

Technically SPEAKING

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Assimilating Your Northwest Identity by James Sorensen & Tabatha Verbick

With the start of a new trimester, every student will gain access to four web services provided by the university. The services are CatPAWS, eCompanion, Northwest email and myNorthwest. To access these services, new students will have numerous usernames and passwords to remember and returning students will need to refresh their memories to get reconnected.

CatPAWS is utilized by students to enroll in classes, verify, pay their bills, check their grades, look up contact information for faculty, staff and students, and much more. Your CatPAWS User ID is your Northwest ID number, sometimes referred to as your 919#. Your CatPAWS PIN and security question would have been set by you the first time you logged into CatPAWS. PINS are commonly 6 digits in length,

but may be longer. When in doubt, enter your User ID number and the Forgot PIN? to be prompted with your security question.

The second account you will need to remember is used for logging into campus computers, Northwest email and myNorthwest. The account is comprised of a username and a password. Northwest usernames for students start with an S and are followed by 6 digits. The password will be at least 8 characters in length and have mixed case letters, as well as, numbers and/or special characters. For new Northwest students, their Northwest username and initial password are available via the Personal Information menu in CatPAWS. Remember, when

you change your password, the password is changed simultaneously for all three systems: logging into campus computers, email and myNorthwest.

“Students will have numerous usernames and passwords to remember.”

eCompanion is an online learning tool used to supplement many Northwest classes. Students use eCompanion to review lessons, complete homework assignments, take exams and quizzes, and connect with their classmates. The eCompanion User ID is your Northwest username that you use for email and myNorthwest. The eCompanion password is your Northwest ID number, sometimes referred to as your 919#.

For assistance with your accounts, passwords or PINs, contact the Help Desk at x-1634.

At Ease with myNorthwest

Looking for a trouble-free way to check your email, pay your monthly bill and submit your assignments all within a few clicks of each other? Northwest has released its new web portal called “myNorthwest,” which is a central location for students, faculty, staff and alumni to receive news and personal information. Users can access their email, view their personal information, join online groups, read announcements, view upcoming events, chat with other online students and even submit photos all from one central location!

A few of the services accessible via myNorthwest include email, CatPAWS and eCompanion. By using myNorthwest to check email or view personal information, students only need to log in once. When accessing eCompanion via myNorthwest, students will still need to enter their eCompanion account information. myNorthwest is available via the Northwest homepage or by going to my.nwmissouri.edu. If you would like to learn more about the myNorthwest portal, read through the FAQs on the myNorthwest login page or contact your PERT.

Dustin Singleton	South Complex	X-5845
Eric Mackey	Perrin Hall	X-6467
Daman Kapoor	Hudson Hall	X-6206
James Sorensen	Phillips Hall	X-6531
Tyler Ramaekers	Millikan Hall	X-5352
Josh Boerma	Dieterich Hall	X-6622
Cody Melton	Franken Hall	X-5351

Printed copies of Technically Speaking are available at the Front Desk

Help Desk	x-1634
Help Desk Hours	
M-T	8 am-10 pm
Fri	8 am-5 pm
Sat	11 am-4:45 pm
Sun	1 pm-10 pm

Notebook Support Center Hours	
M-F	8 am-4:30 pm

Library Lab Hours	
M-T	7:30 am-11:45 pm
Fri	7:30 am-4:45 pm
Sat	11 am-4:45 pm
Sun	1 pm-11:45 pm

Questions?
tab@nwmissouri.edu

How to Make Vista Feel and Run Like XP

by Cody Melton Page 2

Missing the familiarity of Windows XP on your new personal computer? If you are like the millions of other new Vista users and are not completely comfortable with the Vista user interface, options for customizing Vista are open to you. While Vista is still considered to be in its infancy of existence, enough time has elapsed for basement programmers to find ways of altering the look and feel of Vista.

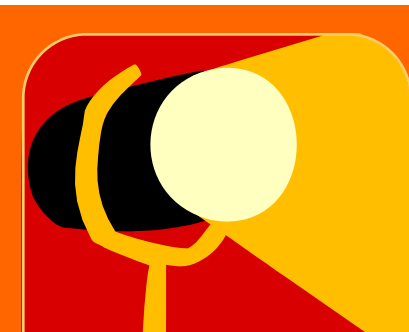
One of the simplest and most detailed video tutorials on the internet is on www.cnet.com. CNET currently posts non-biased reviews and "how to" videos on their site for viewers to use and learn from. Visit cnettv.cnet.com/9742-1_53-25854.html and you will be pleasantly surprised with a quick two

minute video on how to easily roll the clock back on Vista's looks. Vista can be rolled back to an XP theme or even as far back as Windows 98. While the help tips mentioned in the CNET video are primarily aesthetically pleasing to people accustomed to XP, you can gain a performance boost from using the tips as well.

Being comfortable with your operating system is important. However, the ability to use your operating system efficiently is equally important. If you are working on a basic computer that is at least one year old, you are more than likely experiencing the full effects of the ever so RAM (Random Access Memory) hun-



gry Vista. Vista compared to XP requires four times the RAM to even boot without actually running any programs! The quickest fix for speeding up Vista is quite frankly more RAM. 2 GB of RAM will suffice for most users' desktop or laptop computers and can be purchased for as cheap as \$35.00. Remember, students are not allowed to make any hardware changes to their Northwest HP or Gateway laptops including RAM upgrades. Make sure the RAM you purchase is compatible with your personal computer. Go to www.crucial.com to find the right RAM for your machine.

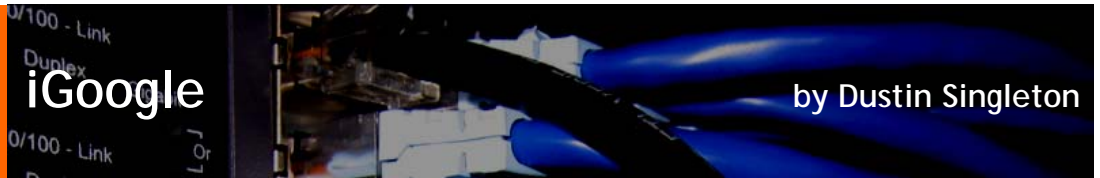


PERT SPOTLIGHT Tyler Ramaekers

Tyler Ramaekers is a sophomore from Papillion, Nebraska majoring in Interactive Digital Media with a concentration in Computer Science Programming. He is the treasurer of DigEM, a multimedia-based society on campus. During the Spring 2008 trimester, Tyler worked part-time as a web editor in the Computer Science/Information Systems Department.

In his free time, Tyler enjoys being outdoors, watching movies, playing Nintendo-64 with other residents and spending time with his friends. Photography, tennis and Volkswagens are a few of his hobbies.

Tyler resides in Millikan Hall. If you want to play a quick round of MarioKart or watch the Huskers on game day, his room might be a good stop!



Ever get tired of going to multiple web pages whenever you just want to check Facebook, email, weather forecasts, and other similar things? Google has come up with a great solution. Google created an innovative utility, which is easy to personalize, called iGoogle. Whether you want to check multiple email accounts, view weather forecasts, connect with your friends on Facebook, get Wikipedia articles or watch YouTube videos, iGoogle is your one-stop shop. You can do all you want from a single web page. Now you do not have to go to numerous places to find the information you want to know on a regular basis.

Setting up iGoogle is simple and does not require you to have an account with Google. However, setting up a Google account is recommended so your saved "gadgets" (as Google calls them) are not lost if the cache is cleared or you switch computers. Gadgets are simple HTML and JavaScript applications that can be embedded into your webpage eg. a weather.com app or a YouTube app.

Google accounts can be created by going to www.google.com and clicking on "Log in" in the top right corner. After clicking on the link, choose to create an account. Once an account has been created and you are logged in (your account name will be in the top right corner of the page), you can simply go to www.igoogle.com and start customizing!

"Check multiple email accounts, view weather forecasts, connect with your friends on Facebook, get Wikipedia articles or watch YouTube videos."

Gadgets can be added by clicking "Add Stuff" on the right side. A new window will be displayed with a search bar on the right. Search to see if Google has any gadgets you are interested in. Once you find a gadget you want to add, simply click on the URL shown for the gadget and click "Add It Now". Once the gadgets have been added to your iGoogle page, you can rearrange the gadgets by clicking and dragging the title of the gadget around. New tabs can also be created to further organize the various gadgets on the page. iGoogle is an effective way to accomplish more in less time. Time is a scarce commodity when you are in college, so use iGoogle to make the most of it!



Computer Tips

4 Tips You Should Know

1 Ctrl+Shift+Esc brings up the Task Manager for you to manage memory usage.

2 To minimize all your active windows with the keyboard, press the Windows key + D.

3 Print a document quickly by pressing Ctrl+P.

4 To undo an action press Ctrl+Z. To redo an action press Ctrl+Y.

Fun Links

www.mypyramid.gov

Get a personalized eating plan to help you stay away from the curse of gaining the Freshman 15.

www.jibjab.com

Create funny videos of you and your friends. All you need is their picture and the rest is easy!

shopper.cnet.com

Helps you find the right product at the right price when you are shopping online for electronics.

Electronic Campus Changes by Cheryl Birkenholz

Northwest Missouri State University is acclaimed for their dedication in providing students with the latest in technology. Technology has advanced from terminals in every residence room, to desktops in every residence room, to laptops for on-campus residents, to laptops for every full time student (no matter where they reside).

The new HP 6515 laptops are available to all full time students and are equipped with Windows XP and Microsoft Office 2007. Some of the programs included are: Access, Excel, Internet Explorer 7, Norton Antivirus, OneNote, Outlook, PowerPoint, Publisher, Word, Visio, Clip Organizer and Picture Manager.

Most computer labs on campus have been up-

graded with new HP desktops and LCD monitors with Microsoft Office 2007 and Windows XP installed. The lab computers have the capability of burning either a CD or a DVD.

Owens Library now makes it easier for Northwest students off-campus to utilize library resources. With the use of EZproxy, all currently enrolled Northwest students, faculty and staff can access the library's electronic resources using a valid Northwest username and password. The library has approximately 30,000 e-books and provides access to 20,000 electronic full-text journals and magazines from more than 60 commercial electronic databases.

If you needed to change your email password this summer while you were off

-campus, you might have found it to be an easier process than in the past. Upon logging into email with an expired password, you are now taken to a change password form. By completing the form, your password was changed for email, logging into campus computers and myNorthwest.

Check out the NEW myNorthwest portal at my.nwmissouri.edu. Through your myNorthwest portal, you will have access to your CatPAWS account, online Library resources, the University calendar and various campus and students services. You will have personal and campus announcements along with daily events and news.

For technology questions, contact your PERT.

Luscious Laptops

by Josh Boerma

What do people generally think of when they hear "free laptops"? Most think of at least a two to three year outdated computer that can hardly run Microsoft Word without crashing. Students at Northwest Missouri State University are lucky to receive machines that are up-to-date with most new notebooks! With new software updates and a huge hardware upgrade, the new HP laptops are great for the students needing an efficient notebook.

A new feature on the new notebooks is the biometric scanner providing better security and quicker logins. Biometrics is any means of controlling access through body measurements, such as fingerprinting or voice printing. Although the new laptops do not use voice recognition to access anything, they do use fingerprinting! All you need to do is swipe a finger across the "finger reader" located on the

bottom right corner of your laptop and follow the step-by-step wizard instructions. From then on, the user may log into the computer with a swipe of their finger. Using biometrics, the computer also stores any and all usernames and passwords used while logged into that user's account!

The specifications of the new laptops should satisfy the user's need for a machine that provides enough processing power to get tasks accomplished. The new HP notebooks feature an AMD Turion™ 64 bit processor running at 1.99 GHz. Helping the processing power is the 2GB of Random Access Memory (RAM), which is sure to aid in getting your work done. Another big upgrade is the 80 GB hard drive, which is more than enough room to store your important documents, programs, pictures, music etc.