

Vice President for Information Technology Status and Activity Report for February 2025

Prepared by Timothy M. Chester, Vice President for Information Technology (VPIT)

1. Key Items for Faculty and Staff Meetings

- *New Enterprise Survey Research Tools Coming Soon:* Upon evaluating vendor submissions for an enterprise survey research tool, the interdisciplinary faculty and staff evaluation committee has recommended the University make awards to three vendors: QuestionPro, Qualtrics, and Alchemer. QuestionPro will be the new enterprise survey research tool available to students, faculty, and staff free of charge. QuestionPro will be available March 17, 2025. Qualtrics will transition to a cost-sharing program where the University will cover 50% of the Qualtrics usage costs, while departments, schools, and colleges will be responsible for the remaining 50%, allocated according to their employees' continued use of Qualtrics. All current faculty and staff account holders will continue to have access to Qualtrics through December 2025, but only departments participating in the cost-sharing program will retain access in January 2026. Departments that wish to pay for continued use of Qualtrics will be asked to opt in by May 1, 2025. Alchemer will be available for purchase starting in fiscal year 2026. Details for all of these options will be shared throughout February and March. For more information, contact Sarah Jones at swjones@uga.edu.
- *Duo Multi-Factor Authentication for Retirees, Departmental, and Microsoft 365 Cloud Z-Accounts:* Beginning February 3, 2025, owners of Microsoft 365 cloud z-accounts will need to use Duo MFA when logging into these administrative accounts, replacing the existing Microsoft authentication method. In the coming months, EITS will implement Duo Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) for retirees and departmental MyIDs. Retirees will receive notices throughout February and the change will go into effect in March. Changes for departmental MyID will occur in April. After implementation, retiree, departmental MyID, and Microsoft 365 cloud z-account holders may encounter the Duo prompt when logging into Microsoft 365 applications, including UGAMail, from off-campus or untrusted networks. For more information, contact Lance Pieper at lpeiper@uga.edu.
- *Gartner Technical Professional Subscription Available:* The Office of the Vice President for Information Technology has introduced Gartner for Technical Professionals to IT professionals across the university. This resource offers valuable research, tools, and expert insights to support technology decision-making and strategic planning. It includes in-depth analysis, best practices, and practical advice on various IT topics such as emerging technologies, architecture, and operational efficiency. With Gartner, IT professionals can stay informed about industry trends, validate technology choices, and gain actionable guidance to drive innovation and align IT strategies with organizational goals. UGA IT professionals, including departmental, college, and central IT received access to these resources in January. To learn more about Gartner, visit <https://www.gartner.com/en/experts>. For more information, contact Ashley Henry at ashenry@uga.edu.

- *UGA New Budget Management and Planning System Launched:* UGA's new Budget Management and Planning System, powered by the Anaplan software, launched in January 2025. This system will be used for Budget Planning and Salary Setting (BPSS) and reporting. In addition to the BPSS functionality, new long-range planning and forecasting features will be rolled out later this year. Self-service training materials are available in the F&A Knowledge Base, located here: <https://uga.teamdynamix.com/TDClient/3109/FandA/KB/?CategoryID=23279>. Along with the knowledge base trainings, the University Budget Office will be traveling to units to conduct in-person training sessions between February 10 and March 7, 2025. Those trainings are being coordinated with units' chief business officers. Information on the new system is available at here: https://onesource.uga.edu/resources/anaplan_budget_management_project/. For more information, contact the University Budget Office at budgets@uga.edu.

2. Other General Services

- *Spring Biannual Network Maintenance set for March 2, 2025:* The 2025 spring biannual network maintenance will be held on Sunday, March 2, 2025, from 4 a.m. until midnight. Students, faculty, and staff should plan for intermittent service outages throughout the day. EITS conducts biannual network maintenance in the fall and spring each year to support the network and provide ample bandwidth and internet capacity to the university. For more information, contact Rayid Tartir at rayid@uga.edu.
- *IDM System Upgrade Scheduled for April:* EITS will upgrade the Identity Management System the weekend of April 4-6, 2025. Work will begin on Friday and last until Sunday. During the upgrade, identities will not be created or modified. This upgrade will not impact the ability to log in to systems using a MyID and password. For more information, contact Shannon Marable at shannon.marable@uga.edu.
- *FY25 User Access Verification Preparation Begins:* In preparation for the financial state audit for FY25, EITS will conduct a verification of all user accounts for several systems. The FY25 verification will kick off in March and will include Banner systems, the UGA Financial Management System, the UGA Budget Management System, OneUSG Connect and UGAJobs. Users with certain levels of access to these systems will be asked to verify their access, and supervisors will need to review and decide to approve or deny access for employees under their purview. More information on this year's verification will be forthcoming in the spring. For more information, contact Stacy Boyles at stacy.boyles@uga.edu.
- *Teams Phone Available for Campus Units:* EITS is now offering Teams Phone, a cloud-based, next-generation phone system provided by Microsoft. Teams Phone allows UGA employees to communicate and collaborate anytime, anywhere, on any device. Teams Phone integrates seamlessly with the Microsoft Teams application on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device, so all that calls, chats, calendar invites, and meetings can be accessed in one place. The campus telephone system will eventually transition completely to Teams Phone. EITS Telephone Services is contacting campus units and departments to plan their transitions to Teams Phone. Units can also initiate their transitions when they are ready. For more information, contact Steven Duffee at sduffee@uga.edu.

- *Automated Student MyID Clean-Up*: In 2024, EITS automated the clean-up process for student MyIDs. This automated process runs once a semester; students who left university or graduated approximately a year ago will have their MyIDs and UGAMail addresses flagged for disablement and deletion. Alumni and former students who have their accounts flagged will receive two automated emails to their UGAMail address, alerting them that their account will be disabled and deleted soon. Account holders who are currently employed by UGA or are attending UGA for another degree program will not have their accounts removed. The first automated clean-up will kick-off this month, with two notices to affected users. Accounts will be disabled in early April. For more information, contact Kristi Wall at kristi.wall@uga.edu.
- *Account Standards Refresher training set for February 27*: The University System of Georgia (USG) released standards regarding user account management for information systems containing restricted or sensitive data in 2013. These standards were made effective July 1, 2013. Annual training on these standards will take place on February 27, 2025 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. via Teams webinar. Data stewards, their designees, or individuals who are responsible for provisioning and removing employee account access to IT systems are encouraged to attend this training. Participants may register at <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/cb5f8ac3-98e5-4a45-8131-1c45dba7c9f5@a8216c1e-4d63-4352-8c3b-50fa1f1475b1> . For more information, contact Stacy Boyles at stacy.boyles@uga.edu.
- *Microsoft 365 Group Expiration Policy*: Microsoft Groups allow teams to share resources such as a shared mailbox and calendar, a SharePoint site, a Microsoft Planner, and a shared Microsoft Teams account. In February, EITS will implement a Microsoft 365 Group expiration policy. This policy will help keep Microsoft 365 Groups organized by deleting inactive Groups that are no longer used. Group owners will receive several email notifications from Microsoft before their Groups expire with instructions on how to keep them active. For more details about this change, visit the Microsoft information page at <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/solutions/microsoft-365-groups-expiration-policy?view=0365-worldwide>. For more information, contact Justin Sackett at justin.sackett@uga.edu.
- *Transition from Omni CMS to Kaptiv8 WordPress by End of 2025*: In 2023, EITS announced the transition from Omni CMS (formerly OmniUpdate) to WordPress, with WordPress provided by Kaptiv8 as the new centrally supported hosting vendor. The transition began in early 2024, and all sites currently on Omni CMS must migrate to Kaptiv8 WordPress or another website hosting platform by the end of 2025. To learn more about options for transitioning to WordPress, visit <https://uga.teamdynamix.com/TDClient/3190/eitsclientportal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=158743>. For more information, contact David Crouch at dave@uga.edu.
- *CAPTCHA for Listserv Login*: EITS has implemented a CAPTCHA box for Listserv logins. This is to increase security and protection against botnet attacks. CAPTCHA stands for “Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart.” It is a tool used on websites to ensure that a user is a real person and not a computer program (bot). Starting today, users will notice the addition of an “I am not a robot” checkbox CAPTCHA on the Listserv login page. For more information, contact Ashley Henry at ashenry@uga.edu.

- *Biannual UGA SSO Upgrade Planned for February 21, 2025:* UGA's single sign-on service, UGA SSO, will undergo scheduled maintenance on February 21, 2025. This maintenance is necessary to move the service to the latest version and to receive up-to-date security patching. EITS will continue to work with application owners to prepare their applications for this upgrade throughout January. In preparation, EITS will not move any new applications to production UGA SSO after January 17, 2025, until the upgrade is complete in February. EITS applies updates to UGA SSO twice a year, in February and September. For more information, contact Kristi Wall at kristi.wall@uga.edu.

3. Did you know?

- *Electronic W-2s Now Available in OneUSG Connect:* To view or download your W-2, you must be connected to a UGA campus network. A "Viewing Your W-2 in OneUSG Connect" tutorial is available here: <https://uga.teamdynamix.com/TDClient/3109/FandA/KB/ArticleDet?ID=151327>. If you receive a paper W-2 this year and wish to receive your W-2 only electronically in the future, simply provide consent within OneUSG Connect. A "Consenting to Receive Your Electronic W-2 Form" tutorial is available here: <https://uga.teamdynamix.com/TDClient/3109/FandA/KB/ArticleDet?ID=151306>. For more information, contact OneUSG Support at oneusgsupport@uga.edu.

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