Message from the CIO

Summer is here! Most of us will find at least some time to vacation and relax - but Internet criminals never take time off. In this issue, we provide information on how to request Information Resource Access for TTU Guests, as well as provide an explanation and safety tips for using QR Codes. We also introduce the new Digital Signage you may have seen on campus. We hope you take a moment to browse the Computer-based Training inventory for our highlighted course—look forward to CBT course highlights becoming a new feature in the TTU IT Division bulletin. Lastly, we provide tips on how to not let Identity Theft Spoil Your Vacation. Let’s make this a productive summer on the TTU campus!

The TTU IT Division provides guest wireless access for departments and areas that host events on campus. Visit http://www.net.ttu.edu/forms/ttuguest.asp and complete the form to request temporary wireless guest access for individuals attending conferences, meetings, and events. Recruiters, vendors, presenters, and visitors may also use the guest wireless network. Access is provided through a specially provisioned wireless network for one to five days. The amount of time to evaluate the request varies; therefore, please allow several working days to process your request. In some cases, additional information may be required. Upon the approval, you will receive an email message providing detailed guest account and setup information.

In 2011, the TTU IT Division processed 2,281 TTUGuest wireless account requests, and as a result, created over 4,000 TTUGuest accounts.

For additional questions regarding guest wireless access, please contact the Network Operations Center at noc@ttu.edu.

QR Code Quick Facts

You have probably noticed a symbol that resembles a bar code appearing in ads, grocery stores, business cards, retail products, posters across campus – even on the TTU IT Division bulletins. This image is called a QR Code – an abbreviation of Quick Response Code. Each QR Code contains information that once scanned by a QR Code reader app can provide you quick, easy information about the item from your mobile device.

QR Codes have quickly become popular because they allow consumers immediate access to websites, Twitter feeds, product details, and other online information— all with no typing required. You can download a QR Code reader application for your device, such as Android’s BarCode Scanner, RedLaser BarCode Scanner, or QR Code Reader for iOS. Additionally, QR Codes can easily be generated through various websites.

Due to the success and prevalence of QR Codes, cyber criminals have found ways to exploit this new technology. Malicious QR Codes can put your privacy and mobile device contents at risk, or direct you to a phishing website designed to steal your credentials and personal information.

Available topics include:

• Effective listening;
• Giving successful presentations;
• Managing conflict in the workplace;
• Communicating assertively;
• Interpersonal communication; and
• Emotional Intelligence essentials.

With over 5,300 courses in the TTU catalog, there is a course topic that will interest you and add to your skill set. In this issue, we highlight courses to improve your professional communication skills.

CBI—Computer Based Training is so much more than “learning about computers”

You can find these and other communication skills in the Communications Curriculum in the Business Skills set. You can search the inventory for your own training needs. Browse the catalog at www.cbtt.ttu.edu to see all the course topics available to you—anywhere, anytime for any Raider.
**University Digital Signage**

After extensive testing, planning, and evaluation, the TTU IT Division has launched Texas Tech’s new Digital Signage service. This technology allows the display of rich, robust content; including web pages, videos, and live news data. You can also view University events, and other timely information on these signs. In fact, during an emergency, these systems will also display emergency notifications and alerts.

Digital signage systems are already installed at:

- ATLC;
- IT Help Central;
- Office of the CIO;
- Provost’s Office;
- Student Media Building;
- Student Rec Center;
- Student Union Building;
- United Spirit Arena; and
- University Library.

We would like to thank Communications & Marketing for collaborating with us to provide this service to the University community. For additional information about digital signage, or for information about implementing digital signage in your area, please contact IT Help Central at (806)742-4357 (HELP) or via email at ithelpcentral@ttu.edu.

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**Don’t let Identity Theft Spoil Your Vacation**

Vacationers are at an increased risk for identity theft because they often carry credit cards, passports, and other official forms of personal identification. As a result, tourists are routinely targeted by criminals. Travelers should be careful in their efforts to protect themselves and take extra precaution with items most likely to be stolen while traveling. Thieves are just as likely to target your personal information as your expensive camera or laptop. We offer these tips to help protect your identity while vacationing:

- **Don’t travel with all your credit cards -- carrying a limited number credit cards reduces the chance of loss or theft;**
- **Don’t leave personal information in your hotel room; we suggest that you take advantage of the hotel safe;**
- **If you make travel arrangements using your mobile phone, be careful about the information you input and store in the application, such as saving your login information, credit card number, or billing address. Your saved information could be stolen along with your phone;**
- **Avoid accessing personal information from public computers. Most public wireless connections are not secure, so avoid using them for secure transactions, such as transactions requiring a login; and**
- **Stay alert! It is easy to let your guard down while relaxing on vacation, but it’s important to be aware of your surroundings and the people around you.**

For more safe computing information, please visit: [http://www.safecomputing.ttu.edu](http://www.safecomputing.ttu.edu).

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