

# ITS Update

TRU Quarterly Update on  
Information Technology

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Issue 08 – September 2010

THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

## Next Steps to Go-Live!



Work on Project SAGE, the TRU Banner implementation, continues. Fall 2010 campus registrations and payments were successfully completed in the new system and Web for Faculty was enabled to support Student/Faculty interactions. FAST reporting for Chairs and Deans was released and users were trained.

The project team is now focused on the next major milestone, the successful conversion of Academic History records for campus students. The conversion is currently scheduled for the Thanksgiving long weekend in October. Once this is complete, the major focus will be to bring Open Learning functionality live over the next several months.

## Welcome Back!

Once again this year IT Services was heavily involved in the start-up of the school year. This semester, new students weren't required to line up to get their credentials for network and wireless access. While there were start-up issues with communicating to students their "alternate ID" and default network password (their birthday in dd-Mmm-yy), next semester should be smoother. Students are also now required to use "strong passwords" to keep their information secure.

More information on network accounts is available at <http://www.tru.ca/its/labs/networkaccounts.html>



← Brian Mackay presents Bookies Giftcards to first year students Hannah Broad and Caitlin Anselmo, winners of the Orientation draw →



IT Services participated in the first day Orientation session which focused on the new mobility application (m.tru.ca), information security and account access  
←



IT Services was at the Welcome Back BBQ conducting mobility demonstrations using various Smart Phone technologies  
→



# The Digital Future of Education



## Presenting The Digital Future of Higher Education - Tuesday February 22, 2011

The future of higher education is hotly contested: What do new technologies, from the iPad to the podcast, mean for classrooms, textbooks and student learning? How will universities survive in a world where content is free and teaching increasingly commodified? Will they open up their courseware like MIT? Or go commercial like the University of Phoenix? Teaching and research, faculty and administration, virtual and traditional practices are all affected. This one-day conference will explore these and related issues, particularly as they apply to smaller, multiple mode institutions like Thompson Rivers University. The conference will feature keynote presentations from a number of international thought leaders who are experts in the areas of e-learning and higher education. Presentations will be combined with reflections and lively debates from researchers and practitioners in a variety of fields, and will also involve local decision makers and stakeholders.

This conference is part of a three day reading week event which includes the Teaching Practices Colloquium on Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup> and the in-service day on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The event is scheduled to be hosted in The Irving K. Barber British Columbia Centre in the new House of Learning.



*Anya Kamenetz, Author  
DIY U: Edupunks,  
Edupreneurs, and the  
Coming Transformation  
of Higher Education*



*Michael Peters,  
Professor of Education,  
University of Illinois*

### Draft Agenda:

- 8:00 Coffee & Registration
- 9:00 Opening Keynote (Anya Kamenetz)
- 10:30 Coffee Break & Discussion
- 10:45 Panel on Futures of Higher Education  
(Michael Peters, University of Illinois;  
Siân Bayne, University of Edinburgh;  
Kim McShane, University of Santa Cruz;  
Edward Hamilton, Capilano University)
- 12:30 Lunch Keynote  
(Siân Bayne, University of Edinburgh)
- 1:30 Afternoon Keynote & Discussion  
(Michael Peters, University of Illinois)
- 2:45 The Great Net Gen Debate: Who Will Our  
Students Be? (Mark Bullen, BCIT)
- 3:30 Local Decision-Maker / Stakeholder Panel
- 4:30 Conclusion

## Working Alone Application

To ensure a safe working environment for all TRU Faculty and Staff, IT Services has developed a method for employees to advise Campus Security when they are working alone on campus after hours. This system is accessible through the myTRU Portal. Simply click on the Working Alone link to update your status on campus.

The screenshot shows the myTRU portal with various sections: My Account, Employee Resources, Employee Announcements, Personal Announcements, Employment Details, Personal Information, TRU Self Service Applications (with 'Working Alone/ After Hours Reporting' circled), Time Reporting, FAST Suite, and Important Links. The date is September 23, 2010.

## Notice to Travellers

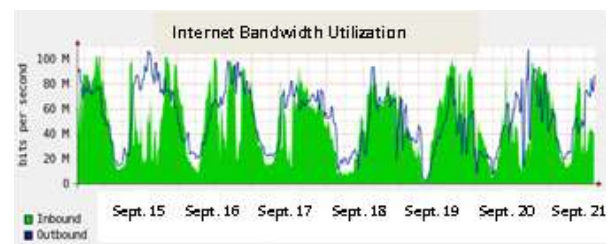
Did you know that without an adequate cell/Smart Phone package, if you travel outside of Canada, you could incur hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars in voice and/or data roaming charges? If you plan to travel, please contact the IT Service Desk at 250.852.6800 to have voice and/or data roaming packs added to your account.

If you happen to lose your iPhone or Blackberry contact the IT Service Desk immediately and they will erase the contents of your device remotely as a security measure.

## 1 Gigabit Internet Speed

TRU breaks the speed limit with the new 1 Gigabit per second internet connection speed - in geek speak "Gig-E".

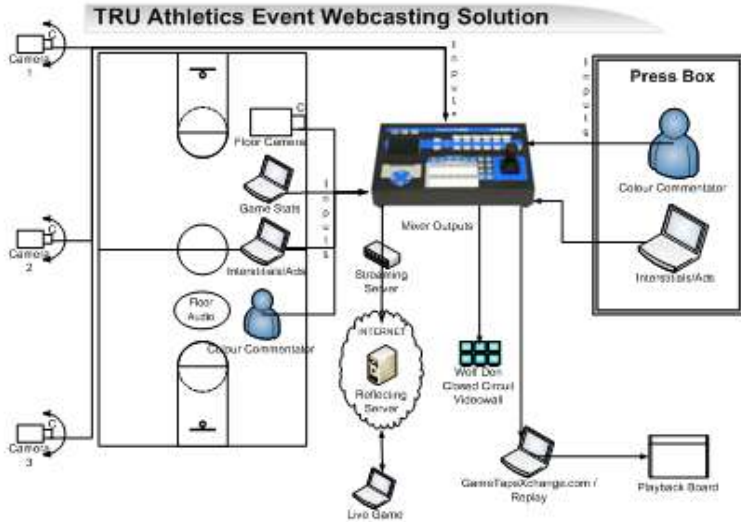
Because of the strong demand for internet access, IT Services has upgraded the SHAW connection at TRU to 1 GigE or one gigabit per second. This move should support the growth in network bandwidth requirements for TRU for the next few years.



# Athletics Webcasting

For the last few years audio of the TRU Wolfpack action has been broadcast over the web. We are proud to announce that starting this season, if you can't get to the game you can watch the action in High Definition over the web. In a partnership between the City of Kamloops and TRU, equipment has now been purchased and installed to capture all the TRU home games in the Tournament Capital Centre (TCC).

More information is available at <http://www.tru.ca/athletics.html>



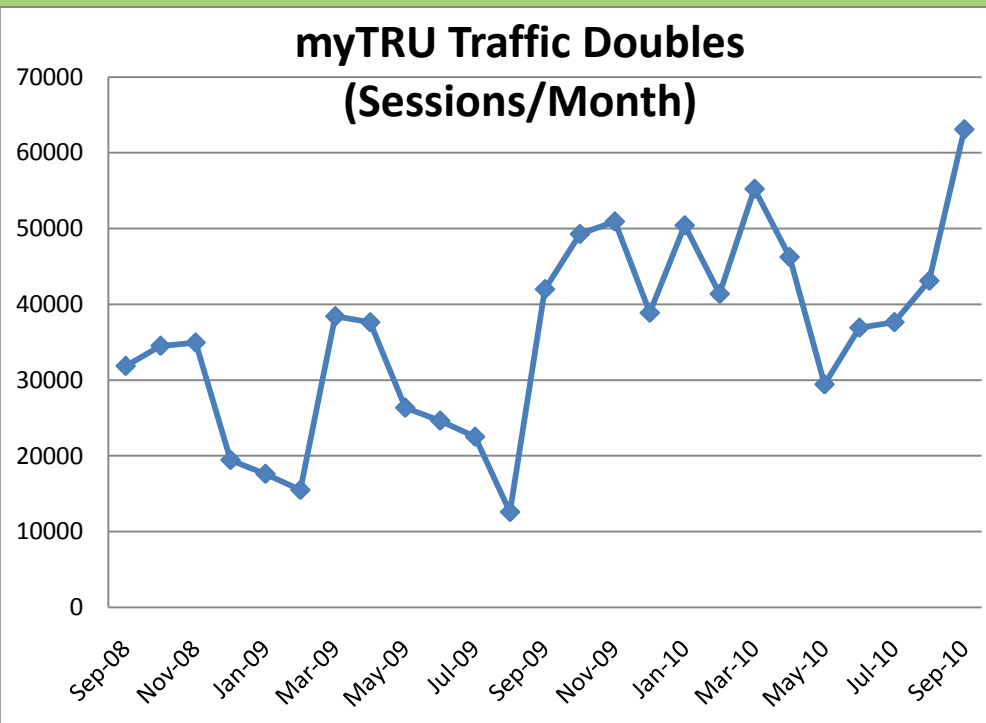
TRU INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Wanna Know the Score?  
Use <http://m.tru.ca> to find it.

THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

m.tru.ca

**myTRU Traffic Doubles  
(Sessions/Month)**



Wow! Over 6000 students visited the myTRU site at the beginning of the school year

## TRU Information Technology Services

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<http://www.tru.ca/its>

Download *BeeTagg Reader* and  
view this newsletter on the web!

<http://www.beetaqq.com>



**Strong Password Enforcement  
on Network Logins  
Begins November 1, 2010**



TRU INFORMATION SECURITY OFFICE

**Strong passwords must be a minimum of 8 characters long**

**Use UPPER and lower case, numbers, and non-alphanumeric characters**

**Make it Ez2Remember! and H@rd2Gue\$\$**

[www.tru.ca/its/infosecurity](http://www.tru.ca/its/infosecurity)