

ITS UPDATE

TRU's Update on Information Technology



THOMPSON RIVERS
UNIVERSITY

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myTRU Mobile

-B. Mackay

As part of TRU IT Services' overall mobile-first Digital Strategy we are pleased to announce the implementation of **myTRU Mobile**, a secure, TRU branded native mobile platformⁱ for on-campus and Open Learning Students, TRU Faculty, Staff and visitors. This application will have out-of-the-box support for Ellucian Banner. Features of the app include:

- Course Catalogue, Registration, Grades, Account Balances and Week-at-a-Glance
- Campus Maps, directory, campus-wide notifications, news, events, multimedia
- Library, Bookstore, WolfPack Athletics
- Social Media integration (Facebook, LinkedIn, twitter, Instagram)
- Moodle LMS Access
- Personalized notifications
- Key university contacts
- Student Handbooks

ⁱ The myTRU Mobile app will be available in the Apple, Kindle and Android Google Play Stores

We hope to have this app ready for Fall 2016.



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beetagg.com

EduCloud

-W. Cole

In March of 2015, TRU as a member of BCNet, began participating in EduCloud.

EduCloud is a community cloud service offered to higher education in BC in cooperation with BCNet and UBC. It allows us to deploy virtual servers at UBC that appear and function as if they were local servers.

Since our EduCloud Virtual Datacentre (VDC) was initiated, TRU has deployed over 50 servers. We are using EduCloud:

- To back up our own Virtual systems using 20 TBs of storage
- As a place to deploy development servers for projects like Banner XE
- For production servers for Facilities and Institutional Research
- To provide Faculty and Staff with servers for specific projects they are working on. For example, we have provided the servers for an Educational Technology Initiative in cooperation with UNBC that is allowing us to explore software such as Sandstorm.
- To improve disaster recovery. For example, we now mirror our student email data to a server in EduCloud. We hope to do the same for staff/faculty this summer and we have plans underway to mirror our Banner databases as well.

TRU is looking forward to improvements to EduCloud that will allow us to integrate our network more closely with EduCloud to provide even faster access to servers.

If you think an EduCloud server would be of use to you please contact Wesley Cole in IT Services (wcole@tru.ca).

Banner Evolution (XE)

-E. Herbert

Banner ERP customers like TRU are engaged in the evolution of their Banner systems. This evolution of Banner is the transition from Banner 8 to Banner 9 which is conventionally referred to as Banner Extensible Ecosystem (XE). The transformation to Banner XE is significant, bringing considerable enhancements to business processes, user experience and technology to TRU's enterprise. Banner XE will be delivering a smooth, modern and intuitive user experience to students and administrators, new and enhanced applications and functionality including a new student registration interface and Student, Advisor and Faculty self service facilities. ITS has put TRU at the forefront of the Banner Evolution in BC, Canada and beyond with a transformation roadmap with significant XE deployments this year to achieve early return on investment to add significant value to TRU's enterprise.

Coop Term with IT Services

-G. Lalli

Our thanks to Navjot Dhaliwal who worked in IT Services from January through April 2016 as a Co-op student from the Computer Science Program. During this time Navjot primarily worked on OneTRU (SharePoint) sites and moving data from FilePro to OneTRU. Navjot also created a SharePoint training program for site owners and members and worked on Generic Account Auditing.

IT Service Desk – Change to Hours of Operation

Effective April 25th, 2016, the IT Service Desk hours of operation will be 8:00am to 6:00pm.

Location Services & You

-H. Burley

How many organizations have access to your current location information and store it for later use? Probably quite a few. Exactly what those future uses might be should be questioned, and if you have children you should certainly be concerned about anyone else tracking them.

If you use tracker blocking tools such as [Ghostery](#) and [Lightbeam](#) in your browser, you will get a quick idea of the current extent of tracking. The image below is from a recent wired.com session.



As Wired state on their website;

Here's The Thing With Ad Blockers

We get it: Ads aren't what you're here for. But ads help us keep the lights on. So, add us to your ad blocker's whitelist or pay \$1 per week for an ad-free version of WIRED. Either way, you are supporting our journalism. We'd really appreciate it.

[Sign Up](#)
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But advertisers aren't the only ones tracking you. Mobile devices and applications often include a variety of tracking. For example "[Your iPhone Knows Exactly Where You've Been](#)"

"[According to Apple](#), the data is collected "in order to learn places that are significant to you" and improve traffic routing services. The company says the data is stored locally on your

phone and will not be accessed elsewhere or shared with anyone else. But it's weird, fascinating, and just a little bit scary to realize that your phone contains a perfect record of where you've been in the last month or so. That includes the exact time you arrived at and left anywhere: your office, a bar, that person's house."

Your Android is also tracking your location, <http://trendblog.net/disable-location-services-android/>, and there are numerous applications that request location access. For example, why does a free flashlight tool need access to location information, or why does your Amazon app need to know where you're currently located?

Don't get me wrong, giving access to your location can have quite a few benefits; you can [find your stolen or lost phone](#), find out [where you were](#), keep track of your family, get suggestions for nearby services, or get maps & directions. But when you don't need these services, consider blocking them or turning them off.

<http://www.tomsguide.com/us/turn-off-location-services-iphone.news-21276.html>
<http://trendblog.net/disable-location-services-android/>
<https://help.blackberry.com/en/blackberry-z10/10.3.1/help/alc1346767164902.html>

Windows 10 and Office 2016

-K. Wiens

Windows 10 is the new standard operating system for upcoming computer replacements and Office 2016 will replace Office 2013.

See what's new for Office 2016 at the Microsoft Office Training Center: <https://support.office.com/en-us/article/Office-Training-Center> if you have not taken advantage of TRU's Lynda.com agreement for staff and faculty yet, now is the time. Find out how to get your free access to 4300+ courses at <http://lynda.tru.ca>

TRU Deploys Shibboleth in cooperation with the Canadian Access Federation

-W. Cole

In February, TRU, in cooperation with the Canadian Access Federation (CAF), deployed an Identity Provider (IDP) running Shibboleth V3 software. CAF is a part the Canadian Network for the Advancement of Research (CANARIE). More information on CAF can be found at <http://www.canarie.ca/identity/caf/>

Having an IDP server allows us to provide Federated single sign on with service providers who support Shibboleth and SAML authentication. More information on Federated Single Sign on can be found at <Http://www.canarie.ca/identity/sso/>

TRU now uses our IDP server to allow TRU employees to log into the BCNET wiki and Lynda.com for online training using their Network credentials. To find out more go to <http://lynda.tru.ca>.

In the future we will be deploying single sign-on whenever a new service integrates with Shibboleth.

Welcome to Ellis Herbert

-G. Lalli



We are very pleased to have Ellis Herbert join IT Services as our new Director, Enterprise Systems and Deputy CIO.

Ellis brings over 25 years' experience as a Senior information technology leader with diverse experience including senior leadership roles in both public and private sectors where he has been primarily involved in governance, strategy, systems development, integration architecture and IT solutions delivery.

Ellis is a big advocate for using cloud services and having a strong mobile ecosystem to bring value and efficiency to TRU and most importantly to enhance the student digital experience.

Kudos'

Congratulations to **Dave MacNeill** who has been appointed to the position of Supervisor, Client Technology Services effective February 11th, 2016. Dave graduated from the CSOM program in 2002 and began his career at TRU on the IT Service Desk in 2006. Dave is continually updating his credentials by attending training workshops and courses as well as working on his Bachelor of Technology - Information Technology Management.

Brian Mackay, AVP, IT Services & CIO has been selected as a 2015/16 Top Large Business CIO for Info-Tech's CIO Awards. IT Services was ranked in 20th place (90th percentile) on Business Vision survey results. Brian was also elected Chair of the BCNET Board in December 2015.

Congratulations to **Hugh Burley**, TRU's Manager Information Security who has been appointed to the role of Information Security Officer for BCNET. Hugh holds a number of professional credentials in the field of information security and is looking forward to working with the wider post-secondary community.