Infrastructure project pays off in 1998

New College network delivers 100Mb connectivity across campus

Almost every campus building, including all student residence halls and townhouses, are now fully wired and live with fast ethernet data connections to the College network. This means that students in their rooms and faculty and staff in offices can connect network-compatible desktop computers directly to the College network for ‘round-the-clock access to e-mail, shared directories, and the web. At this point in time, 151 faculty and staff members now have direct network connections, while others are in line to receive computers or upgrades to complete the network project. Resident students with network-compatible computers can follow OIT directions to plug in and go! Off-campus dial-up connectivity will soon be available to students, faculty, and staff with appropriate systems. See page 2 for more info, and we’ll see you on the Internet!

Telephone cutover provides voicemail to all resident students

As of December 29, 1997, all students in campus residence halls and townhouses have been assigned personal voicemail accounts. The Meridian Mail Voice Messaging system is user friendly and provides step-by-step directions after you log into your mailbox. Features include: separate greetings for internal callers and external callers, temporary greetings for when you’re away from campus, distribution lists for sending voicemail to a group, message forwarding, and more. Tip sheets are available from your RA.

Academic computer lab upgrade improves computing speed for students

CP1, the academic computer lab on the first floor of Search Hall, is in the midst of an upgrade from 66MHz 486 machines to 200MHz Pentiums. More than half the machines have been replaced to date, with the rest to follow shortly. Take a test drive on one of the new machines—you’ll appreciate the difference! At the same time, all four of the academic labs have been converted from the original network to the new high-speed network, which provides faster access to on-campus resources such as e-mail.

Computer migration offers network-compatible machines to full-time faculty and staff

The College has committed to providing network-compatible desktop computers to all full-time faculty and staff identified as having need for computing resources. In the week and a half before the holidays, eight faculty members and twelve staff members received new networked machines.
Connect your computer to the College network

ON CAMPUS

Students

Students in residence halls and townhouses need fairly high-end equipment to connect to the College network, but the rewards are great—access to e-mail, Internet resources, and shared directories without the hassles of dialing in. Imagine no busy signals, no mysterious disconnects, no interruptions from call waiting! And of course, direct network connections are much, much faster than even high-speed modem connections. If you have a Win95 or Macintosh 7.5 or better system, with a fast ethernet 100BaseT network interface card (NIC) installed, you’re ready to go. Recommended NICs include Intel’s EtherExpress PRO/100 and 3Com’s Fast EtherLink 100BaseTX for Win95 systems and the AsanetiFast 10/100 for Macs. Your RA can provide you with the proper “Cat 5 patch cord” or data cable, along with OIT documentation for configuring your machine to connect with the network and separate documentation for installing and/or configuring e-mail software.

If you’re interested in having a NIC installed in your personal computer, you can take advantage of upcoming campus visits by an outside vendor who will install and configure the proper NIC for you, at a reasonable cost (possibly $120-$150). See your RA for more details.

Faculty & Staff

All full-time faculty and most full-time staff members in networked campus buildings are scheduled to be brought up on the network. You may be waiting for a network interface card (NIC) for your current system, or for a network-compatible computer. OIT’s Computing Support group is working hard to meet your needs as quickly as possible.

Unfortunately, a handful of buildings are not currently on the new network, including Smith House, Paley Design Center, Weber Studio, Art Centers 1 and 2, and Hughes Gym. If your office is in one of these buildings, OIT will make every effort to provide you with dial-up access to the network via modem.

OFF CAMPUS

Students, Faculty & Staff

Access to the College network from off campus requires a desktop computer running Win95 or Mac OS 7.5 and greater, plus a high-speed modem (at least 28.8kbps). Documentation on configuring dial-up networking, as well as any necessary software, will be available at the Student Help Desk on the second floor of Search Hall after January 12, 1998.

“Necessary software” requires that you bring blank, high-density disks to trade for OIT installer disks. If your system has Win95 and Office 97 installed, you will not need additional software, as the full Outlook mail program is included in Office 97. OIT is currently exploring the possibility of supplying the no-cost, pared-down version, Outlook Express, for both Win95 users without Office 97 and for Mac users. Our current testing of this new product indicates that it may provide an excellent e-mail solution for the College community.

OIT web pages

Now you’re up on the network, check out our web site at: www.philacol.edu/it
The “HOT! News” link lists late-breaking information about the status of OIT services and resources. Also available are tip sheets, system recommendations, newsletters, and documentation.

Telecommunications tips

for resident students

Phone Line

If you’re having difficulty with your line, consider the following possibilities:

- Is your phone set plugged into the proper wall jack? “Voice” or phone jacks are differentiated from “Data” or network jacks by a number containing the letter “V,” such as 49VA001.

- Make sure the batteries in your portable phone are charged! Test your phone in a neighbor’s phone jack to confirm that your phone set is working.

- To dial outside the College, you must first dial “8.” To dial outside our local area, enter 8 and then your ACUS code.

If you’re still having difficulty with your phone line, contact your RA, who will report the problem for service.

Voicemail

- Voice mailbox numbers for students are based on phone extensions. Students in single rooms will have a four-digit mailbox matching their extension. Students sharing an extension with roommates will have a five-digit mailbox made up of the extension plus their “menu number.” Call your own phone number (say x5555). If the menu prompts you to “press 3 for <your name>,” it means that your voice mailbox number is 55553. You must discover your own voice mailbox number to access your account.

- When you know your mailbox number, dial the voicemail system at x2500, enter your mailbox number followed by the # sign, then enter your temporary password (same as mailbox number), again followed by #.

- Follow the voicemail instructions to record your personal greetings and to change your password for security.

Any questions about using your voicemail account can be answered by your RA.