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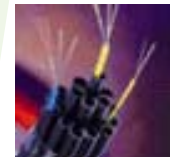
faculty/staff

New Rice-Eccles Video Scoreboard

The Office of Information Technology (Media Solutions) produces the scoreboard show for the new, high-definition scoreboard located at Rice Eccles Stadium. Because of the magic of digital video production and the capacity of fiber optic lines, the University realized significant cost savings by serving the Stadium and the Huntsman Center scoreboards from one control room, located near the Huntsman Center. To help keep costs down, and to eliminate the need for those dreaded orange cones in the road, NetCom - OIT installed more than a mile of fiber optic cable by literally blowing it through one continuous underground tube that links the control room and the stadium. Pushed by air, the fiber optic cable glides through the tube at speeds of up to 150 ft per minute for uninterrupted runs of up to 14,000 feet. Imagine a very long pea-shooter and you'll get the picture!

The control room is staffed by four or five individuals who can switch among 3 cameras located at the stadium to push the video from the cameras, to the switcher and back to the screen in the stadium. The game is recorded digitally and then can be replayed instantly from different camera angles, as well as edited together for highlight "reels" - - no reels though, just bits and bytes recorded on a high-speed disk drive! The control room is also equipped with a digital graphics unit. (Ever wonder where those labels come from at the bottom of the screen? Or how the drum and feather rotate on the screen?) The scoreboard show is scripted to include the band, cheerleaders, announcements, sponsored promotions and, of course, THE GAME!

The University of Utah has taken advantage of this state-of-the-art, digital equipment to entertain our fans. We've got the game covered. Go Utes!



IT managers

Campus Distributed Firewall Implementation Plan

The new Cisco Firewall Service Module blades are due to arrive any day. The blades will give administrators for almost the entire U of U network space the ability to create, maintain and monitor their own firewall rulesets. The NOC is ready to start an aggressive implementation plan and it is expected that the blades will be installed in all of the distribution nodes before the end of the year. We already have a volunteer to help us test a pilot program, and we anticipate starting that at the beginning of December. The campus NOC and ISO are working on a two hour tutorial to familiarize administrators with some firewall basics and are planning to present the following information:

1. Firewall basics
 - a. Stateful and stateless firewalls
 - b. Network protocols and ports
 - c. Our standard lists and why we recommend them
2. Cisco basics
 - a. Web configuration
 - b. CLI configuration
3. Hands on training

We will plan on several sessions in January, and will be flexible depending on demand. Class size will be kept between 6 and 10. We request that admins attend before they are given access to their virtual interface. The all-managers list will be used to keep admins informed of tutorial dates and times.

The NOC and ISO are also working on creating ruleset templates for varying degrees of security needs and are planning on making them available before the firewalls are installed. We are all very excited about this next step in the evolution of our security strategy and are hoping that all administrators will take advantage of this great opportunity.

ITS Data Center Open House

On Thursday, December 16, Health Sciences Information Technology Services (ITS) will be hosting a special Data Center Open House for Campus IT. This open house is designed specifically for IT professionals with the hope to provide a more in-depth understanding of the Centralized Data Center operations as well as the scope of Health Sciences IT operations. Since much of ITS's work centers around healthcare, we think you will find this tour interesting and informative.

ITS computer professionals will present mini-workshops offering technical discussions and Q&A sessions on topics such as the Enterprise Data Warehouse and Information Security. Attendees will have the privilege of touring the secured Data Center and the Network Operations Center.

Formal invitations will be sent around the end of November. For more information please contact Nicolle.Eberhard@hsc.utah.edu.

Campus Network Statistics

Uptime stats for the campus backbone network for the last 30 days (10-18-04 to 11-18-04) are now online. These are measurements of the availability of the monitored services from various locations on campus. They include scheduled downtime.

Example: the line "LIB - ns.utah.edu" measures the availability of ns.utah.edu from the Marriott Library node.

View the stats at <http://www.it.utah.edu/CBN11-18-04.html>.