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VOLUME 1, ISSUE 6

OCTOBER, 2006

Archiving: Keeping the Past Safe

Most of us already archive to some degree, but are we doing it properly? Experts say there are two rules of thumb when archiving:

1. **Create a backup on a different format than the original and test it.** For example, if a document is created on a laptop, then the back-up copy should be on a CD, DVD, Floppy, USB drive, etc.
2. **Place archived documents in a different physical location.** By doing this, the potential for data loss is far less. Let's say an instructor creates a file on a desktop at the

office, and makes a CD or floppy copy and stores it in his/her desk. If the office door was accidentally left unlocked over the weekend or a pipe burst in the office, potentially both copies could be lost.

To get the most out of archiving, the small details do matter, so be sure to consider the potential pitfalls of choosing format and location.



What do you want to hear?

All SwVCC faculty and staff are encouraged to submit items or request topics for inclusion. Email comments or suggestions to: lanna.lumpkins@sw.edu



Don't Forget...

In celebration of National Career Development Month in November, SwVCC, VHCC and WCC are co-sponsoring the 2nd annual Community College Career Connection of Southwest Virginia. This career fair is unique because it targets employers throughout the region who are interested in hiring employees with community college credentials. Please advise students to attend the Career Connection of Southwest Virginia, Wed., Nov. 1, 2006, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., at the Southwest Virginia Higher Ed Center, Abingdon, VA. Many Employers begin making hiring plans and even hiring decisions long before May graduation dates. This fall career fair is a timely opportunity for students to "jump start" the networking process! If you would like more information on this job fair or other career opportunities, please visit the [Career Resources Center online](#), phone 276.964.7544 or email, sharon.peery@sw.edu.

Got Antivirus Software?

The Blackboard site has software FREE to college students, faculty and staff. Just log on and download Symantec AntiVirus Corporate Edition to your office and/or home computer. Symantec AntiVirus contains everything you need to detect viruses, repair files and help prevent virus infection. To protect yourself from new viruses, you can configure regular virus definitions file updates. Complete details,

download and installation instructions can be found on the SWCC tab in Blackboard on the VCCS: FREE! Symantec AntiVirus Corporate Edition module. Depending upon your connection speed, dialup users may see download times of up to 2 hours. If further instruction is needed, please contact the Blackboard Administrator at stacy.harris@sw.edu.



Website of the Month

So, you have figured out how to transfer songs from your CD collection to your iPod, but they don't have the cool album cover art like the normal iPod downloads. How can you get it?

Visit amphonicdesigns.com to find artwork, album reviews, artist information and more free!

Amphonic Designs can automatically add artwork to your

entire iTunes Music Library in One Easy Step. Just choose the size of artwork you want and Album Cover Finder quickly adds the correct album covers directly to your music files. You can even choose regional specific searches from their database.

The "no strings" download offers a free version plus a limited time trial of the full version.

Suggestions or comments:
lanna.lumpkins@sw.edu



Visit
amphonicdesigns.com
for a free download!

My Space, Your Space, Wasted Space?

The runaway popularity of the social networking world's: My Space (www.myspace.com) and Facebook

(www.facebook.com) has drawn a mixed bag of praise, scorn and controversy in recent months. All of this attention is very reminiscent of the early days of the commercial Internet. The question is the same too. Can the benefits of social networking outweigh its pervasive and iniquitous applications? My opinion is a resounding "yes it can." Social networking applications can be effectively used to create online communities for sharing information and ideas. I see two primary applications: creating online learning communities and marketing to prospective students and alumni.

The detractors of social networking are quick to point out its shortcomings which are many. Security and illicit material top their list. Many social networking users are all too willing to publicly post everything about themselves on these sites despite having the ability to restrict their

personal information. This has led to some widely publicized cases of predators stalking and assaulting minors. In response to these incidents social networking sites have increased security measures pertaining to minors. Also... despite restrictions prohibiting pornographic material, users are sharing suggestive photos and videos.

For those willing to take on the risk, the marketplace created by social networks is fertile with possibilities. Many organizations have already taken the leap with mixed results. The U.S. Marine Corps has been successful in generating quality recruits using My Space and other companies like Nike and Aquafina have also experienced success. Wal-Mart's foray into My Space has been less fruitful. Social networks are fraught with the fickleness of popular culture. Organizations walk a fine line between being seen as "hip" or "cool" and just another corporate wannabe.

On the instructional side, social networking opens

doors to online communities of learning for traditional and distance learning students. Students in college courses could be connected through corresponding groups on My Space. They could use the My Space connection to work collaboratively on projects post writing assignments to blogs or create portfolios of their academic work.

My personal philosophy on My Space and Facebook is that "this is where our students are congregating and we should attempt to use this virtual environment to enrich our marketing efforts and enhance student learning." They are not hanging out at the mall or watching television. They are meeting and sharing information online. The benefits of social networking can only be realized if educational institutions take the time to learn about this new environment and implement their online activities always keeping the target audience (our students) at the forefront.

For the complete version of this abbreviated article, please visit Ken Fairbanks' blog, [Breaking the Chalk](#).

"For those willing to take on the risk, the marketplace created by social networks is fertile with possibilities."