris 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, and 2.5.1; HP-UX 9.01, 9.05, 10.10, and 10.20; and IRIX 5.3 and 6.2

If drives and media are available Chris will set up backup systems for machines upon request. Changing of media is up to the appropriate department to provide. Machines in Academic Computing include

the general-purpose Sun SPARCs—*Osiris* and its upcoming replacement, *Orion*. Chris is responsible for creating accounts, supporting the introductory Computer Science classes and installing and maintaining supported software.

Joe Youn, Information Resources Manager

Joe splits his time between two departments: HMC Academic Computing and Claremont Intercampus Networking Effort (CINE). He is responsible for maintaining and improving the “Information Resources” for both HMC and the Claremont Colleges.

The resources that Joe maintains include the HMC and CINE Web servers, list servers, and central e-mail servers, the HMC user database, the HMC FTP server, and the CINE News server. In addition, Joe maintains the machines that host these resources.

NEW STAFF MEMBER

Beverly Kelley is the new PC Support Specialist for both Academic and Administrative Computing. She will be responsible for technical support of PC's and related problems. She graduated from California State University San Bernardino in 1993 with a B.S. in Business Administration, with an emphasis in Information Management Systems.

Prior to coming to HMC, Ms. Kelley worked as a PC Support Specialist at Chromalloy Los Angeles. Her primary task involved providing technical support of PC hardware/software issues. She also provided in-house training classes on various applications, and assisted in the administration of a Novell network with 100 users. Ms. Kelley also teaches software application classes at Chaffey College (part-time) since June 1995.

Her hobbies and interests are reading, skiing, working out, and PC's of course. 🐾

Tricks & Tips

& Tricks

RECOVERING A FILE WITH THE SALVAGE COMMAND

Everyone has at some point accidentally deleted a crucial file. Sometimes a file can also become corrupted or damaged for some reason. Sometimes it is still possible to recover at least part or all of the file, however.

Anytime a new version of a file is saved on *Kato*, it is very likely that your old version is still recoverable, since most programs typically save their changes to a new file and delete the old file. *Kato* provides a very good file undeletion capability available on all of the home directory volumes.

To try to undelete an older version of your document, go into the directory where the document used to reside and type SALVAGE at a DOS prompt. The usage of the utility should be fairly self-explanatory. If you do have any questions about its usage, consider asking an on-duty consultant or write `pc-system-1@hmc.edu`.

Please note that if you are close to exceeding your disk quota on your home directory on *Kato*, it is very likely that your document save may fail. Some applications are very poorly designed in this aspect and may even give a General Protection Fault error and die if they run out of space (PowerPoint may be like this). If the application does not fail and you simply get an error message that you are out of disk space, you can still save the file to the local hard disk. You can then clean up your home directory on *Kato* and save the file to your home directory. 🐾

*Trick & Tip contributed by Jeffrey Lawson,
Student PC Systems Manager*

QUESTIONS *and* ANSWERS

Q: How do I check my disk quotas on *Osiris*, *Kato* and *Thuban*?

A: Disk quotas for students vary from system to system. On *Osiris* the default disk quota is 20MB. On *Kato* it is 10MB and on *Thuban* it is 5MB.

To check how much of your disk quota you have used on *Osiris* type the following command at the command line:

```
quota -v
```

On *Thuban* type the following command at the command line:

```
SHOW QUOTA
```

On a Macintosh single-click on the icon that represents your home directory on *Kato*. Select Get Info from the File menu (or press Command-I). One of the pieces of information displayed is the amount of disk space used by the folder. Subtract that from your total disk quota and you'll know how much you have free.

On a PC go into MS-DOS. Switch to your home directory on *Kato* (H:) and type the command NDIR /SPA. Look for the line labelled "User volume restrictions." The first column shows your restriction (total quota). The second column shows how much you have used and the final column shows how much you have available.

Q: I've exceeded my quota for e-mail on *Osiris* and now I can't even open my inbox in order to delete old mail. What can I do?

A: Send an e-mail message to `system@osiris.ac.hmc.edu`. The system administrator can temporarily increase your quota so that you can open your inbox and delete old mail. This problem will soon go away with the introduction of the new general-purpose Unix system, *Orion*.

Q: I want Eudora to check to see if I have new mail automatically. How do I do that?

A: Under the Special menu select Settings... (It may be called Switches... if you are using an older version of Eudora). Click on the "Checking Mail" icon. You should see an option for "Check for mail every ___ minutes." Type in a number in the empty box and then click OK. It's best to choose a time increment of at least 15 minutes. Checking more often than that puts an unnecessary load on the POP server. To disable this feature, just leave the box empty.

Another option under "Checking Mail" is the "Leave mail on server for ___ days." This feature should **not** be checked unless you are using Eudora at home over PPP and also use Eudora in your office. If you only use Eudora in your office and you check this option Eudora will leave a copy of all of your mail on the POP server instead of deleting it whenever you download new mail. Eventually this will cause problems for Eudora as it will time out searching through all of your old mail looking for new mail. 🐉