

# IS&T

News about **I**nformation **S**ervices and **T**echnology throughout **MIT**

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**New Technologies Bring the MIT Libraries to You**

• Heather Denny

**S**earching for library books, journals, CDs, and other resources has come a long way since the card catalog. With online catalogs and rapid advances in technology, libraries can send alerts about new books directly to your computer, offer social bookmarking capabilities, and feature more intuitive online search functions. Many of these innovative ideas have been tested in MIT Libraries' beta projects. The web experts at the Libraries continue to experiment with new technologies to make accessing information easier; the Libraries invite members of the MIT community to try out these new tools.

**The Latest Word on New Titles**

Imagine getting notified as soon as the latest book in your field – or that CD you've been wanting to hear – arrives at the MIT Libraries. You can get up-to-date information about new books, music CDs, and DVDs at the Libraries by email, RSS feed, or on the Libraries' web site. New titles are posted weekly at

[libraries.mit.edu/help/rss/barton](http://libraries.mit.edu/help/rss/barton) for over 60 subjects from "Graphic Novels and Manga" to "Economics" to "Nanoscience and Nanotechnology." You can choose to subscribe to RSS feeds by subject or browse through subject areas on the web site. Links

to catalog records in Barton, the MIT Libraries' online catalog, are provided for each title so you can find out if the item is currently available and where to locate it.

**Virtual Browsersy**

For Humanities titles, also check out the beta version of the Humanities Library's Virtual Browsersy at [libraries.mit.edu/browsersy](http://libraries.mit.edu/browsersy)

A blog format lets you browse the Humanities shelves online for new and topical books. You'll find biographies and prizewinners, as well as a "Hidden in the Stacks" category that features library-staff favorites. From the Virtual Browsersy you can link to book reviews, see other books by the same author, check a book's availability, and discuss books with others in the MIT community.

**del.icio.us Reference**

The Libraries maintain a Virtual Reference Collection at [libraries.mit.edu/help/virtual-ref.html](http://libraries.mit.edu/help/virtual-ref.html)

This collection is filled with useful links to authoritative sites on everything from acronyms to weather.

Now MIT users of the social bookmarking system, del.icio.us, can add the Virtual Reference Collection to their network to keep up with new resources being added to the site. In addition, the Libraries provide an RSS feed for users who wish to subscribe.

*continued on page 2* ▶

To sign up, go to  
[del.icio.us/rss/virtualref](http://del.icio.us/rss/virtualref)

### Video Tutorials

If you would like an introduction to library resources or simply need a refresher, check out the Libraries' new video tutorials. These screencasts walk viewers through the process of using and creating citations, evaluating information, and searching databases, as well as other helpful topics.

A beta of this project was conducted in the fall of 2006 with tutorials for students in Course 3.091/3.093. Feedback from those students will help guide the design of future screencasts.

Current tutorials from the Libraries are posted on MIT TechTV at [mitlibraries.techtv.mit.edu](http://mitlibraries.techtv.mit.edu). More video content will be added soon.

### Vera Upgrade

The MIT Libraries are also improving Vera (Virtual Electronic Resource Access), their listing of e-journals and research databases. This resource is available at

[libraries.mit.edu/vera](http://libraries.mit.edu/vera)

The new version of Vera will offer the ability to search multiple databases simultaneously. For example, users will be able to search the Libraries' Barton catalog, Google Scholar, Web of Science, and Proquest Research Library all at once, with the results merged. Appropriate databases will be grouped together to search several broad subject areas: Art & Architecture, Engineering, Humanities, Management & Business, Science, and Social Sciences.

The Libraries are looking for volunteers to participate in usability tests of the new version of Vera. If you'd like to volunteer or have comments, send mail to [<webmaster@libraries.mit.edu>](mailto:webmaster@libraries.mit.edu).



### Beta Graduates

Some of the Libraries' beta projects have already moved into mainstream use. One is a Firefox toolbar called LibX that lets you search the Barton catalog, Vera, Google Scholar, SFX FullText Finder, and other sites. LibX also embeds links on search results in Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Google Scholar, and *The New York Times Book Review* that will lead you to MIT-licensed resources.

Another LibX feature lets you highlight text on a web page or in a PDF and then right-click (Windows) or control-click (Macintosh) to go directly to search options for that text. To use LibX you need a Firefox browser (version 2 recommended). To install LibX and learn more about its features, go to [libraries.mit.edu/help/libx.html](http://libraries.mit.edu/help/libx.html)

Another beta graduate is the Dewey Research Advisor (DRA), a resource for those with research questions in the fields of business, management, and economics. It lets you mine the collective efforts of many business librarians who have found good sources for commonly asked questions – many originally posed by MIT students. You can access the Dewey Research Advisor at [libraries.mit.edu/dra](http://libraries.mit.edu/dra)

### More to Come

To keep up with the Libraries' latest beta projects, bookmark [libraries.mit.edu/betas](http://libraries.mit.edu/betas) or subscribe to the Libraries' news blog at

[libraries.mit.edu/news](http://libraries.mit.edu/news)

The Libraries welcome feedback from the MIT community about any of the beta projects. You can reach them by email at [<betas-lib@mit.edu>](mailto:betas-lib@mit.edu). ☘

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## New Telephone and Network Rate Structure Starts in FY08

Beginning in Fiscal Year 08, most voice and data services at MIT will be billed on a proxy pricing methodology. From the July statements on, departments, labs, and centers (DLCs) will no longer see individual charges for these monthly services: IP address; private subnet; analog or ISDN telephone; long distance and international calls; and Tether.

This change will not affect the Institute's policy of funding all research-related telephone and network costs.

### More About the Proxy Method

IS&T and the Office of Budget Operations will determine the total proxy cost for each DLC by taking a snapshot of its full-time employees (FTEs) as of October 31 of each fiscal year. If an appointment is fifty percent or more, the proxy count will be one. If an appointment is less than fifty percent, the proxy count will be zero. Each DLC's proxy cost will be determined by its total proxy count times the rate per proxy.

The new proxy charges will likely begin in January 2008. The first charge will cover the first seven months of the fiscal year. Subsequent charges will occur monthly, based on one-twelfth of the total proxy cost.

To ensure that no DLC is adversely affected by the change in pricing methodology, the Office of Budget Operations will work with the Assistant Deans in each school to make appropriate budget adjustments as needed.

### Price Increase

The estimated proxy rate for FY08 is \$1,250. This rate includes a 10 percent price increase, which DLCs are expected to absorb. Telephone and network rates have not increased since FY04 and, in fact, decreased by 15 percent in FY06, despite significant increases in infrastructure-related costs during this time.

If you have questions about the new telephone and network rates, contact Angie Milonas at [<amilonas@mit.edu>](mailto:amilonas@mit.edu) or 253-0773, or John Donnelly at [<jdonnelly@mit.edu>](mailto:jdonnelly@mit.edu) or 253-2734. ☘



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## The Road to Windows Vista Is Paved with Planning

• Jonathan Hunt

In January 30, 2007, Microsoft released Windows Vista to retail consumers. Well before that date, IS&T and volunteers from the MIT community had been testing various betas and then the final version of Windows Vista for use at MIT. The focus of these efforts, which still continue, has been to

- Identify potential problems with Windows Vista use at MIT
- Evaluate the current suite of MIT software for Vista readiness
- Become familiar with the latest Microsoft operating system

Throughout this project, MIT's Vista Release Team has communicated with the community about issues it has uncovered and, in many cases, solutions or alternative approaches to work around the issues. The team is now shifting its focus to preparing the MIT community for the influx of Vista, as students and staff arrive this fall with the new operating system preloaded on their computers, and as departments start to migrate to Vista.

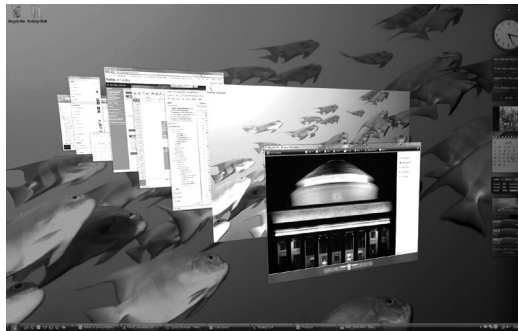
### Preparing for Vista

To get ready, the release team recommends that you first get acquainted with some of Vista's new features and enhancements. You can begin by reviewing Microsoft's online demos at [microsoft.com/vista](http://microsoft.com/vista)

Click on the Learn button and then select the features that interest you.

Once you are ready to experience Windows Vista firsthand, the release team recommends that you install it on a test machine rather than on a computer you use for work. This way, while moving up the learning curve, you will avoid possible incompatibilities with the applications and services that your DLC relies on.

Be sure the test machine has sufficient capability to get the full Vista experience, including the new user interface. Windows Aero makes it easy to visualize and move between applications using features such as Glass (window transparency), Windows Flip and Flip 3D, and Live Taskbar Thumbnails, which display a miniature form



Windows Flip 3D's live thumbnail images let you easily choose the window you want.

of the live contents of a window when you hover the cursor over a taskbar item. More details on these and other Vista features are available through Microsoft's web site.

To access these features, IS&T recommends a minimum of 2GB of RAM and at least 20GB of free storage. The computer's video card should have 128MB of graphics memory and support DirectX 9 with a WDDM driver, hardware Pixel Shader 2.0, and 32 bits per pixel. For more details on system requirements and links to Microsoft's requirements, go to

[itinfo.mit.edu/product.php?vid=735](http://itinfo.mit.edu/product.php?vid=735)

### Testing the Waters

To set up your test machine, you can download Windows Vista Enterprise Edition at

[web.mit.edu/software/win.html](http://web.mit.edu/software/win.html)

It's available to members of the community through MIT's Microsoft Campus Agreement.

After installation, you can do trial runs with your core applications to ensure that they work with Vista. IS&T has tested the most common applications in use at MIT and has identified and resolved several incompatibilities. That said, every DLC typically has one or two applications unique to its environment that should be tested with Vista (or any new operating system) before deployment.

To supplement your own experience with Vista, IS&T will offer various training options this fall, including Quick Start classes. IS&T's training group has already piloted a series of in-depth Vista courses for support providers, and can work with your department to develop training solutions specific to your needs.

### Planning the Migration

Once you have gained some experience with Vista and are ready to make the transition, assess your hardware. Vista will not run well on older machines. While a number of computers made in the past three years meet "Vista Compatible" requirements, the user experience will be less than optimal with most machines that are more than a year old. This may also be the case with newer machines if they have insufficient RAM or video processing power.

You'll also want to figure out what makes sense for your DLC in terms of timing and resources. When are your slow times of year? You may wish to consider migrating to Vista over time only on new machines as you replace the older hardware. Another option is to migrate groups of machines in working areas so that colleagues can learn and experience Vista together. Factoring in time for staff and local support providers to get training will make the transition smoother.

Tools can also help pave the way. The Vista Release Team is evaluating a number of utilities, such as Microsoft's Windows Easy Transfer Companion, and will share its experience with these tools soon.

As with any major system change, IS&T recommends backing up all data before proceeding with the migration to Windows Vista.

### A Continuing Process

IS&T and the Vista Release Team continue to work with the community to support Windows Vista at MIT. IS&T is rolling out the final series of enterprise applications needed to fully support Windows Vista at the Institute. The Vista Release Team is working on migration guidelines to help DLCs and individuals decide which migration options – such as clean install versus upgrade – are best for them. If you have input for the release team, send mail to [<vista-release@mit.edu>](mailto:<vista-release@mit.edu>).

The Computing Help Desk is available to assist community members who have questions about installing or using Windows Vista. The Help Desk will also continue to support Windows XP for at least two more years. You can reach the Help Desk at 253-1101 or [<computing-help@mit.edu>](mailto:<computing-help@mit.edu>).



## Firefox 2 Offers Secure and Agile Web Browsing

• Robyn Fizz

**F**irefox 2, the latest version of the open-source web browser from Mozilla, has won praise for its customizable user interface and security features. It's also cross-platform, adding to its flexibility.



### Tab Central

Mozilla has enhanced tabbed browsing in Firefox 2. New web pages open in tabs by default, and each tab has its own close button. If you close a tab and then decide you'd like to revisit that web page, you can go to the History menu and select it from the Recently Closed Tabs list.

If you've opened several tabs, you may not be able to view all of them in one window. To access a drop-down list of all open tabs, click the arrow to the right of the last viewable tab.

Another new feature that comes in handy is Session Restore. When Firefox restarts after a crash, it asks if you want to restore the windows and tabs you were using before the crash.

### Search Me

Firefox 2 has the little search engine that could – and does. The browser's Search bar comes preloaded with search engines for Google, Yahoo!, Amazon, eBay, Answers.com, and Creative Commons. You can also add search engines, from Wikipedia, Merriam-Webster, and many other sources. To do this, click the arrow in the Search bar, select Manage Search Engines, and then choose the Get More Search Engines link. The Manage Search Engines command also lets you organize your set of search engines: you can move entries higher or lower in the list or delete them.

To select the search engine you want to use, click that same arrow on the left

side of the Search bar. When you start typing in the Search bar, Firefox displays a list of useful suggestions. (This works for the Google, Yahoo!, and Answers.com search engines.)

### Add-ons

Add-ons are a bit like mix-ins for ice cream. Mozilla defines them as "small pieces of software that can add new features or tiny tweaks" to Firefox. For example, the PDF Download add-on lets you choose if you want to view a PDF file in the browser, view it with a PDF reader, or download it.

Open-source developers have created hundreds of add-ons. You can access them from

<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox>

To help you get started, Mozilla provides a list of recommended add-ons.

### Security Features

Firefox 2 has an anti-phishing filter, which is on by default. When you encounter a web site that's a suspected forgery, Firefox alerts you. In addition, Firefox will not let a web site download, install, or run programs on your computer without your consent.

Equally important, Firefox checks to see if you're running the latest version of the browser, and notifies you when a security update is available.

Under the Tools menu, Firefox provides a Clear Private Data command. This removes saved passwords, browsing history, and the like – especially useful when you've been working on a computer in a public setting like a library or Internet cafe.

### Support

IS&T fully supports Firefox 2 for Windows and Macintosh. You can download the browser for free from the Mozilla web site at

[www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox](http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox)

The Firefox home page also has links to system requirements and release notes.

If you need help installing or using Firefox 2, contact the Computing Help Desk at <[computing-help@mit.edu](mailto:computing-help@mit.edu)> or 253-1101. ☛



*This column presents announcements about IS&T-supported software. For more information about recent releases, see [web.mit.edu/swrt](http://web.mit.edu/swrt)*

## IS&T Offers Full Support for VirusScan 5.10 for Linux

McAfee, the company that makes the antivirus software, VirusScan, has discontinued updates for version 4.40 for Linux. IS&T advises Red Hat Linux users at MIT to update from VirusScan 4.40 to 5.10. Since IS&T ended support for Red Hat Enterprise Linux 3 in January, it is offering the new version of VirusScan only for Red Hat Enterprise 4.

VirusScan 5.10 for Linux includes

- An updated scan engine compatible with the latest DAT file
- A third-party script to fetch and install DAT file updates

For system requirements and instructions on obtaining and installing VirusScan 5.10, go to

[itinfo.mit.edu/product.php?vid=729](http://itinfo.mit.edu/product.php?vid=729)

For assistance with VirusScan 5.10, contact the Computing Help Desk at <[computing-help@mit.edu](mailto:computing-help@mit.edu)> or 253-1101.

## New Versions of iPassConnect for Windows and Macintosh

iPass is a fee-based, remote connection service for members of the MIT community who are traveling outside the Boston area and need to connect to the Internet and MITnet. New versions of the iPassConnect client are now available for Windows and Macintosh.

iPassConnect 3.51 for Windows includes

- Improved support for hidden wireless networks
- Support for Internet Explorer 7
- Updated drivers for wireless cards
- Many bug fixes

The new version is not compatible with Windows Vista and has not been tested on 64-bit operating systems.

iPassConnect 2.38 for Macintosh is the first version to function properly on Intel-based Macintosh computers.

To learn more about the iPass service and the new iPassConnect clients, visit the iPassConnect at MIT page at [itinfo.mit.edu/product.php?name=ipass](http://itinfo.mit.edu/product.php?name=ipass) ☛

**Note for Linux Users:** At press time, Red Hat was not supporting Firefox 2 under Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) 4 or 5, due to conflicts with other packages in RHEL. The company continues to recommend Firefox 1.5. Athena – based on RHEL 4 – offers Firefox 2 because it worked around these conflicts.



## A Quick Start to Raise Your Computer Security Awareness

• Monique Yeaton

**T**hough it may not be readily apparent, when you are connected to the Internet or other computer networks, thieves are at work trying to steal your data. These online attacks are far more prevalent than thefts in the physical world: thousands of attempts are made on the MIT network each second! These would-be thieves are after data that reveals financial or personal information. They can use this data to commit identity theft, steal money from private accounts, and rack up fraudulent credit card charges.

In just the first half of 2007, more than 887,000 records from 65 different higher education institutions in the U.S. were exposed through theft and weaknesses in their systems. That number is growing all the time.

### Taking the Right Measures

The good news is that MIT is already doing a lot to combat these threats. However, if all computer users at the Institute took a few extra steps to protect their data, the Institute's information technology (IT) security would be that much more effective.

Though most staff at MIT use computers and information technology as part of their jobs, many don't give much thought to securing their computers and the data on them – whether it's MIT's data or their own. That responsibility is often seen as belonging to software developers or IT administrators. But personal responsibility does play a large part in IT security, in much the same way that it does when you take precautions at home – locking doors, installing security alarms, and putting valuables away.

In addition to understanding how your computer can become infected, it's important to know computer secu-

rity basics – from choosing effective passwords to signing up for operating system updates.

### New Quick Start to the Rescue

Want to raise your computer security awareness? IS&T is now offering a free, hour-long Quick Start class to help employees understand what's involved in safeguarding data. The goal is to reduce computer security incidents at MIT and to encourage personal responsibility when it comes to using IT resources at the Institute.

The Computer Security Awareness Quick Start will be held in the IS&T Demo Center in Building N42. The dates and times are listed in this issue's training insert, or you can check online at [web.mit.edu/sapwebss/PS1/training\\_home.shtml](http://web.mit.edu/sapwebss/PS1/training_home.shtml)

If you are interested in having this seminar presented to your own group or department, contact the Security Team at <[security@mit.edu](mailto:security@mit.edu)>.



## Computer Manufacturers Help to Tackle E-Waste

• Laxmi Rao and Robyn Fizz

**E**lectronic equipment waste, or e-waste, is the fastest growing segment of the garbage industry. That's an unfortunate trend. Discarded electronics contain toxic chemicals – such as arsenic and mercury in liquid crystal displays (LCDs) and lead in cathode-ray tubes (CRTs). Even when e-waste isn't toxic, it's usually not biodegradable. With space for landfills getting tight and green consciousness growing, computer manufacturers have created programs to intercept e-waste before it gets dumped.

### The Reuse Option

Depending on a computer's age and condition, reuse may be an option. There are many programs that refurbish unwanted computers and give them to schools, charities, or low-income families. While reuse groups may update software on these computers, they generally don't remove and discard parts.

Microsoft helps to encourage reuse through its Community MAR (Microsoft Authorized Refurbisher) program. MAR allows eligible refurbishers to install the Windows operating system and other Windows software on donated computers.

A local MAR partner is CommuniTech, a volunteer-run initiative sponsored by MIT's Public Service Center. CommuniTech's Used Computer Factory refurbishes Pentium machines and places them with families in the area who are economically disadvantaged.

For more information about the MAR program, visit [www.techsoup.org/mar](http://www.techsoup.org/mar)

### Recycling

If a machine is not a candidate for reuse, it can still be recycled. This may involve removing some parts – such as motherboards and power supplies – as spares for older equipment; recycling the metal in chassis; and processing other materials to reduce toxicity.



Major computer vendors, including Apple, Dell, Hewlett-Packard, and Lenovo/IBM, now have programs to take back computers for recycling. Some of these services are free; others are fee-based; and some include trade-in credit toward new purchases. For a guide to these programs, see the "Recycling Your Computer" report published by the Computer Take Back Campaign at [www.computertakeback.com](http://www.computertakeback.com)

### The Scoop at MIT

Before you take any action with an MIT-owned computer, check with your local IT administrator. Departmental equipment needs to be deactivated by the MIT Property Office before it can be reused or recycled. It's also important for security reasons to erase data from devices you no longer plan to use.

In addition to the MAR and recycling programs from vendors, MIT's Property Office and Department of Facilities offer many options for reusing or recycling equipment. For details, see [web.mit.edu/ist/topics/hardware/recycle.html](http://web.mit.edu/ist/topics/hardware/recycle.html)



This column presents tips about computing. For more information technology Q&As, check the IS&T Stock Answers database at [itinfo.mit.edu/answer](http://itinfo.mit.edu/answer)

**Q** I use Windows Mail to write to colleagues on campus and beyond. Many of my correspondents use other operating systems and email clients; some mention that my email messages arrive with irregular formatting, such as a small font size or character substitutions. Does Windows Mail have a setting I can select to resolve these formatting issues?

**A** Windows Mail lets you send email using plain-text format. Here's how to do this.

1. Select **Tools Menu>Options**.
2. Go to the **Send** tab. Make sure **Plain Text** is selected under **Mail Sending Format**.
3. Click **OK**.

**Q** How do I back up the email addresses I've accumulated in Windows Mail?

**A** As insurance against hard drive failure, back up your Windows Mail contacts to an external drive or location. For instructions, select the **Backing Up Contacts** link on the Windows Mail for Vista: Backup and Restore Data web page. It's located at [itinfo.mit.edu/article.php?id=8455](http://itinfo.mit.edu/article.php?id=8455)

**Q** My group at MIT has multiple email users working from one Windows user account. Where can we set up identities in Windows Mail, as we did in Outlook Express?

**A** Windows Mail does not have the Identities feature, which allowed multiple people sharing the same computer to keep their email separate. Ask each member of your group to create his or her own user account on your shared Windows Vista machine.

**Q** I often use email as an archive. Does Windows Mail have an effective search feature?

**A** Windows Mail has a built-in Instant Search field that lets you scan all of your email quickly – without leaving Windows Mail. You can also find email using Instant Search on the Start menu. Last but not least, Vista's Search Explorer is integrated with Windows Mail, so when you search your hard drive for a given subject, relevant email messages will be found along with documents and other files.

**Q** Sometimes a Computing Help Desk consultant asks me to send my email headers for review. How do I access them in Windows Mail?

**A** To view the complete source of a message in Windows Mail, open the message and press **Ctrl-F3**. Copy and paste the header information that appears into your reply to the Computing Help Desk. ☛



## Ringling in VoIP: Phone and Voice Mail Services over MITnet

• Lisa Gay

**T**he Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) project is an IS&T initiative that provides telephone and voice mail services over MIT's data network, MITnet. The goals of this project are to

- Smoothly transition MIT to VoIP with minimal impact to end users
- Support existing telephone features while providing advanced functionality
- Increase productivity by running a single network infrastructure for both data and voice

A phased rollout to the MIT community will begin in January 2008.

### Pilot Program Update

Since the VoIP pilot program began in March 2006, about 1,000 VoIP telephones have been installed at MIT. IS&T has worked closely with local IT staff to deploy and support VoIP services and devices. Drawing on feed-

back from end users and support providers and its own experience with the pilot version, IS&T has modified the VoIP system to make it more robust and secure. New features have also been added.

### End-User Advantages

VoIP services are very similar to MIT's current phone service; learning VoIP phone and voice mail functions should require minimal training. In addition, the VoIP system offers end users new optional features. Here's a sample:

- *Remote office functionality.* You can set many user preferences from anywhere in the world via a web-based tool. Through the web interface, you can tell the VoIP system to treat any phone as if it were your MIT phone (referred to as "MIT presence"). When someone calls your MIT number, it will ring where you specify, and when you call someone, it looks to them as if they are receiving a call from your MIT office.
- *Voice mail as email.* VoIP can send your voice mail messages to you via email as audio file attachments.

- *Call screening.* VoIP offers you a high level of control over call flow options. You can set rules for handling calls, similar to directing email messages to different folders. This includes features such as configuring calls from certain numbers to ring on your desk and cell phones simultaneously; having calls ring at each of your phone devices in sequence; and setting time frames to silence ringing and automatically forward your calls to voice mail.

### Phased Rollout Plan

IS&T will first migrate those Departments, Labs, and Centers (DLCs) that are already equipped to handle VoIP architecture. This includes DLCs that have some pilot participants already using the new system and buildings with existing network infrastructure that can ensure high-quality service. The detailed project plan for the phased rollout is currently under development. IS&T will keep the community informed as the project goes forward.

If you have any questions about the VoIP project, write to [<voip-pilots-support@mit.edu>](mailto:<voip-pilots-support@mit.edu>). ☛

## MIT's Video Gateway: Coming to a Screen Near You

• Susan Curran

**G**rab your computer and don't forget the popcorn: you can now watch mind-expanding fare courtesy of the new Video at MIT site at [watch.mit.edu](http://watch.mit.edu)

This newly launched site, also available via the Video link on the MIT home page, is a gateway to MIT's online video collections. It brings together a full spectrum of videos: public lectures, course videos, and videos by and for the MIT community. Whether you want to teach yourself physics, view lectures on topical events, or get a sneak peek into the Media Lab at night, you're sure to find videos of interest.

Created in response to the burgeoning demand for MIT video content, the site aggregates videos from MIT's major video providers: MIT TechTV, MIT World, and OpenCourseWare. Its search interface, powered by MIT Google, makes it easy to find videos on topics of interest.

### MIT TechTV: By and for the MIT Community

MIT TechTV is a YouTube-like site offering free video hosting, sharing, podcasting, and videoblogging services to the MIT community. Anyone with an MIT email address, including alumni, can post a video or comment, and videos can be viewed by anyone with an Internet connection anywhere in the world.

Like YouTube, MIT TechTV promotes community through comments, ratings, RSS feeds, and video sharing. Its flexible architecture lets content creators post their videos once and publish to a variety of sites and in a variety of formats. For example, using MIT TechTV, an individual or department can host and store their videos online for free, and also embed these videos directly into their own web site or blog. MIT TechTV also makes it easy to e-mail videos to friends, or post them to popular sites like Flickr or del.icio.us.

Topics on MIT TechTV run the gamut from science and engineering, to entrepreneurship/invention, life at MIT, and just for fun. Recent videos include the films of Doc Edgerton, the making of *Mens et Manus* in origami, and a look at a team of students who have taken on the summer task of constructing a functional Segway-like scooter.

In addition, MIT ZigZag has been incorporated into MIT TechTV. ZigZag's video podcasts capture the essence of what makes MIT tick. Each episode covers events ranging from technical innovations to student life to hacks.

If you are interested in creating a video for MIT TechTV but don't have the equipment at hand, check MIT TechTV's web page on video production and editing resources at

[techtv.mit.edu/community/videoblogging](http://techtv.mit.edu/community/videoblogging)

When you're ready to add your own clips, visit

[techtv.mit.edu](http://techtv.mit.edu)

and click the Join button on the top right to create an account.

MIT TechTV is a collaborative initiative of the MIT School of Engineering and MIT Libraries' Academic Media Production Services (AMPS). Its technology partner, blip.tv, is a start-up that has grown out of the videoblogging community.



### MIT World: Lectures of Note

What started out in 2001 as a web site expected to be of interest to the MIT community and its alumni has grown into a significant learning environment for a global audience of self-learners. MIT World is a free and open video and audio streaming web site that provides on-demand access to public lectures at MIT on topics ranging from engineering systems to cancer research to leadership in a global society.

MIT World publishes about 90 new lectures a year. The site's current collection of 450 lectures originates from each of MIT's five schools and more than 75 of MIT's departments, labs, centers, or programs. Lectures and panel discussions feature engineers, technologists, scientists, inventors, historians, economists, astronauts, environmentalists, poets and writers, artists and architects, visionaries, and thought leaders (including 20 Nobel Laureates). These presentations reflect a wide range of ideas discussed at MIT every day.

Over the course of its existence, MIT World has enjoyed dramatic increases

in traffic. The most popular MIT World video of them all? Tom Friedman's talk, "The World is Flat."

Production partners for MIT World include AMPS; IS&T's Departmental Consulting and Application Development (DCAD) Team; and editorial production from RiverRun Media. The videos on MIT World are distributed globally by Akamai Technologies' 20,000 servers in 65 countries.

### OpenCourseWare: MIT Course Materials Online

In 2001, MIT took the unprecedented step of announcing it would make the materials for nearly all of its courses available on the Internet. Today, with over 1680 courses published, MIT OpenCourseWare (OCW) is known around the world. In select courses, complete lectures are available in video or audio. Among these are biology lectures from Eric Lander and Robert Weinberg and physics lectures from Walter Lewin.

To give you an idea of how compelling this content can be, in the videos for "Electricity and Magnetism" Lewin dives into the science of rainbows, musical instruments, red sunsets, and aurora borealis; he also decodes the mechanics of pacemakers, radio telescopes, and particle accelerators.

### MIT on iTunes U

The launch of MIT's video site follows on the heels of the launch of MIT on iTunes U. This web site at [web.mit.edu/itunesu](http://web.mit.edu/itunesu)

contains a selection of video and audio from MIT World and MIT OpenCourseWare, made available through Apple iTunes. It also includes content from Visualizing Cultures, a course led by John Dower and Shigeru Miyagawa that looks at history using cultural images of the past.

To view the courses on iTunes U, you need Apple's iTunes application. In addition to playing video or audio on your computer, iTunes lets you download content to your iPod or iPhone, so that you can watch or listen to a lecture while on the go.

MIT lectures have been among the most popular items this summer on Apple's iTunes U, with lectures on physics, psychology, math, and architecture ranking in the top 10. Lewin's physics lectures have held first place on both iTunes U and Google Video, helping to fulfill OpenCourseWare's promise of freely sharing knowledge around the world. ●



## Getting Help

If you don't know where to get help for your computer, network, or telephone problems, dial one of the help lines listed to the right.

If you prefer to use email, you can send your questions to the corresponding email addresses on the far right. (When logged into Athena, you can also use the oLc command to send questions to Athena's online consultants.)

You can also submit a question online via the Request Tracker link on the Getting Help page at [web.mit.edu/ist/help](http://web.mit.edu/ist/help)

### For help with...

General computing questions  
Macintosh, Windows, network/  
connectivity, business applications,  
computer buying advice

Athena Computing Environment

Computer and printer repairs

Disabilities and computing

Telephone and voice mail services

Telephone repairs

Unix/Linux

### Dial...

253-1101

253-4435

253-0815

253-7808

253-3670

253-4357

253-1103

### Or send a message to...

[computing-help@mit.edu](mailto:computing-help@mit.edu)

[olc@mit.edu](mailto:olc@mit.edu)

[pcservice@mit.edu](mailto:pcservice@mit.edu)

[atic@mit.edu](mailto:atic@mit.edu)

[telecom-csr@mit.edu](mailto:telecom-csr@mit.edu)

[3help@mit.edu](mailto:3help@mit.edu)

[unix-linux-help@mit.edu](mailto:unix-linux-help@mit.edu)



## Surf Sites: Video Scene

MIT recently launched a gateway to its online video collections (see page 7).

Through the lens of

[watch.mit.edu](http://watch.mit.edu)

you can watch MIT community videos, public lectures, and course videos from MIT Tech TV, MIT World, and OpenCourseWare.

This new gateway site may inspire you to watch other online videos, from how-tos to technology reviews – or even to make some videos of your own. If you want to delve further into the world of Web video, get started by visiting the sites listed on the right.

[blip.tv](http://blip.tv)

[www.blip.tv](http://www.blip.tv)

Creative Cow Media Pros Community

[www.creativecow.net](http://www.creativecow.net)

The Knowledgebase

[communication.utexas.edu/technology/knowledgebase](http://communication.utexas.edu/technology/knowledgebase)

Mashable.com – The Ten Best Places to Find How-to Videos

[mashable.com/2007/05/14/video-howtos](http://mashable.com/2007/05/14/video-howtos)

Media That Matters Film Festival

[www.mediathatmattersfest.org](http://www.mediathatmattersfest.org)

Multimedia Reporting and Convergence

[journalism.berkeley.edu/multimedia](http://journalism.berkeley.edu/multimedia)

Walt Mossberg Personal Technology

[wsj.com/mossbergvideo](http://wsj.com/mossbergvideo)



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