Human Ecology IT News

May 2023

this issue

New headshots for social media and websites!

Our new communications specialist Marita Madeloni has offered to take professional portraits (head shots) for faculty, staff and students in our department. Please contact her at mymadeloni@ucdavis.edu if you are interested!

AggieFeed Submission Request

Several of our departmental websites utilize a tool called AggieFeed to highlight departmental accomplishments and to advertise events. If you or your students have research or achievements that you would like to highlight, please send a brief description to Marita along with any pertinent links and images.

AggieAccess is now live for Hunt Hall.

UC Davis is standardizing the security card systems used throughout the university. In the past, the campus had used multiple key-card access control systems across campus, requiring the use of several card types. With the full-scale implementation of AggieAccess, your new credentials will serve as your key card for all the locations where you currently have entry privileges, plus several general access buildings.

Along with the Eichhorn Family House, Hunt Hall is now equipment with the AggieAccess system. This will allow faculty, staff and students to access the building after normal business hours in a secure way, without the need to distrubute physical keys that can be lost. To request access for you or your students please follow the process for requesting access available on our website: https://humanecology.ucdavis.edu/aggieaccess-human-ecology

When is a VRA required?

Anytime we use, purchase or download computer software, cloud based services or content a VRA is required.

A vendor risk assessment allows departments to review the vendor's security program, determine the level of risk to UC Davis data and/or systems, and identify specific gaps the vendor or department may need to address through action or contracts. A VRA is required to comply with IS-3 policy requirement 12.2.1, which formalizes the requirement that a risk assessment be completed when contracting for a third-party provided service that will handle UC Davis information, or otherwise potentially impact the security of UC Davis. The minimum requirement as it relates to contracting for third-party provided services calls for risk assessments of Cloud and Supplier services for Institutional Information classified at Protection Level 2 or higher. Learn more about IS-3 here: https://iet.ucdavis.edu/learn-more

Is it time for a password manager?

There are many reasons why you should use a password manager. Here are a few of the most important ones:

Password managers help you create strong passwords. A strong password is one that is long, complex, and unique. It should be difficult for someone to guess or crack. However, it can be difficult to remember a strong password for each of your online accounts. A password manager can help you generate and store strong passwords for all of your accounts.

Password managers help you avoid reusing passwords. Reusing passwords is a major security risk. If one of your accounts is compromised, the hacker will then have access to all of your other accounts that use the same password. A password manager can help you avoid reusing passwords by generating and storing unique passwords for each of your accounts.

Password managers make it easy to log in to your accounts. With a password manager, you don't have to remember all of your passwords. You can simply type in your master password to unlock the password manager, and then the password manager will automatically fill in your login credentials for the website or app you're trying to access.

Overall, a password manager is a valuable tool that can help you improve your online security. If you're not already using a password manager, I encourage you to start using one today.

Password managers can help you keep your passwords safe. Password managers use strong encryption to protect your passwords. This means that even if your password manager is compromised, your passwords will still be safe.

The College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences IT staff are in the process of testing 1Password with the eventual hope that it will be provided at no charge to staff and faculty. If you are interested in getting started with 1Password please let us know!
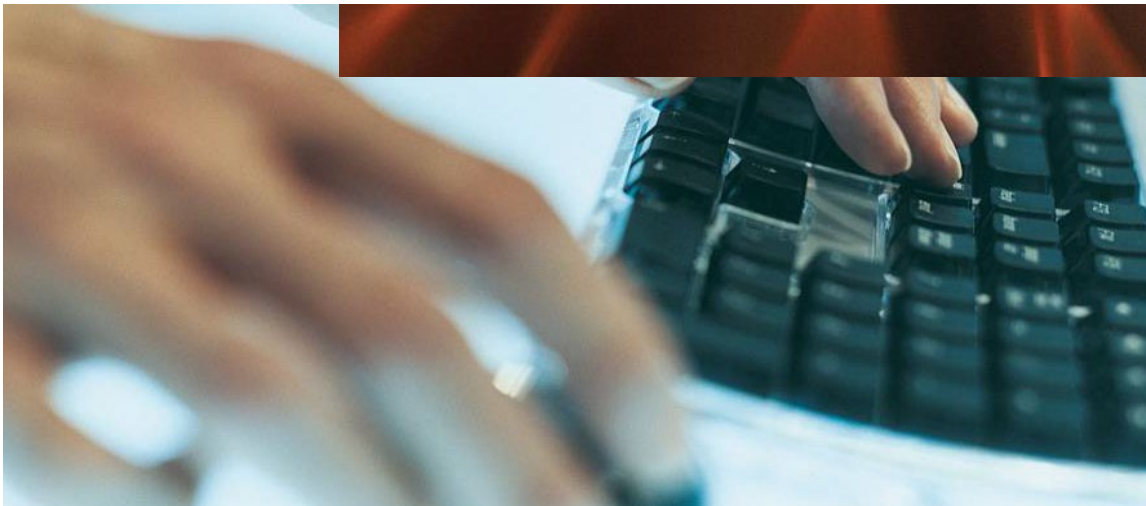
Reserving Lab Space For Students

All currently registered CA&ES students, faculty, and staff are eligible to use the CA&ES Computer Labs located in 253-Hunt Hall and 1137-PES. A free campus computing account is required to access the computers. A campus computing account can be set up online at http://computingaccounts.ucdavis.edu/.

Scheduled classes have priority over all other uses. Previously recurring classes will maintain schedule preference for their historical timeslot(s).

Usage of the CA&ES Computer Labs requires instructors to submit a reservation request before a quarter starts to provision access for their students. Lab polices can be found here.

Information and Educational Technology maintains a virtual lab for students to use. The IET Virtual Lab allows remote connections to computers in the IET computer rooms on campus. This allows students to work on assignments using specialized software when the computer rooms are closed.

Since the IET Virtual Lab uses PCs in the computer rooms, there are more stations available after 8pm (Mon-Thu), after 6pm (Fri), and on weekends. If you need access to specialized software during the school day you can find it in the IET Computer Rooms.

Cloud storage limits

Cloud storage limits have recently changed for several services.

UC Davis offers several options to Faculty, Staff, and Students for their cloud storage needs. All members of UC Davis receive campus provided storage space from Box.com (currently unlimited, may switch to 1TB), Microsoft OneDrive (1TB), and Google Drive (20GB). All three services offer workstation synchronization, mobile access, and support for uploading most file types.

SOFTWARE
Monthly Picks

Slack is a cloud-based collaboration tool that allows teams to communicate in real-time via chat in public or private channels. Just visit ucdavis.slack.com and create an account using your @ucdavis.edu email address! Please check with HE IT for support.

This Month's Q&A Technology Tips

Q: What tools do we have to ensure that my data is backed up?

A: CrashPlan is a cloud backup solution available to CAES units.

CrashPlan backs up data automatically, with no user effort or intervention required, and enables Departmental IT staff to quickly and easily restore data.

Currently the Dean's office covers the cost for backing up Faculty computers.

Nearly all faculty in Human Ecology have Crashplan installed on their desktops and laptops. If you are unsure if you have it already or just have general questions please let us know!