

Campus Internet allows for graphical interface

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Executive Editor

When students sign on to the Internet this fall semester via their campus account, they may find their surfing experience has a new look.

This summer several Internet access points on campus were upgraded to support Internet graphics with the help of a graphical browser.

Not all computers that have Internet access will have graphics support.

Five computer with Internet graphics interface will be available in the Academic Resource Center located in the University Center. Ten PC's will be equipped with the graphics software in Collier's Computer Lab.

According to Computer Center Director, John Wadkins, 98% of students use the Internet responsibly. However, the threat of security breach has increase with the graphical browsers.

"The graphical browser software that is coming down now is just pretty much wide open, you can do what you want to do with it," Wadkins says, "So it forces us to be on our toes more, but we do not want to monitor anyone. At the same time, there are things you can do that can hurt, and it ends up hurting the other students."

As for why graphical interface isn't available everywhere, Dr. Garry Warren, dean of information technologies, said, "The graphical browser opens up the system more and allows those who wish to abuse security greater freedom to do it. That is why we are having to be very selective with where we are going to place these computers with the graphical browser on them. There is a possible security problem there (in that it) will allow the user to go certain places and have access to certain data that is protected."

Regular text-based access points on campus have increased vastly over the summer term.

"The Internet access has increased considerably, because in the ARC we will have approximately 18 machines that will have Internet access," Wadkins said, "In Collier Lab we will have 20 PC's that have Internet access."

Both labs previously only had two computers with Internet access.

Wadkins added, "Those students who are taking programming classes and need access to the student test system or music operating system, any of those PCs that they have a programming account, it will also allow them access there."

There are still computers at various points around campus that can access the Internet by modem.

Internet is available in Keller Hall as well as Rice Hall.

The Collier Lab will accommodate late night web surfers by being open until midnight on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday.

The Computer Center has been closed as a public access lab and has becomes an interactive teaching lab.

Wadkins explained that this will "provide the faculty with more capability for a more interactive type teaching situation." The Collier Lab has been doubled in size in order to compensate for any extra traffic.

Registration for Internet access can be acquired at Collier Library and in the Academic Resource Center, but Internet accounts will not be processed until after registration ends. According to Coordinator of Information Technologies Polly Mumma, several faculty will be distributing registration forms in their class. Mumma added that "we have several faculty that are required in their classes to use Internet this semester."

For those who are wary of logging on to the net, seminars are already scheduled for one week in the months of September, October, and November.

Anyone with problems or concerns about Internet access or security should contact Polly Mumma at extension 4899 on campus or 760-4899 off campus or by campus mail at box 5131.