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University Community Newsletter - March, 2008



COUNTDOWN TO FIRST SIS IMPLEMENTATION

55 Days

until acceptance of Professional Applications on June 2, 2008

Welcome to the March University Community Newsletter. The goal of this newsletter is to provide the university community with project updates and information of interest regarding the SIS project. If you have questions about the project and/or are interested in receiving information about a particular topic, we want to hear from you! Please send your inquiries to: sis@osu.edu.

A MESSAGE FROM MARTHA GARLAND, VICE PROVOST AND DEAN OFFICE OF ENROLLMENT SERVICES AND UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION AND SIS PROJECT SPONSOR

Happy Spring to you all! As we begin a new season and a new quarter, hopefully we can say goodbye to our endless winter and look forward to seeing our campus return to a vibrant hub of activity. Spring quarter is always a hectic time on campus as Seniors prepare for graduation and their new careers, while staff members prepare for summer orientation and a new class of incoming undergraduate and graduate students. The end of Spring also marks the beginning of our first SIS implementation on June 2nd. That's when the Graduate Admissions office will be accepting applications into the new SIS for students who are enrolling in the Autumn quarter of 2009.

Also, in preparation for the new SIS, beginning June 1st current and new students will be assigned a 9-digit OSU ID number that will serve as their main identifier once the student system is fully implemented in the summer of 2009. Students who were employed by the university prior to June 1st, will retain their 8-digit number. Both of these implementations are exciting signs that our new system is coming and that in just one short year, we will be preparing to put the final phase of the new SIS in place.

9-DIGIT OSU ID FOR HR SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED ON MARCH 29TH

On Saturday, March 29th, the 9-digit OSU ID numbering scheme was successfully "moved to production" for the Human Resources (HR) system. This rollout, along with the implementation of the first phase of the Student Information System (SIS) this spring, will provide the Student and Human Resource (HR) systems with a common database and a common OSU ID format.

As of 1 p.m. on March 29th, the HR system began assigning a 9-digit OSU ID to all new employees. These new hires will be assigned a number in the range of 200000000. Unlike the current 8-digit Employee ID number, the first 2 digits of the 9-digit OSU ID or Employee ID numbering system will NOT represent the year of hire. Due to the flexibility of the new system and its ability to handle variable lengths, current and former employees will retain their 8-digit Employee ID



Martha Garland

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numbers.

HOW WILL WE KNOW WE ARE READY TO GO LIVE? TESTING, TESTING, TESTING!

In early January, the SIS Project Team began testing in preparation for the first implementations in June.

What is being tested? In short, everything! All system functionality to be used in June will be tested to make sure the system works in an integrated environment. In addition, however, there are many important testing efforts being conducted including:

- **Online Testing** will test all critical pages end-users will access, as well as how these pages are used. This includes navigation menus, page loads, searches, data entry, saving of data, and online processes. Testing will include all high volume activities/processes, critical activities/processes, and known or suspected problem activities/processes to identify any areas that need to be resolved before the system goes live.
- **System Availability Testing** will be performed to assure that infrastructure hardware and software configuration failures of individual components do not impact system availability needs defined by university business area service levels. This testing will consist of intentionally failing, or simulating failure of, all identified hardware and software configuration components where failure could adversely impact system availability. This testing will assure that failover components and processes work as expected and system availability is unaffected when individual components of the infrastructure hardware and software configuration fail.
- Another type of testing, **Connectivity Testing**, will involve Network Administrators (DNA's) from all parts of the university. Connectivity Testing focuses on making sure users can access student related systems from every university building in any city. To make this happen, a Connectivity Testing Kickoff was held on March 5th in the Mount Hall Auditorium to begin a dialogue with university network administrators regarding Connectivity Testing and the new SIS. The session was well-attended and provided an overview and timeline for the SIS Project, as well as connectivity information for SIS, DARS, eReports and the new ODS. Deployment of these systems to a broader number of users means additional computers and networks to configure with certified browsers, web plug-ins, firewall changes, VPN connections and Oracle software. The session explored how the Operations project team and network administrators will work together in the coming months to identify and resolve any network problems before the new SIS goes live.



(pictured left to right) David Renner, Danny Williams, Glenn Donaldson, Jeff Schleup, Greg Niemeyer and Bill Lotozo (not pictured) from the SIS Operations and Conversion Teams discussed SIS system requirements and other technical issues with university system specialists on March 5th, 2008

Another important category of testing is **System Performance Testing**. System Performance Testing is being performed with anticipated transaction and data volumes of all key system processes on the planned system infrastructure (hardware and software). The objectives of performance testing include assuring avoidance of significant system performance problems, validating infrastructure configurations, and predicting system responses. The specific types of performance testing being done include:

- **Stress Testing (Performance)** for each online user process involves isolating and “stressing” each process by generating a usage load many times greater than normal. Usage load is based on the number of users that run a process at the same time. This testing helps identify individual process performance problems that require tuning improvements.
- **On a broader scale, “Typical” Day in the Life Testing (Performance)** involves simultaneously testing multiple system processes at the usage loads expected during a typical day on our new system. All types of processes are run, including online, batch, reports, etc., to provide an indication of how quickly the system and the online user processes will respond during a typical day.
- **“Heavy Usage” Day in the Life Testing (Performance)** will also be conducted. This is another broad scale testing activity like “Typical Day” testing, but with usage loads that reflect the high levels of processing that occur on certain days of the university calendar. This testing gives insight into expected system and online user process response times during “high usage” days. Because usage on these days provides the “high water mark” for processing and system requirements, the infrastructure hardware and software configurations, including sizing, are validated during this testing as well.

More testing updates will be featured next month, include the testing of the Operational Data Store (ODS) and the conversion of data from the Legacy system to PeopleSoft.

COMMUNICATING UPDATES - EMAIL YOUR TOPIC IDEAS

Over the coming months and years, we will be communicating project updates to you primarily through this newsletter. What topics would you like to see featured in this newsletter? Do you have a question we can address? Please let us know your thoughts. We welcome your participation in helping to shape the content of this newsletter. Please send your ideas, comments and/or questions to the Change Management Team at sis@osu.edu.

For a more detailed overview about the SIS Project, visit the "Frequently Asked Questions" page on the SIS web site at:

<http://oaa.osu.edu/sis/faq.html>

THE SIS PROJECT: MOVING FORWARD TO MEET OUR FUTURE!