



# entials

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## Semester Break Down Times

**Monday, 29 December 2003, 7am-noon**

Computers on the Engineering Computer Network (ECN) will not be able to login, get applications, save files, read or send email, or print. Do something that does not including using your computer during this time. It is possible that services will be available before noon. If you can login, you can work.

The Elder and Hering labs will be closed and locked until the ECN is available at noon (or before).

Once network services are available, you may notice intermittent slowness such as when logging in, retrieving or saving a file.

Self-administered computers needing only local resources will not be affected.

**Tuesday, 30 December 2003, all day**

No email. No Crystal Reports, which means that the Registrar reports and the ACE EASY reports cannot be read.

If all goes quickly, both services will be available by mid-afternoon.

### What if?

We are not pessimistic about our ability to accomplish what's needed in the times we have scheduled. But it is, of course, possible that something unexpected will occur and the ECN or its services will not be available longer than announced.

## Students: Use 1245

Students especially should note that the Henry Computer Classroom, 1245 SC, is available for use as an open lab much more this semester than has been true in the past. Check that room's schedule at: [http://css.engineering.uiowa.edu/labs/1245\\_schedule\\_spring2004.html](http://css.engineering.uiowa.edu/labs/1245_schedule_spring2004.html)

The equipment in the classroom is paid for by engineering student computing fees, thus the room's use policy strives to give students as much use of the room as possible. When it is not used for teaching, the Henry Computer classroom is used as an open computing lab. The room is equally intended to support the instructional setting in which students are actively involved in computing as a part of the class structure, as well as to provide a facility in which instructors can provide out-of-class assistance for computing tasks.

**Use the new photocopier in 1220 SC.**

Information about using the photocopier is posted above the machine.



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## Using the Itanium Unix Workstations

When students return for the spring 2004 semester, all of the Unix machines in the Elder and Hering labs will be ZX2000 Itanium-based workstations. (At this writing there are 3 such machines in Elder south that were installed at Thanksgiving.) CSS is currently working on finding, installing, and testing Itanium versions of the existing Unix software load. Some programs do not have an Itanium version, so running those programs will require either running an SSH session to login-pa [the hostname] or running a script. Information on running both Itanium and PA software will be available when all of those machines are installed.

## Bash Shell

Beginning summer 2003 new engineering computer accounts use Bash as the Unix default shell. With some experience using that shell, on 22 December 2003, CSS will make changes to improve the Bash environment. All new accounts will have a configuration file named .bashrc created with the account. Existing accounts that don't have a .bashrc file will get one, but existing .bashrc files will not be modified. The .bashrc file will be executed at login and for all non-login shells.

## Class Lecture Notes Request

The consultants have gotten several comments or complaints this semester about reading lecture notes that have black or dark backgrounds. Students commented that the printed copies of the notes are hard to read because so much of the paper is black.

Lecture notes that are saved in .PDF format, no matter what the original program is, cannot be changed. Lecture notes that are PowerPoint slides can be printed with a white background, even if the slides have a black or dark background.

Some of your students, the consultants, and the printers thank you for not using black.

## Print Accounting Change

Beginning with the spring 2004 semester, if you add cash to your print account, any unused amount of that money will be added to the \$6.00 semester allocation. In the past cash added to print accounts but not used by the end of the semester was forfeited.

**Essentials** is a publication of Computer Systems Support (CSS) in the College of Engineering at the University of Iowa. **Essentials** is published during the year whenever there is sufficient news to report to the user community. You have permission to re-print all or part of this newsletter for nonprofit purposes if you 1) acknowledge this source, and 2) send a copy of your publication with the reprinted material to: Newsletter Editor, College of Engineering, Computer Systems Support, 1256 SC, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242.

### This issue:

Editor: Diana Harris.

**CSS mission:** to provide a secure and productive computer environment that supports the ability of the College of Engineering to achieve its educational mission.

### Hours

**Computer Labs** — The Hering (1220 SC) and Elder (1231 SC) labs are open 24 hours/day, 7 days/week except for maintenance. With an access card, you can enter the building and the labs after the building closes.

**Consulting, 1253 SC** — M-Th 8am - 9pm; F 8am - 5pm; Sun 5pm - 9pm

**CSS Main Office, 1256 SC** — M-F 8am - noon, 1-5pm

### Web Sites

This newsletter is published first to the CSS web pages at

<http://css.engineering.uiowa.edu/news/essentials>

The CSS pages are found at

<http://css.engineering.uiowa.edu>

The College of Engineering pages are at

<http://www.engineering.uiowa.edu>

The University of Iowa pages are at

<http://www.uiowa.edu>