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Campus Alarm Project (Logiplex Replacement)

In February 2003, the Campus Alarm and Access Committee (CAAC) was formed to investigate whether or not existing campus security systems are able to serve current and future campus maintenance, security and alarm requirements. It became apparent to the committee that the aging Logiplex system would not fully satisfy many campus needs. A decision was made to seek an upgrade or replacement of the existing system.

Key Logiplex users and stakeholders were invited to participate in focus groups to help formulate system requirements. Campus alarm administrators and decision makers responded to an online poll which further defined the requirements. These efforts resulted in the development of a needs-driven Request for Proposal (RFP) which was distributed to qualified vendors.

On May 1, the RFP award was announced. The successful bidder, Johnson Controls, will provide a product called Software House.

The initial phase of the project will include the implementation of the 'head-end' of the new alarm system. System hardware and software configuration will be developed in consultation with the Office of Information Technology Systems and Security groups. Johnson Controls will design and implement the new system.

The Logiplex system will eventually be phased out. Until then, it will remain in use indefinitely, and will operate simultaneously with the new Software House system. Phase I implementation is underway with substantial completion scheduled for September 2004.

The CAAC members and other project participants are excited about this new system and the numerous benefits associated with the upgrade.

June 2004 ITC Report

Direct Deposit and Electronic Pay Stubs

Did you know that you can use the Campus Information System to view your paycheck? Simply visit <https://gate.acs.utah.edu> and log on using your uNID and password. Under "My Human Resources/Payroll" select the "My HR Home" link. Next, select the link for "Payroll, Taxes and Salary" and continue on to "View Paycheck". There you will see everything you would want to know about your paycheck, including your federal withholding allowances, current and year-to-date earnings, tax withholdings, and all other deductions for insurance, parking, savings, etc. You may also select "View a Different Payment" and review your pay history, one check at a time.

If you consider this capability, and if you also take advantage of Direct Deposit, there is no need to ever deal with paper checks or check stubs again. Currently, about 3,500 employees receive a paper paycheck each pay day. About 15,000 employees have chosen Direct Deposit. All new employees are required to participate in this program. If all of us used direct deposit, the University would save the cost of expensive check stock, printing checks, tracking down and replacing lost and stolen checks, and maintaining extensive listings of uncashed checks. We would also be doing our part to reduce or eliminate the amount of fraudulent and forged payroll checks.

Jeffrey West, Assoc. VP for Finance and Accounting, explains that direct deposit not only saves the University money, it also is more efficient for the employee and moves us all towards the goal of paperless processing. He suggests that every University of Utah employee should talk to the Payroll Office now about getting set up with direct deposit for payroll, if you aren't already part of this program. At some point in the future, direct deposit will become mandatory for all employees.

The Campus Information Technology Council (ITC) is supportive of moving in this direction.

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ITC Report Continued

Video-on-Demand

Several campus organizations are introducing video-on-demand services to support their academic or operational missions. It is expected that many more video-on-demand applications will emerge over time. So that these applications may be properly supported, it was proposed that a committee of stakeholders be created to address delivery options, network impacts, standards, and any other issues to ensure successful roll-out of video-on-demand services. The ITC voted in support of creating a "video on demand" committee.

Knowledge and Digital Asset Management

Knowledge Management (KM) is a concept or process where knowledge acquired and developed is gathered, organized and disseminated. Current trends in Knowledge Management consider all receptacles, containers, services, personal computers, servers, databases and data centers to organize, codify and provide ways to deliver knowledge to the campus community. It can be digitized, mounted on a server and made available immediately to clients connected to the network.

The goal of a good knowledge management system is to deliver or provide access to the right knowledge at the right time and the right place. Orderly access to knowledge assets gives an organization a competitive edge over other organizations. The key to extracting value from KM is to understand where needs exist and design applications to purposefully address them. Higher education's needs focus on the traditional goals of higher education, campus clients and processes that serve their needs.

In the University of Utah's case, faculty, students, patients and staff acquire and develop the knowledge. They also make up the primary user groups or clients for which KM is designed to support. KM's success depends on how easily these campus users can access and share information and become more productive in their work.

The Information Technology Council in its April 2004 meeting formed a small committee to give recommendations for a KM process on the U campus. The committee, comprised of campus members with experience in KM, outlined plans as to how KM can be applied.

The Committee identified the following areas KM can be applied. The areas include research, course development and resources, administrative services, student and alumni services. In each of these areas there is overlap and some elements of KM already exist, e.g., the student and faculty portals. Other portals as well as search engines would be good instruments of KM and are being considered.

The KM Committee envisions a core of centrally coordinated issues that need to be resolved in order to move the campus forward. These issues include a vision of where the campus needs to be in the future, areas where KM should first be applied and the identification of key people who could lead each of these areas, including course development, research, administrative services, student services, patient services and alumni services. These will all be coordinated together and written up in a KM plan.