



**Santa Clara
University**

Engineering Design Center

Fall 2003 Newsletter

<http://www.scudc.scu.edu>

September 29, 2003

DC Staffing Changes

On the heels of the changes made at the end of the 2002-2003 school year, this summer saw several more staff departures and arrivals. A few long time student system administrators have graduated and moved on. We wish them all the best. To fill their shoes we have promoted a few of our lab monitors to the student system administrator ranks. They will be trained and aided by our returning student system administrators.

Another staffing change of note is the full-time hiring of long-time student system administrator Chris Tracy. Chris has been with us for the last four years and knows a great deal about the overall configuration and operation of the Design Center. He has been contracted to continue working for the next two years from his home in Lansing, Michigan. During this time, he will focus primarily on improving, simplifying, and documenting Design Center systems and procedures. Furthermore, he will provide training to Design Center staff in areas like network security, where he is currently our sole expert. Finally, he will also continue to function as a system administrator, where he will be responsible for troubleshooting the most difficult issues that arise. Chris, along with the rest of the system administration staff, can be reached at the e-mail address support@engr.scu.edu.

E-mail Filtering

Over the past year, unsolicited e-mail, or "spam," has become a large problem. To combat this problem, we have implemented a user-configurable filtering system called *SpamAssassin*, as a result of user requests. By default it scans all incoming e-mail and tags those it believes are spam. (NOTE: This system does NOT block or delete any mail whatsoever.) Users can customize this behavior, and even disable all filtering for their account if they choose. More



information and instructions can be found at <http://helpme.scudc.scu.edu/email.html>

New Solaris Systems

Thanks to a grant from Sun Microsystems, we were able to purchase 17 new Sun Blade 150's. As a result, Room 608C is now a full-sized lab, with 24 Sun Blades workstations and 4 high-end Ultra 80 workstations. These systems are currently on temporary tables pending the delivery of new desks. Please note that the naming conventions for the Sun Blades has changed. They are now named nova1, nova2, etc. The Ultra 80 systems retain the names sol61, sol62, sol63, and sol64.



Increased Disk Quota

This summer, the Design Center installed a new network attached storage (NAS) array. This addition increased our network accessible disk capacity from 250GB to 1.2TB. As a result, we have increased student disk quotas from 50MB to 100MB and faculty quotas from 100MB to 200MB. If you have special disk requirements, feel free to contact us.



VMware

If you've used Room 605 lately, you'll notice that it is now a Linux lab by default. Windows is still available, however, through a program called VMware. To access it, simply type:

```
setup vmware
vmware
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at a terminal. Through VMware we are able to provide both Windows and Linux on the same hardware, without the problems associated with dual-booting. Our plan is to roll a similar configuration out to the PCs in Room 608A at the end of the Fall Quarter. Room 618 will remain Windows only.



Design Center Expansion

The most visible change in the Design Center is our new layout. We've integrated Room 605 into the main Design Center area, allowing access to all parts of the Design Center through a single point of entry now located in the middle of the hallway. The former main entrance along with the hallway entrance to Room 605 are now alarmed. So please read the signs and use the correct entrance. Just inside the Design Center you will find our new help desk, manned by one of our Lab Monitors. You can reach the help desk at extension 4909. New, modern paneled partitions have been ordered and will arrive soon.

