

SalukiTECHNews

MOBILE DAWG OFFERS CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY

Mobile Dawg, the Southern Illinois University tablet initiative, is on its way to becoming a reality. SIU is planning on greeting incoming 2013 – 2014 freshmen with their own new Dell Latitude 10 tablet, pre-loaded with full licenses of Windows 8, Office 2013 and Office 365. While these tools may be bought at your favorite local or online geek shop, the special differentiators for SIU students at the Carbondale campus are the Mobile Dawg applications.

The Mobile Dawg suite consists of integration with SIU events, calendars, campus maps, news readers, people finders, dining menus, course information, SalukiNet and much more (see photo above). Sure, much of this information is available on desktops through different campus websites, but this information will be available on the student's own, wireless-enabled tablet, providing them with virtually everything they need in one small device, wherever they are on campus, in one application. Also available through Mobile

Dawg is access to e-textbooks, clicker functionality, Desire 2 Learn, Banner and locally developed applications (written by some of the campus' brightest student developers). One application provides integration with the Morris Library system, One Search, for access to the

looking for feedback on new and innovative ways we can add features to Mobile Dawg, so we've included a "Submit an App" app. Simple and intuitive in design, it lets students and users tell us what they want to see in a tablet application.



Thanks to funding from Dell, Microsoft and Intel, and some great determination from a very dedicated local team consisting of Project Manager Kris Guye, LAN Administrator Rob Craig, Systems Support by Jerry Richards and his team of magicians and developers Janet Douglas and students William Welling and

Jake Bock, we are on track for a late July completion of a first pass on the application.

Additionally, Dell developers will be augmenting our local efforts. When the incoming freshmen show up at Carbondale in August, they will have an incredibly unique experience, care of Southern Illinois University and Mobile Dawg!

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT PROJECTS

SEE HUGE SAVINGS

In the past year, since implementing a monthly buy of computer equipment from Dell, SIU's Information Technology Department has saved more than **\$400,000**. Dell orders should be turned in by the 15th of the month to Linda Vineyard (lkvine@siu.edu or 453-5384).

IT's Network Engineering recent purchases from several projects



had a list price of \$2.1 million. The discounted price was \$799,409, for a savings of \$1.3 million.

In regards to the Mobile Dawg project of supplying first-year students with tablets, Dell gives SIU a discount of more than \$150 per tablet. Multiplied by nearly 3,000 tablets, the savings are estimated to be \$450,000.

Coming Soon: Microsoft Outlook Training

With the migration of faculty and staff e-mail from Google to an on-campus Microsoft Exchange 2013 solution, the Department of Information Technology will be offering classroom training sessions starting in mid-July and running through the fall semester.

The 1.5-hour training sessions will provide the basics of Outlook 2013 email and calendaring, with face-to-face explanations, hands-on activities and a time for questions and answers. Future classes are being planned to include Microsoft Lync functionality related to web conferencing and phone integration.

Want to know more? The specific class schedule and registration process is being finalized, with the initial campus organizations receiving preference for the mid-July classes. Other departments will receive their target dates for training and conversion as the roll-out continues. Stay tuned for more information.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES DATA CENTERS

Data Center Environmental Upgrades

IT's Data Center Air Conditioning replacement project is underway. Initial construction began the first week of June, and consists of building containment walls to protect the running equipment in the Data Center from any dust and/or other particles. Demolition and removal of the first unit to be replaced will begin upon completion of the containment walls.

This project will replace two aging Data Center AC units. These units are approximately 35 years old and have far exceeded their serviceable life. The new units can each provide more than twice the cooling capacity than the ones they are replacing.

The new units are designed specifically for Data Center applications. They each can provide 30 tons of cooling (direct expansion units), full humidification and de-humidification controls, higher airflow capacity (CFM), and full-computerized controls all at a higher level of efficiency as compared to the

existing units. This project is on track to be completed by mid-summer.

Secondary Data Center Site

Construction is nearly complete on a secondary "mini" data center site. This site consists of a secure room in which a "Liebert Smart Row" environment has been installed. The "Smart Row" consists of three full-sized server and equipment racks, a five-ton air conditioning unit, fire suppression and UPS backup supplied power.

This site will be used to house replicas of mission critical applications and services in the event that the main data center is offline, damaged, or in the worst case, destroyed.

Upon completion of the construction, the new "Smart Row" will undergo system startup tests on the AC, fire suppression and battery backup systems. When this is completed, all networking components will be added.

The project is scheduled to be online mid to late summer 2013.