



Webmasters' User Group

promoting Web publishing at Western Michigan University since 1999

Notes: 11/18/09

In Attendance

Nancy Kroes, OIT; Ken Schaefer, Admissions; Deb Withee, COAHD; Eric Howes, Sindecuse; Larry Boekeloo, Sindecuse; Nancy Meister, Student Affairs; Nicole Crocker, AE Marketing; Alex Aivars, CAS; Anita Ludwig, Legal; Amy Brimmer, HR; Carolyn Fink, Student Affairs; Matt Newton, EUP; Joe Fee, TEC; Scott Puckett, Enrollment Management; Rashad Thomas, History; James Amos, CAS Tech

Security Warning

We've had several instances of WMU Web sites being attacked. We think that the Webmasters' computers were infected by a Trojan Horse that captured passwords. What we saw were ftp connections made from other countries where the site, file-by-file was downloaded and seconds later uploaded. The new files contained a line of malware code which browsers may or may not have picked up on and prevented people from viewing the page. The solution was to check and clean the infected computer, after the infected computer was clean, change the site password, and reload the site. Keeping our fingers crossed that that resolves it!

All users of WMU computing resources are responsible for practicing safe computing, which includes having a current version of anti-virus software installed and enabled. WMU provides Symantec Endpoint, which is downloaded and installed from GoWMU. For work computers, be sure to download the managed version so your computer is automatically scanned weekly. For more information about computing security, please see http://www.wmich.edu/broncotech/index.php?title=Security_Checklist

Another product that I (NancyK) use, in addition to Symantec Endpoint is Ad-Aware. Ad-Aware protects against spyware, Trojans, rootkits, hijackers, keyloggers and more, and is available as a free download at: http://www.lavasoft.com/products/ad_aware_free.php. I try to run an Ad-Aware scan at least once per month, in addition to the weekly Symantec Endpoint automatic scan.

If you need assistance cleaning an infected machine, contact your departmental LAN manager. If you do not have one, contact the Help Desk, 7-HELP (4357).

WUG Leadership

The executive committee for 2010 is: President, Nancy Kroes; Vice President, Scott Puckett; Webmaster, Deb Withee; Members at Large, Alex Aivars and Matthew Newton. Please see the officers' page on the WUG site for additional information.

Writing for the Web

We will go over some points noted here: <http://www.wmich.edu/wug/writing/> just to give you food for thought as you look at your sites and revise content prior to moving into the new template in 2010.

Round Table

Scott P. has received questions from last month's Facebook topic and will get back to those who are requesting links from Admissions Facebook page to their Facebook page. He's also looking at a redesign of the Admissions site using the current template and may use student video blogs.

Joe F. is moving sites to a new server.

Matt N. is optimizing EUP Web sites. Did a usability student through Userfly – looking to increase students ability to find program information.

Carolyn F. is cleaning code.

James A. is looking to fix password protection pages.

Rashad T. has a new copier in the department that he's trying to get working with SMTP.

Amy B. nothing new.

Anita L. nothing new.

Nicole C. working with Bronco Transit and Indian Trails on a mobile site that will allow students to check bus schedules with their mobile devices. Also working with videos.

Alex A. is moving sites to the current template.

Nancy M. is working on the Children's Place site. Using analytics to document which pages people look at and modifying content. Student Affairs has about a dozen sites that will need to move to the new format of URL – working with Thom Myers and OIT account coordinator on that.

Deb W. working with Admissions and Marketing departments to look at marketing departments and not COEHD as a whole.

Eric H. is reviewing the Sindecuse site and looking at content. Also flu topics so the H1N1 site is the one place to come for information and the flu registration database.

Ken S. nothing new.

Nancy K. has taken over the BroncoTech wiki site for OIT tutorials. Will be keeping it updated until such time as a new CMS is installed for the University and then revisit whether this is the way for OIT to proceed (using a wiki format).

Next Meeting

No WUG meeting in December. Have happy and safe holidays and see you back here on Wednesday, January 27 at 9 a.m.