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Migration of Faculty Personal Web Pages

Submitted by Richard Flynn

4/19/2007

Question:

We have just been informed about yet another domain name change for all faculty personal web pages. This is a MAJOR inconvenience. Why was the faculty not consulted?

Rationale:

Faculty members who construct electronic syllabi and link to course materials must now go through those materials with a fine-toothed comb and once again replace links everywhere. We did this before with the georgiasouthern.edu change. Despite their being called "personal pages," faculty use these pages primarily for professional research and teaching reasons. Many maintain research pages that are linked to other professional sites. Constant changes like this also have an impact on such things as the need for new business cards, which we buy at our own expense. Faculty should be consulted about matters having to do with web page redesign that affect them. In addition to its PR function, University web space is academic work space and faculty have a stake in how it is designed and allocated. Consultation on such matters in the past year has been virtually non-existent.

SEC Response:

April 27, 2007: I recognize that changing domain names is a major inconvenience. We do have a year's grace period with the redirects.

This change is in response to several problems that have occurred with hackers invading the University's web pages through personal pages. For better security of official University sites, personal sites have been renamed and will be moved to a different server for further security. In addition to the enhanced security, the new server will allow faculty more space for personal pages and more freedom of design and content than was possible when they are attached to official university pages.

David Ewing (Acting IT Services Director) also noted that the Faculty Technology Advisory committee is in the works and will be announced in a couple of weeks.

--Pat Humphrey, Senate Moderator

Senate Response:

Richard Flynn filed an RFI on migration of faculty personal web pages. "Why are we changing the URLs yet again? Well, the short answer is it's for security. I don't know how many of you are aware, but our University web pages have been hacked mightily in the recent past, and the solution to it is to try and separate all personal web pages from official web pages... There is a redirect which will be active for a year. The next plan, and I discussed this with David Ewing, is [that] they will be taking all of those personal web pages and physically moving them to a separate server from the University's main server to add yet another layer of security. And when they start doing that and totally divorce personal pages from University web pages, one benefit: You'll have more web space, disk space. You'll also have more freedom in terms of your content and design of your personal web pages. You won't have to try and adhere to any kind of University standard. He also noted when I talked with him that he is working on getting the Faculty Technology Advisory Committee up and running again in response to what was discussed in the February and March meetings about the web page and other technology issues on campus, and he will have that committee composition announced within a couple of weeks."

Other Response:

See below:

>>> David Ewing 04/19/07 1:48 PM >>>

University Faculty and Staff,

In response to the growing demand on personal web space at the University and the need to provide better security in the University's web environment, IT Services we be migrating students, faculty, and staff personal web sites to their own domain name. This migration will change the address of all personal sites from www.georgiasouthern.edu/~username to personal.georgiasouthern.edu/~username. Please understand that this change does not affect the University, Departmental or Special Program web sites.

This transition will officially take place on June 1, 2007. Beginning today, an automatic redirect has been put into place so that if anyone goes to the old URL they will be

automatically redirected to the new personal.georgiasouthern.edu domain. This redirect will be in place for one year until June 1, 2008 at which time it will be removed. This should give you time to change printed materials and any links you might have. IT Services has already updated any links from the main University Homepage to use the new URL. Please use the following examples to update your URL and current links to point to the new domain.

OLD URL * <http://www.georgiasouthern.edu/~accountname>

NEW URL - <http://personal.georgiasouthern.edu/~accountname>

If you have any questions please send them to

webmstr@georgiasouthern.edu