Welcome New Faculty!

The Office of Information Technology (OIT) supports faculty by providing computing, visualization and networking infrastructure, and support services. In partnership with other offices, our staff also supports the administrative systems used for financial, grant, student information, and other activities.

This handout highlights some of the campus-wide services and systems available to you including email, network, storage, learning management system, classroom podiums and computers, and more. We offer training sessions to help you learn to use classroom podiums, OWL-Space, and research computing resources (see back for schedule).

For technology questions contact the Help Desk, the centralized center for campus technical support. Computing support staff can help with your computer, mobile devices, OWL-Space, classroom podiums, and other systems. Help Desk staff will answer your questions or route your service requests to the proper individual. OIT Divisional Representatives can make an appointment to assist you in your office or classroom as needed.

We look forward to supporting you!
OWL-Space
http://owlspace.rice.edu/

OWL-Space is Rice’s course management and collaboration system. Every Rice course is automatically set up in OWL-Space, but the OWL-Space course site must be first activated by the instructor before students can see or use it. Many instructors post class notes, syllabi, and other resources in class pages in OWL-Space. When registered students or assigned instructors and TAs log into OWL-Space with their Rice NetID and password, each of the courses (which have been activated in OWL-Space) will automatically appear as a tab in the top navigation bar. Contact the OIT Help Desk or the Teaching, Learning, and Scholarly Technologies (TLST) group directly at tlst@rice.edu if you would like additional information about OWL-Space or related classroom services.

Canvas
http://www.rice.edu/canvas/

Rice is currently evaluating a new course management system. After extensive reviews a small pilot is currently underway to determine if Canvas (http://www.canvaslms.com/higher-education/) is a feasible replacement for Owl-Space. Canvas is a very popular LMS (learning management system) at other universities. A limited number of courses piloted Canvas in the summer and a small pilot will continue this fall. The fall 2015 semester pilot is currently full, but an expanded pilot will take place in the spring 2016 semester. If you are interested in participating in the spring pilot or would like more information visit http://www.rice.edu/canvas. This pilot is a partnership between the Office of Information Technology, the Office of Digital Education, and Fondren Library.

Podiums
http://tlst.rice.edu/

Instructional systems or “podiums” are available in 95 classrooms and seven computer teaching labs across campus. These teaching systems enable faculty to use a variety of digital teaching tools. All are equipped with projection and audio support as well as connection cables for laptops and most include a computer for your use. To learn how to use this technology, attend a training session (listed on the back). To request an individual training session or discuss ways you can use the teaching tools in your course, email the Help Desk (helpdesk@rice.edu).
Storage and Backup
http://it.rice.edu/storageoptions/

A variety of storage options are available for your data. We can offer guidance in selecting the system that best meets your needs. Security is one of the most important considerations when comparing storage and file sharing solutions. Rice storage systems or Rice-contracted cloud-based storage solutions (i.e. Box) are recommended for sensitive university data. If you store your data on Rice storage or Box, your data is automatically backed up. If you store your data on a Rice-owned PC or Mac, we recommend Crashplan (annual fee) to back up your local data files.

Center for Research Computing
http://crc.rice.edu/

The OIT Center for Research Computing (CRC) provides shared facilities and services to support researchers across Rice. CRC acts as the primary contact for all research-related service inquiries. CRC operates best-in-class on-premise shared facilities. CRC can also facilitate access to regional, national, and commercial cloud facilities. CRC provides user services and training as well as application and proposal consulting.

Research Networking Infrastructure
http://it.rice.edu/network/

OIT provides a rich set of network infrastructures designed to help researchers collaborate and move large amounts of data around the campus and between other universities and national labs. Rice recently upgraded the campus link to Internet2 to 100 gb/s (a 10 fold increase over the previous connection). As RiceNet3 continues to be deployed throughout the campus during the 2015-2016 academic year, other performance increases will be implemented to further facilitate research and education data flows. Please contact the OIT Help Desk if you have specialized data networking needs.
Fall Training Sessions

Classroom Podiums
Learn how to manage the technical equipment in your classroom from lowering the projector screen to bringing up the Internet on your teaching computer, and more.

- Th Aug 20 10:00 am - 11:30 am Humanities 118
- Fri Aug 21 10:00 am - 11:30 am Herman Brown Hall 427

OWL-Space
Learn to use the most popular features such as simplified class and homework assignments and submission, quizzes, electronic grade books, and more.

- Fri Aug 21 10:00 am - 11:30 am Rayzor Hall 119
- Fri Aug 28 10:00 am - 11:30 am Rayzor Hall 119
- Tue Sept 1 10:00 am - 11:30 am Rayzor Hall 119

Rediscover OWL-Space
Learn additional tips and tricks beyond the basics that can save you time managing the courses you teach and help you better understand your students’ study habits.

- Fri Aug 28 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm Rayzor Hall 119

Center for Research Computing

Research Computing Workshops
(Held at 2:00 pm in Ryon Engineering Laboratory 102)

- Tue Sept 15 Introduction to Research Computing at Rice
- Tue Oct 13 Data Visualization

Visualization Workshops
(Held at 11:00 am in Chevron Visualization Laboratory in Dell Butcher Hall 110)

- Th Sept 10 Introduction to Visualization Resources at Rice
- Th Oct 8 Visualization Production: Imagery and Animation
- Th Nov 12 ParaView on the CRC Resources
- Th Dec 3 Tools for Managing Data, Computation, and Visualization Workflows

MATLAB Workshops* (Conducted by MathWorks in Duncan Hall 3092)

- Fri Sept 11 8:45 am - 11:00 am Data Analytics with MATLAB*
- Fri Sept 11 10:45 am - 12:30 pm Tackling Big Data with MATLAB*
- Wed Sept 16 8:45 am - 12:30 pm Parallel Computing with MATLAB*

*Registration required but walk-ins accepted subject to space availability; for additional details and registration link, go to http://crc.rice.edu/