Campus Computing News

CSS Classroom Technology & Service Refresh

By Ashley Olsberg, Classroom Support Services (CSS) Manager

In April we announced that Classroom Support Services (CSS) would be upgrading all of the projectors and computers installed in CSS-supported UNT classrooms this summer. It’s with much pleasure that I am able to inform you that the upgrade of all 293 CSS classrooms has been completed ahead of schedule.

Personnel and Service Changes of Interest in Academic Computing Technical Services

By Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner, Director - Academic Computing Technical Services

Academic Computing Technical Services (ACTS), a division of UIT Academic Computing and User Services (ACUS), will be undergoing some personnel changes that affect its current services for the near future. Some of our key managers who customers have been accustomed to working with for many years have moved forward in their careers, but rest assured that we are still providing the services that you depend upon. Any and all questions regarding these services should be sent to Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner at ehinkle@unt.edu.

Save the date for these upcoming CLEAR Events

By Amber Bryant, Senior Marketing Specialist, CLEAR

Mark your calendars! CLEAR has some great events coming this fall.
Summer Hours

By Claudia Lynch, Benchmarks Online Editor

Summer is here! Summer 2014 consists of six sessions and not all campus facilities are open during all the sessions.

Click on the link above for an information age laugh.
In April we announced that Classroom Support Services (CSS) would be upgrading all of the projectors and computers installed in CSS-supported UNT classrooms this summer. It’s with much pleasure that I am able to inform you that the upgrade of all 293 CSS classrooms has been completed ahead of schedule.

By completing this project ahead of schedule, the CSS team was hoping to give instructors and student in classroom spaces this summer the benefit of the upgraded equipment. As noted in the April article, these changes are intended to have the following benefits:

- buying back precious class time by decreasing setup or startup time for media display;
- helping classroom media be better seen, though brighter images on the screen;
- providing more adaptable AV display formats;
- increasing PC desktop versatility;
- increasing equipment reliability;
- strengthening our sustainable systems model by lowering power usage;
- improving customer service by finding new ways to proactively communicate with classroom media users.

Our classrooms now have computers with twice the RAM, hybrid hard drives, and data projectors with 1,000 more lumens (or more in larger classrooms) than the previously installed models.

On behalf of the CSS team, I want to say thank you to everyone who contributed valuable feedback and hard work to this project. It’s an honor to serve this campus and the wonderful people that inhabit it. Thank you.

*CSS supports all 110 classrooms as well as some 210 and a few other event spaces.*

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Personnel and Service Changes of Interest in Academic Computing Technical Services

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On the “up side” - we have had an excuse to have some really fun “farewell parties”!

ACTS bids a fond farewell to Dr. Jesse Hamner who has been the manager of the Research and Visualization Environment (RAVE) and our primary consultant on data visualization for many years. Jesse is now the Director of Research and Assessment for the UNT Libraries and he can be found at Willis Library. We congratulate him on his new position! Jesse’s duties and RAVE services will become part of High Performance Computing in the near future.

In the meantime contact Elizabeth and she will direct you to the research consultant in ACUS who can best fit your needs. Large-format research poster printing services can be found at many locations on campus; the RAVE 60-inch Epson printer has been acquired by CVAD and researchers may get printing done there for the same cost as in the former RAVE. Contact Elizabeth for details.

Curry Searle who has worked tirelessly in his capacity of Classroom Desktop Manager to make the Discovery Park collaborative technology classrooms and the Sage Hall Academic Testing Center a big success will depart June 30 to work for ITSS as part of its Shared Services IT Service Management Team. We wish him well in his new position! Curry’s duties will be handled by his wonderfully-trained student techs and by the entire ACTS tech management team until his replacement can be found. Once again, contact Elizabeth with any questions and requests about these services.

ACTS will be spending its summer doing some minor re-organizing and, of course, some hiring! In the meantime, please continue to contact us about data visualization services, online testing services, and research and learning software services. We will continue to provide outstanding teaching and learning technology services to the UNT community and look forward to hearing from you!
Save the date for these upcoming CLEAR Events

By Amber Bryant, Senior Marketing Specialist, CLEAR

Mark your calendars! CLEAR has some great events coming this fall.

**Pecha Kucha & Breakfast**

**SEPTEMBER 22nd  7:45am - 9:45am**
Gateway Ballroom

Please save the date for the kick-off event for Salute to Faculty Excellence Week. Please join us for breakfast and a fast-paced Pecha Kucha session where some of our Distinguished Teaching Professors will be presenting on this theme:

"When did the light go on and what did you see?"

This promises to be fun and enlightening! [Salute to Faculty Week](#)

**Teaching Excellence Seminar (TES)**

**AUGUST 21st  8:00am-12:30pm  Gateway Center Ballroom**

This half-day seminar is mandatory for all new TAs and TFs. New adjunct faculty, tenure track faculty, and lecturers are welcome and encouraged to attend - registration required. Please contact Rena Mammen or Nancy Fire with your questions.

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

[More Information / Program Agenda](#)

**G*STEP**

**FALL 2014**

In light of the UNT commitment to Teaching Excellence, we are recruiting new participants for the Graduate Student Teaching Excellence Program, G*STEP. This program is jointly sponsored by the Toulouse Graduate School and CLEAR. Upon completion of the G*STEP Program, participants will be able to effectively teach or support those who teach a university course; i.e. articulate their role and resources, organize and explain materials, establish and maintain an effective learning environment, and promote self-regulated learning.

[More Information on G*STEP](#)

[Application Form](#)
Save the date for these upcoming CLEAR Events | Benchmarks Online

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Is Your Refrigerator a Spy for the NSA?

We are all aware of the Internet of computers. It's been around for a while and as a tool of commerce and personal productivity, it is even heading out of its teens and on to a new phase of its life. Our activity on the Internet is usually bound up in communicating with other individuals, or engaging in commerce with some corporation (which, according to Mitt Romney, are people too.) But soon, there may be a whole Internet that doesn't include you. It is the Internet of things.

There soon will be a shadow Internet that will possibly influence your life. As computers become smaller and less expensive by the month, it is now possible to embed them in all kinds of things that may benefit from sending and/or receiving information to and from remote sites. One example is the Nest thermostat which we discussed last January. It is an Internet-connected "smart" device that learns your habits and eventually automatically adjusts for when you are awake or asleep, and at home or away. Google bought Nest in January, and can now gather utility usage information as part of their expanding database of information that reflects human behavior. You could potentially save money by automatically tailoring your energy usage to your living habits, and possibly more by allowing your power company to adjust your usage during peak periods.

The Internet of Things

The Nest just scratches the surface of the Internet of Things (IoT.) In 1998, someone proposed a facetious Coffee Pot Control Protocol as a way to possibly support Internet-based coffee machines. As the document states, "Increasingly, home and consumer devices are being connected to the Internet. Early networking experiments demonstrated vending devices connected to the Internet for status monitoring [COKE]. One of the first remotely _operated_ machine to be hooked up to the Internet, the Internet Toaster, (controlled via SNMP) was debuted in 1990 [RFC2235]." Fantasy has become reality. The electronics manufacturer Philips has announced prototypes of coffee makers that can prepared special recipes downloaded from the Internet (there go the barista jobs -- now what will you do with that Phd?), and a crockpot-style device that can download programmed instructions for cooking various recipes.

Other devices that are already communicating on the Internet without your intervention include security cameras that send you an e-mail or picture when someone comes into range, smart TVs that can download programming directly from the Internet and also monitor what you are watching to suggest other things you might like. "Smart" refrigerators, washers, and dryers are already being sold, although for a premium (but what is it worth for the dryer to text you when your clothes are done? ) The Huffington Post predicts that by 2018, half of all Internet traffic will be attributable to the Internet of Things. There's even a whole new wireless network being developed just to support the IoT.

So, as our things get smarter, life should get easier. But, what cost will we pay for this enhanced lifestyle, where your clothes are perfectly fluffed and your coffee is exquisitely frothed? It appears that Google's vision for this new world includes ads on refrigerators, car dashboards, thermostats ("Hey are you cold? Don't turn up the heat -- Old Navy has a sale on fleece lined hoodies!") and whatever else Google can get their virtual hooks into. It's already
been **demonstrated** that your Internet TV may be watching you. Apple's iBeacon is a service based on transmitters that can **track** where Apple users are in stores and restaurants.

**Your Choice**

It's ultimately our choice to use these conveniences or not, however, that does not necessarily guarantee Google's business model (or Facebook's) that is increasingly based upon infringing on your privacy. At some point, we may need to assert some standards of information management, just as we do in the world of finance. There is regulation to try to insure honest dealings in finance, and perhaps we should expect the same to be true for information. We should have the confidence not only to be secure in our homes, but to be secure with our things as well.
Link of the Month

Microsoft Office via EagleConnect

EagleConnect is the UNT email system for students and is Microsoft's Office 365 Pro Plus. It includes online Office apps, collaborative online work spaces and an online storage system (OneDrive) for your documents.

Your EagleConnect Email Account gets you Office for free!

Your Office 365 Pro Plus EagleConnect account also entitles you to receive ** 5 free copies ** of Microsoft Office for your desktop and mobile devices!

http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/office365/desktop/ and
http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/office365/mobile/

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UNT System:
- UNT Home
- UNT System
- UNT Dallas
- UNT Health Science Center
Help Desk FYI

By Jacob Flores, UIT Support Services Manager

Office 365 ProPlus now available to all current students through EagleConnect!

Who is eligible for Office 365 ProPlus? How long can it be used?

This service is only available to current UNT students. Once you’re no longer a student, your EagleConnect ID will no longer be able to authenticate an Office 365 ProPlus application installation for use.

What is included with Office 365 ProPlus?

- Office 2013 for Windows 7, Windows 8, and Windows 8.1
- Office 2011 for Mac OSX 10.5.8 and newer
- Office Mobile for iOS 6.1 and newer
- Office Mobile for Android 4.0 and newer

You will be able to use Office on up to 5 Windows or Mac machines and use Office Mobile on up to 5 mobile devices.

How does this differ from EagleConnect’s OneDrive Office Web Apps already available?

The OneDrive Office Web Apps are great solution for managing your Office documents on the go, since they may be accessed and modified anywhere you have internet and a web browser. The applications included with Office 365 ProPlus are the full standalone applications and can be used “offline,” much like you’re used to using on your desktops and laptops. You simply install the suite, sign in with your EagleConnect account, and you’re up and running.

Check out Microsoft’s Office 365 ProPlus FAQ for more information.

How do I start using Office 365 ProPlus?

Desktop applications

1) Log into EagleConnect.
2) Click the gear icon near your name at the top right and select "Office 365 Settings."
3) Select "software" from the menu on the left.

4) It’s best to go with the "recommended" version of Office. For instance, Windows users may be using a 64-bit operating system, but most applications and plugins that integrate with Microsoft Office will be built for the 32-bit version of office. You may select an alternate version if you prefer, however, I’d suggest only advanced users venture into this territory.
5) Select “install” to download the installer for your Office application.

6) Open this downloaded file to start the install.

7) Please do not go offline or restart your computer during this process; it is actively installing the software at this point. You’ll likely see a status indicator like this one:

   ![Office is installing in the background (27%)](image)

   You can use your programs now, but please don’t go offline or restart your computer.

8) While it’s installing, it will offer to go ahead and sign into your Office 365 suite.

9) Click “Sign in” and you’ll be prompted for a username. Enter your EagleConnect ID (usually in the form of FirstLast@my.unt.edu) and click “Next.”

10) The next screen will ask to verify which type of account you’re using to sign in. Since this is a service through EagleConnect from UNT, select “Organizational account.”
11) At the next page, enter your password and select “Sign in.” At this point, the installer will offer to give you a walkthrough of Office 365 or skip to the end where you’ll be presented with a larger progress indicating the status of your Office install. Once you see the screen below, you’re all set!

Mobile applications

1) Download Microsoft’s “Office Mobile” application from the app store.

2) Upon opening the application, you’ll be prompted to read over the terms of use. You must accept these terms to use the Office Mobile applications.

3) Select “Activate Office” and enter your EagleConnect ID (usually FirstLast@my.unt.edu) in the username field.
4) The next screen will ask to verify which type of account you’re using to sign in. Since this is a service through EagleConnect from UNT, select “Organizational account.” At the next page, enter your password and select “Sign in.”

5) Once you’re sign in, you should be all set!
Having trouble downloading or installing Office 365 ProPlus?

- For the desktop installation, please be sure you don’t lose internet access or restart your computer during the install.
- Office 365 installation error “Something went wrong”.
- General troubleshooting for installing Office 365.

Having trouble logging in?

- See if you can log into your EagleConnect account.
- If you can’t log into EagleConnect, ensure you can log into the Account Management System with your EUID and password. While you’re there, ensure you’re still using the correct EagleConnect ID.

As always, if you have any problems, feel free to contact the UIT Helpdesk.

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Basic Graph Creation and Manipulation in R.

Link to the last RSS article here: Know where you are going before you get there: Statistical Action Plans work. -- Ed.

By Dr. Jon Starkweather, Research and Statistical Support Consultant

The purpose of this article is to provide some key information for creating and manipulating graphs in R. Only the basics will be covered here because there have been entire books published regarding the graphical capabilities of R with and without additional packages (e.g. Andrews, 2012; Deepayan, 2008). Furthermore, those who have already mastered the basics covered in this article are encouraged to explore the CRAN Task View for graphics (Lewin-Koh, 2014). Some examples are provided below for what might be considered necessary skills for anyone working with data. The focus of the examples below is oriented toward initial data analysis (i.e. graphs which display basic descriptive and relational properties of one or two variables).

First, we import some (fictional) example data. The data can be imported directly from the RSS URL as provided in the script below (i.e. simply copy the script provided and paste into the R console to follow along):

```
df.1 <- read.table("http://www.unt.edu/rss/class/Jon/Benchmarks/BasicPlotData.txt", header = TRUE, sep = ",", na.strings = "NA", dec = ",", strip.white = TRUE)
summary(df.1)
nrow(df.1)
ncol(df.1)
names(df.1)
```

Before we actually create any graphs, it might be sensible to take a look at the graphics window and its menus first. Actually, although the habit here is to refer to it as a 'graphics window' it is really a graphics 'device' (i.e. dev). To create a blank graphics window, or graphics device, we use the simple function below:

```
dev.new()
```

which produces the empty graphics window below.
Notice in the above image, there are three menu items: File, History, and Resize. The File tab allows you to Save the image (in a variety of popular formats), Copy the image (in either of two formats), Print the image, or Close the device (i.e. window). Of course, you can also copy, save, or print the contents of the graphics window by right clicking on it with your mouse and selecting one of those operations. The History tab allows us to turn on (or off) the recorder; which will keep a record of subsequent graphs produced in this window and allow us to page up or page down to scroll through previous and next graphs produced. We can also save or clear the history from this tab. The Resize tab simply allows us to resize the graphics window based on some basic commands; of course you can also use a mouse click-and-drag from one corner to resize the graphics device. For now, we will close the graphics window using script (rather than "File", "close Device").

`graphics.off()`

It is often desirable to ‘attach’ a data frame if one is going to be repeatedly calling specific variables of it. We do so here in order to simplify the indexing of the data frame we imported.

`attach(df.1)`

### Defaults

One of the most commonly used graphic displays is the simple histogram; which is used to display a distribution of values (i.e. continuous or nearly continuous variable). Below we create a simple histogram of the ‘age’ variable (of the ‘df.1’ data frame); supplying only the variable name (because we attached the data frame) and omitting all other arguments (which provides a default histogram):

`hist(age)`

which produces the following simple histogram.
The default graph produced by the ‘hist’ function provides a most basic histogram based on default options for the function’s many arguments. The histogram above provides the necessary information; it is very plain, some might even consider it boring.

By far the most commonly used graphical function is the simple ‘plot’ function. The ‘plot’ function can be used to display single variables (e.g. categorical variables’ frequency counts) or multiple variables’ relationships (e.g. scatterplots & scatterplot matrices). To use the ‘plot’ function in its most primitive form, we will supply it with the gender variable of our data frame:

plot(gender)

which produces the following graph (i.e. an example of a bar chart or bar graph).

Notice in the above, we supplied only the variable, without specifying any optional parameters to other arguments of the ‘plot’ function. Notice there is no main title to the graph, as there was with the histogram previously; nor is there
an x-axis line. Furthermore, the x-axis labels (female, male) are taken directly from the variable supplied; as was the case for the x-axis label (age) in the histogram previously. Both default graphs are produced using grayscale; which makes printing them easy and some publications require manuscripts to contain only grayscale (i.e. no colors). Therefore, the default graphs can be quite handy, even if they tend to be a little boring. Below is an example of the ‘plot’ function producing a simple scatterplot by supplying only the two variables:

```r
plot(neuroticism, extroversion)
```
which produces the following graph (i.e. scatterplot).

The ‘plot’ function does not supply a main title to the graph when supplied with two (or more) variables. Also notice, the x-axis and y-axis labels (neuroticism, extroversion) are supplied exactly as they are given from the data frame. And again, the graph is displayed in grayscale by default. To create a scatterplot matrix you can simply supply the ‘plot’ function with the columns of a data frame (or matrix); such as:

```r
plot(df.1[,22:24])
```
which produces the following graph.
Keep in mind, depending on the number of cases, more than a few variables in a single scatterplot matrix can defeat the purpose of displaying the data in this way (i.e. more than 4 or 5 variables in a scatterplot matrix often makes each cell of the matrix too small to interpret). Again, notice there is no main title, x-axis label, y-axis label, or colors in the default scatterplot matrix.

It should also be noted that there are other graphics functions available in a base install of R which may occasionally be useful; such as the 'boxplot' function which produces a box and whisker plot;

```r
boxplot(age ~ gender)
```

the 'coplot' function which produces a conditional plot;

```r
coplot(income ~ age | gender)
```

and the 'pairs' function which produces a scatterplot or scatterplot matrix; in fact, the 'plot' command from above calls this function to produce these types of graphs;

```r
pairs(df.1[,22:24])
```

For a demonstration of some of the base functionality of R (in terms of graphics), use the 'demo' function:

```r
graphics.off()
demo(graphics)
```

For more complex data, the 'persp' function provides the ability to produce a 3-dimensional perspective plot.

```r
graphics.off()
demo(persp)
```

**Non-Defaults**

Like most things in R, however, everything displayed by the 'hist' function and the 'plot' function can be manipulated using optional arguments. Below we provide a few examples using some common non-default options for arguments of the 'hist' and 'plot' functions. To start fresh, we will again close the graphics device:

```r
graphics.off()
```

Revisiting the histogram of age from above, but adding some color (col), providing a specific main title (main), x-axis label (xlab), y-axis label (ylab), x-axis limits (i.e. zero to 80), and y-axis limits (i.e. zero to 600):  

```r
hist(age, col = "lightgreen", main = "Histogram of Age",
     xlab = "Age in years", ylab = "Frequency count",
     xlim = c(0,80), ylim = c(0,600))
```
which produces the following graph.

Revisiting our bar graph from earlier, but supplying some color, a main title, and axis labels:

```r
plot(gender, col = "lightblue", main = "Bar graph of Gender",
     xlab = "Gender", ylab = "Frequency count")
```

which produces the following graph.

And finally, we revisit our scatterplot with some color, main and axis titles, as well as specific limits for both axes. Also notice we used the ‘pch’ argument to specify a particular character for the points in the scatterplot. We also used the ‘cex’ argument to specify the size of those characters; where smaller numbers produce smaller points or characters in the scatterplot.

```r
plot(neuroticism, extroversion, col = "purple",
      pch = 16, cex = 0.8)
```
main = "Scatterplot of Neuroticism and Extroversion",
xlab = "Neuroticism", ylab = "Extroversion",
xlim = c(5,15), ylim = c(5,15), pch = "*", cex = 2)

which produces the following graph.

Supplemental Graphics Functions

There are other useful graphics device functions which can be used in conjunction with what we have done above. Some of the popular operations involve adding a line of some type to histograms, such as what is done below with the 'lines' function:

hist(age, col = "lightblue", main = "Histogram of Age",
    xlab = "Age in years", ylab = "Density proportion",
    xlim = c(0,80), prob = TRUE)
lines(density(age), col = "blue", lty = 2, lwd = 2)

which produces the following graph. Notice in the script directly above, we used 'prob = TRUE' to indicate that the histogram should reflect probability densities rather than frequency counts and our y-axis label (ylab) has been changed accordingly. The 'lines' function can be used in a variety of ways to add a line to a graphic; here we specify a density line using line type dashed (lty = 2) with a line width of moderately thick (lwd = 2). The defaults for both line type and line width are 1; which correspond to solid line and thin line respectively.
The ‘abline’ function is an alternative to the ‘lines’ function for placing a line over an existing graph. As an example, we apply a line which represents a linear model (lm) to our previous scatterplot.

```r
plot(neuroticism, extroversion, col = "purple",
     main = "Scatterplot of Neuroticism and Extroversion",
     xlab = "Neuroticism", ylab = "Extroversion",
     xlim = c(5,15), ylim = c(5,15), pch = "*", cex = 2)
abline(lm(extroversion ~ neuroticism), col = "red",
       lty = 3, lwd = 3)
```

which produces the following graph. Notice here we chose to use line type dotted (lty = 3) and a line width of thick (lwd = 3).
Graphics Parameters

The 'par' function is used to specify graphics parameters; most commonly applied to the base 'plot' function and resulting graphics devices (i.e. graphics windows). One of the most useful applications of the 'par' function is the ability to place more than one graph in a graphics device. For example, you may want to place one graph below another:

```r
gen <- which(df.1[,4] == "female")

females <- df.1[gen,5]
males <- df.1[-gen,5]
```

```r
par(mfrow = c(2,1))

hist(females, xlim = c(0,80), col = "pink")
hist(males, xlim = c(0,80), col = "lightblue")
```

Notice in the 'par' function we are specifying rows and columns of a single graphics device display. The example here specifies two rows and one column (within the graphics device). The resulting graphics device displays a histogram of female participants' age over a histogram of male participants' age.
A second example uses the `par` function to specify 2 rows and 2 columns – keep in mind you can put any graph in each row / column (i.e. cell); this example simply uses histograms.

```r
par(mfrow = c(2,2))
hist(age)
hist(education)
hist(income)
hist(bmi)
```

The above script produces the matrix of four graphs in the single graphics device displayed below. Notice how the order of each histogram function corresponds to each cell of the graphics device window (i.e. age in the upper left, education in the upper right, income in the lower left, and BMI in the lower right).
There are two ways to reset the rows and columns of your graphics device. First, simply close the graphics device (as was shown earlier) or second, simply re-specify the rows and columns as 1 each (which is the default when a graphics device is originally opened):

\texttt{par(mfrow = c(1,1))}

Keep in mind, you can have multiple graphics devices open at the same time simply using the \texttt{dev.new} function:

\texttt{plot(gender)}

\texttt{dev.new()}

\texttt{hist(age)}

which produces two graphs, each in its own device (i.e. window). Notice each device is numbered, starting with 2. This allows you to reference each device (active versus inactive) individually if so desired.

Keep in mind we have only used one argument (of more than 70) of the \texttt{par} function. If you would like to see all the available graphics device parameter (\texttt{par}) arguments, please take a look at the \texttt{help} file; which can be accessed with the following:

\texttt{help(par)}

Of course, each of the functions used in this article has an associated \texttt{help} file which can be accessed from the R console and each function is included in the base install of R (no additional packages were used to produce any of the above graphs). Lastly, you will surely have noticed the limited number and hue of colors used in this article. At the time of writing (June 5, 2014), there were 657 colors available for use in R. To see the entire list of available colors, use the \texttt{colors} function:

\texttt{colors()}

\section*{Conclusions}

Clearly there are many, many other ways to graphically display data using R; as the CRAN Task View for graphics (Lewin-Koh, 2014) shows. There are two especially popular packages for graphical display of multivariate data; the \texttt{lattice} package (Deepayan, 2014) and the \texttt{latticist} package (Andrews, 2014) which provides a Graphical User Interface (GUI) for the functions of \texttt{lattice}. There are two other packages worth looking into. The \texttt{car} package (Fox & Weisberg, 2014) provides very good \texttt{scatterplot} and \texttt{scatterplotMatrix} functions which fit linear model (regression) lines, smoothed (e.g. loess) lines, and boxplots for each axis by default. Also, the \texttt{scatterplot3d} package (Ligges & Mächler, 2003), as one might expect from the name, provides a function for producing 3-dimensional scatterplots which look very good. Please visit Module 12 of the RSS Do-it-yourself Introduction to R course page for examples of everything mentioned in this article (including the more complex data displays mentioned in this paragraph).

Until next time, remember what George Carlin said: \textit{"Intelligence tests are biased toward the literate."}

\section*{References / Resources}


Andrews, F. (2012). latticist: A Graphical User Interface for Exploratory Visualisation R package version 0.9-44. URL


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Do you need training on widely used computer programs including those used in statistical analysis? If so, this monthly Benchmarks Online column is for you.

Statistical Analysis

Instructor-led courses are offered only by special request. Please contact an RSS member or Claudia Lynch if you are interested in taking such a class or wish to have someone offer a class for your students. SAS, SPSS and Introduction to R are offered online. Make sure and check out the RSS Matters article Statistical Resources in the July 2012 issue of Benchmarks Online.

Special classes can always be arranged with the RSS staff. Also, you can always contact the RSS staff for one-on-one consultation. Please read the FAQ before requesting an appointment though.

Especially for Faculty and Staff Members

In addition to the online statistical courses, which are available to students, faculty and staff, staff and faculty members can take courses offered through the Business Service Center (they have a new comprehensive training curriculum), and the Center for Learning Enhancement, Assessment, and Redesign (CLEAR). Additionally, the Center for Achievement and Lifelong Learning (CALL) offers a variety of courses, usually for a small fee.

UNT System Training Resources

Visit my.unt.edu and login to access tutorials.
Microsoft Virtual Academy

Who is eligible to participate in MVA?

- Anybody interested in growing their career can be a part of MVA.
- MVA courses and events are free, but you need to identify yourself using a Microsoft account in order to sign up for MVA and create your MVA profile.
- To sign up for MVA, on the MVA home page, MVA courses and events are free, but you need to identify yourself using a Microsoft account in order to sign up for MVA and create your MVA profile.
- There is no minimum level of technical expertise required.

Microsoft E-Learning

Microsoft E-Learning courses are available for faculty and staff via our UNT System Microsoft Campus Agreement. To enroll in Microsoft Learning:

1. Go to: https://business.microsoftlearning.com/activate/
2. Input your multiuse access code: IWO11DC02B (The code is case-sensitive.)
3. You are prompted to sign in using a valid Windows Live™ ID. (This is the user name and password you will use to access the site each time you log on.) If you are currently a student at UNT, UNT Health Science Center, or UNT Dallas, you already have a Live ID to access your student email. (UNT and UNT Dallas have "EagleConnect" accounts, and use a Live ID of FirstnameLastname@my.unt.edu. Alumni that are faculty and/or staff and maintain their student email account can use their Live ID that was created while they were enrolled. Otherwise, faculty and staff who do not currently have a Live ID can create one at Microsoft's Live Sign-up site.

Central Web Support

Central Web Support provides "web hosting and support to appropriate campus entities free of charge." Visit their website for "How-Tos about Everything."
CLEAR offers courses especially for Faculty Members. CLEAR training includes:

- Blackboard
- Turnitin
- Turning Point
- Assessment
- Teaching Effectiveness
- Respondus

Please check out CLEAR's training and event calendar at [http://clear.unt.edu/calendar](http://clear.unt.edu/calendar) for the latest information regarding Blackboard, CLEAR's initiatives, and on campus instructional events.

Further information can be found here.

**FREE SLOAN-C ONLINE WORKSHOPS**

The University of North Texas is a premium member of Sloan-C College Pass. To request FREE ENROLLMENT in an online workshop by Sloan-C, please contact Amber Bryant with the name and date of the workshop selected.

- [Sloan-C 2014 Workshops](http://clear.unt.edu/calendar)

Please click on the link above to see the available 2014 workshops.

**Ed2go**

Ed2go are courses that are offered, for a fee, to UNT faculty, staff and students as well as the general public. According to the CALL website:

CALL has partnered up to provide online learning on a variety of topics. From standardized test preparation to database programming to training for libraries and their staff, there’s a variety of areas from which to choose in online learning.

The online minicourses, provided in conjunction with Ed2go, are standardized 12-lesson modules released over a six week period. (Courses are active for eight weeks to provide some flexibility). Each module features a quiz. Lessons are instructor-led and course participants and instructor communicate through a course discussion board. Lessons can be downloaded and saved. At the end of the course there is a final quiz. A passing grade opens a window that allows students to print out a course completion certificate.

Most courses are $89, and UNT faculty, staff and students may receive a $10 discount. Visit the online courses page at [http://www.ed2go.com/unt/](http://www.ed2go.com/unt/) or contact Tami Russell at 940.565.3353 for more information.

For additional information, visit the Ed2go blog here. You can subscribe to their newsletter also.

**Information Security Awareness**

Information Security Awareness -- The ITSS Information Security team offers Information Security Awareness training to all UNT faculty and staff.

- It is a policy requirement that ALL staff take an information security course at least once a year.
- See the Virus Information Page and the Information Security Handbook -- for Faculty, Staff and Students for further information.

**Business Service Center Training & Development**

Provides training to UNT System institutions: [http://bsc.untsystem.edu/training-development](http://bsc.untsystem.edu/training-development). There is also a link to download Office 2010 training (in PowerPoint 2010 format) on the BSC website. The March 2014 BSC Solution Source Newsletter has instructions for registering for their online courses.
UNT HR Training and Development

As noted on their website:

Monthly emails are sent to all employees with a list of current classes, many available by webcast. (Note: Few, if any classes are offered during the winter break, spring break holiday periods for all UNT System campuses.)

Learn more about classes here: https://untranet.unt.edu/untsystem/UNT%20System%20HR/talent_management/SitePages/Home.aspx

If you have questions or specific needs, contact talentmanagement@untsystem.edu or call 855-878-7650 to be directed to a Talent Management staff member.

Alternate Forms of Training

Many of the General Access Labs around campus have tutorials installed on their computers. See http://computerlabs.unt.edu/ for a list of labs and their locations. The 24 Center in Willis Library, for example, has a list of Tutorials and Software Support. The Library Instructional Unit also offers workshops and training, including “tech skills” training. Visit their websites for more information: http://www.library.unt.edu/library-instruction.

Info~Tech, UNT's IT Research Partner

Info~Tech is UNT's IT research partner. UNT System, UNT, UNT Health Science Center and UNT Dallas employees have access to Info~Tech research at: www.infotech.unt.edu (click on the UNT System name to login). Your standard EUID and Password gains you access to the Info~Tech system. Please take a moment to read their terms and conditions by clicking through the agreement when you set up your profile the first time you log in.

State of Texas Department of Information Resources

Another possible source of training for staff and, perhaps, faculty members is the Texas Department of Information Resources. A look at their Education and Training website reveals some interesting possibilities.

New Horizons Computer Learning Centers

New Horizons is a DIR vendor, which means that state agencies, like UNT, get special pricing for their services negotiated at the State level (click here for more information about DIR vendors). New Horizons offers courses at their own facilities in Dallas and Fort Worth, but will arrange for onsite training as well. They have a “Tips and Tricks” page that has helpful information. You can also join their mailing list to receive their monthly newsletter, event invitations and specials.

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Staff Activities

Staff activities for UIT are reported in this column. ITSS staff activities are handled by ITSS Communications.

Transitions

New Employees:

- **Randy Evans**, IT Manager, Classroom Support Services. Randy joins us from the UNT Graduate School.
- **Cesar Balderas**, IT Technician. Business Services (AITS).

No longer working in UIT:

- **Dr. Jesse Hamner**, Manager of the Research and Visualization Environment (RAVE). Click [here](http://www.unt.edu) for more information.

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Summer is here! Summer 2014 consists of six sessions and not all campus facilities are open during all the sessions.*

Following are the hours for University Information Technology-managed facilities over the summer. The University is officially closed on Friday, July 4 (Independence Day).

- The Helpdesk will be open on Friday, July 4 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. but will be closed to walk-in traffic; phone and email only. Otherwise they will maintain their normal operating hours.
- Data Management Services will be closed Friday, July 4, otherwise they will maintain their normal operating hours.
- The ACUS General Access/Adaptive Lab (SYMR 104) will be closed Thursday, July 4, otherwise they will maintain the following hours during the summer:

  Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.
  Saturday & Sunday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### Hours for Other Campus Facilities

**Student Computer Labs**

- **24 Center** (formerly known as WILLIS)
  - Maintaining a normal schedule through the summer except as noted.
  - July 4 & 5: Closed

- **College of Information General Access Computer Lab (CI-GACLab)** (B205)
  - Note: CLOSED: Friday, July 4 (Independence Day); August 10-24 (semester break).

- **MyUNT**
  - Eclipase FYI

- **EagleConnect**
  - RSS Matters

- **Blackboard**
  - Training

- **People & Departments**
  - Staff Activities

- **Maps**
  - Calendars

- **Giving to UNT**

- **ABOUT BENCHMARK ONLINE**
  - SEARCH ARCHIVE
  - SUBSCRIBE TO BENCHMARKS ONLINE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MUSIC</strong></td>
<td><strong>CLOSED</strong>: Friday, July 4 (Independence Day); August 10-24 (semester break).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PACS Computing Center</strong></td>
<td>College of Public Affairs and Community Service, Chilton Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CLOSED</strong></td>
<td>Friday, July 4 (Independence Day); August 10-24 (semester break).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CVAD</strong></td>
<td><strong>CLOSED</strong>: Thursday, July 4 (Independence Day); August 10-27 (semester break).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COE</strong></td>
<td><strong>CLOSED</strong>: Monday, May 26 (Memorial Day); Friday, July 4 (Independence Day); August 10-24 (semester break).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COB (BLB 190)</strong></td>
<td><strong>CLOSED</strong>: Monday, May 26 (Memorial Day); Friday, July 4 (Independence Day); August 10-24 (semester break).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**May 12 - August 9, 2014:**
- Monday: 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.
- Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Sunday: 1 p.m. - 8 p.m.

**May 12 - August 9, 2014:**
- Monday: 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
- Friday - Saturday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Sunday: Noon - 10 p.m.

**May 12 - August 9, 2014:**
- Monday: 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
- Friday: 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Saturday: Noon - 5 p.m.
- Sunday: Closed

**May 30 - August 9, 2014:**
- Monday -
**Summer Hours** | Benchmarks Online

| **July** | **Lab Hours for May 12 – August 9, excluding closings** |
|--------------------------------|
| Independence Day) | GAB 330: |
| (Independence Day); August 10-24 (semester break). | Monday - Thursday: 8 a.m. - Midnight |
| | Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. |
| | Saturday: Noon - 8 p.m. |
| | Sunday: Midnight |
| August 9-24 (semester break). | Closed July 5 & 6 |
| Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 11:50 p.m. | Terrill 220: |
| Friday - Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - 7:50 p.m. | Monday - Thursday: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. |
| Sunday, Noon - Midnight | Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. |
| CAS - All labs will be closed | Saturday - Sunday: Closed |
| (Independence Day); August 10-24 (semester break). | Closed July 5 & 6 |
| TT220 and WH 120 will close at 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 3. GAB 330 will close at their normal time. | Wooten 120: |
| | Monday - Thursday: 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. |
| | Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. |
| | Saturday: Closed |
| | Closed July 5 & 6 |
| Engineering General Access Lab (CENGAL, englab@unt.edu, Discovery Park, B129, 891-6733) | May 12 - August 9, 2014: |
| CLOSED: | Monday – Friday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. |
| Friday, July 4 (Independence Day); August 10-24 (semester break). | Saturday - |
UNT Shuttle Service

Check out the transit website to keep up with the shuttle schedule throughout the summer. A 2013-2014 calendar is available here: http://www.unt.edu/transit/pdf/2013-2014_calendar.pdf.

According to the Registrar’s Office, the terms this year are:

1. 3W1 (3 week 1) May 12 - May 29, 2014
2. 8W1 (8 week 1) May 12 - July 3, 2014
3. SUM (summer) May 12 - August 8, 2014
4. 5W1 (5 week 1) June 2 - July 3, 2014
5. 10W (10 week) June 2 - August 8, 2014
6. 5W2 (5 week 2) July 7 - August 8, 2014

Remember:

Get your alerts fast in case of inclement weather

Visit the Emergency Management website

City of Denton Residents, sign up for the CodeRED Emergency Notification System

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Visit Us:
Sage Hall, Room 338
http://it.unt.edu/benchmarks/

Email us:
Have questions on content or technical issues? Please contact us.
unt.uit@unt.edu

UNT System:
- UNT Home
- UNT System
- UNT Dallas
- UNT Health Science Center

Site last updated on April 22, 2016
Today's Cartoon

"When you're trying to fall asleep, does it ever feel like your thumbs are still texting?"

From "Today's Cartoon by Randy Glasbergen", posted with special permission. For many more cartoons, please visit www.glasbergen.com.

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