

Undergraduate Technology Concerns

Knowledge of available resources: Students are not knowledgeable of the computer resources available on campus. Information should be delivered to students via MyUCDavis with a channel. Placing materials at LRC and Computer Labs keeps students not utilizing those resources from gaining knowledge.

Geckomail Limitations: The address book cannot be used to send email to users, which makes it easy to send messages to multiple users. There is no way to automatically add users to your address book upon sending a message. Plain text reply makes forwarded messages messy and difficult to read. Spam filter does not catch enough of the bad messages and does not integrate well with Geckomail.

Primary Campus Email Account: There is no way to set a non-UC Davis email address as your primary campus email account. The mail forwarding feature at the computing accounts site should be accessible within Geckomail.

MyUCDavis: Students like the portal but wish for better speeds and higher usage by faculty. The portal could be better utilized as a means to get information to students by creating channels that contain material aimed at students rather than catering primarily to staff and faculty. The site is too resource intensive for computers with old processors and using dial-up access.

Viruses and Spyware/Adware: Students are not aware that Symantec is being offered for free through the university. Better publicity and a direct download link in MyUCDavis would increase usage. Students don't know what to do or where to turn when their computers become compromised. Possibly include spyware removal tools on the Internet Tools CD.

Computer Lab Availability: Labs are often overcrowded and students don't know where to go in order to get quick access to a computer. Consider converting the MU lab to a quick access only and making the printers in the room low-volume printers. Create high volume print rooms for print jobs over ~20 pages. Computer rooms with high volume printers and higher access time limits do not need to be located as centrally as the MU.

Wireless Print Stations: Having the ability to easily print from a wirelessly enabled laptop to a printer designated for the purpose would be helpful in alleviating computer lab traffic.

Wireless Internet Access: Wireless access should be expanded to better cover the area it purports to currently cover. The coverage area should encompass the entire campus so that you are always able to connect to the internet and retrieve information. The entire library should be covered at a minimum. The requirement to log in with the Kerberos password keeps some devices from being able to connect. Many students are unaware of the need to go to wireless.ucdavis.edu when logging onto the network. A proxy server could be implemented to route all wireless computers to the website upon activation of the internet browser.

MyUCDavis Gradebook: The feature is underutilized by faculty and students would like to monitor their grades throughout the quarter.

Paper Usage: Paper conservation should be prioritized and faculty should be urged to accept assignments on double-sided paper. Printers in the computer labs should only print double-sided and all paper should be recycled post-consumer product.

Energy Efficiency: Computers in labs should be set to conserve as much energy as possible by going into standby while idle.

Library Computers: There should be more computers in the library without access restrictions i.e. MyUCDavis. The ability to print papers and such should also be made available. Weekend computer labs in the library would prove very useful.

MyUCDavis Planner: Turn on courses by default so that student can see their schedule in the planner. It is not clear that you must customize the planner in order to have your courses show automatically.

Better Computer Support: Students are expected to have computers at school but there is no personal support for them when things go wrong. Many students just stop using the computers that they have invested nearly one thousand dollars for and resort to using overcrowded computer labs. Quote: "If the university requires students to have a computer, it should make owning a computer affordable, safe (from viruses or spyware), and useful as a learning tool (by making course information available online)."

Cheap Software: Students would like to be able to download cheap software from a website or buy the disk without accompanying documentation if that would decrease the price. They would like to be able to get the same types of prices available to campus departments because of the licensing program.

Computer Training: Courses for software and hardware training should be made available to students. If they already exist, they should be made more public.

Submitted by Adam Barr, Undergraduate CCFIT Representative