

# NETWORKING 101

WEST VIRGINIA NETWORK (WVNET)

## WV Higher Education Technology Conference 2012



「The Big Picture」  
Integrated & Collective Technologies



[wvconference.com](http://wvconference.com)

[wvnet.edu](http://wvnet.edu)

Registration is still open for the **WV Higher Education Technology Conference 2012 — The Big Picture [Integrated & Collective Technologies]** November 12-13, 2012 at the Waterfront Place Hotel in Morgantown, WV. This conference brings together experts in higher education, K-12 and state agencies from all over the state to connect, discuss, and learn about the latest in technology, the future of education and changes in the workplace. This year's theme is **The Big Picture — Integrated & Collective Technologies**. Integrating technology into classroom instruction means more than teaching basic computer skills and software programs. It involves using modern technologies such as Social Media (Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest, etc.), Blackboard, chat and e-mail to enhance communication and understanding between teachers and their students. It's time for us to focus on how to really dig deep, think creatively, problem solve and learn how to make these new technologies routine and transparent.

The first day of the conference will open with a luncheon and two keynote addresses. **"Ten Hot Topics in Tech,"** by Gale Given, Chief Technology Officer for the State of West Virginia, and **"Technology is just People Doing Great Things!"** by Dan O'Hanlon, Director of WVNET.

Tuesday will be highlighted with a luncheon and keynote address by Bob Wise, president of the Alliance for Excellent Education and former governor of West Virginia. Since joining the alliance in February 2005, Governor Wise has become a sought-after speaker and advisor on education issues. *Continued below...*

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He will speak on **"Constructive Turbulence: Enabling Teachers with Better Tools for Student Learning."** Immediately following the keynote address, you are invited to join us in the exhibit area. The vendor reception will allow you to meet the exhibitors, grab dessert and perhaps win valuable prizes.

*Speaking of you vendors out there, gain high visibility by becoming a WVHETC 2012 sponsor! All sponsors are recognized in the conference website and in the final program. Sponsor logos and signs are displayed when appropriate. Contact Karen Saffron 304.293.5192 x249 for more information.*

We are excited to be spending a few days alongside you exploring how we fit into the age of new technology. As our theme states, we all need to step back and see **"The Big Picture."**

**For more information about WVHETC 2012 and to register:** [wvconference.com](http://wvconference.com)



Argos Training Class Participants

## WVNET HOSTS ARGOS TRAINING

WVNET hosted Argos on-site training October 16-18. WVNET is working with Evisions and members of the Data Policy Advisory Council to prepare the first set of reports to be deployed for participants in October. The plan is to have the first set of reports done to demonstrate to users and use as a basis for the Argos training. Training covered all levels of Argos users and developers. On the morning of October 16, there was a web demonstration and overview of Argos, including a peak at the first set of reports. This web session was open to anyone who wanted to attend. WVNET will be collecting connection information for the databases that are not hosted at WVNET so we can set up connections for testing. Anyone who is interested in setting up an Argos account is encouraged to log a ticket in OZ.

WVNET covered the license fee and deployment services for Argos, which includes this initial report development and training. Included in the annual hosting fee will be 2 weeks of training and/or consulting time each year to be shared among all the Argos participants to keep everyone on top of new developments with Argos and to provide development assistance for any new reporting requirements going forward.

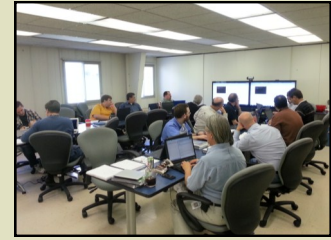
The question was raised about using Argos for board reports. Everyone reports pretty much the same information but the approach is different at each campus, and whenever the requirements change, the reports need to be rewritten. If we could standardize the tables and columns that are used for reporting, we could develop and maintain the reports centrally. WVNET would welcome the opportunity to help minimize the impact of board reporting on campus IT staff!

An Argos discussion list has been created [wvnet-argos@listserv.wvnet.edu](mailto:wvnet-argos@listserv.wvnet.edu). Anyone with an Argos account has been added to the Argos listserv list. If anyone wants to be added to the Argos list, let us know.



## WVNET HOSTS CISCO UCS TRAINING

WVNET recently hosted an in house training session for a course, *Cisco Data Center Unified Computing Expanded Implementation*, which was led by Instructor Matt Taylor, who is UCS certified, and an instructor of two years with *Firefly Communications*, a Cisco learning partner. Matt felt the employees here at WVNET were "top-notch." Among the participants were representatives from WVNET, Bluefield State College, New River Community and Technical College, Fairmont State University, and the WVU Foundation. The five-day course was aimed at providing information on the deployment and configuration of the Cisco Unified Computing System (UCS).



UCS Training Class Participants

Cisco UCS is designed to be a next generation data center platform that unites networking, computing, storage and virtualization into a single system. The UCS system is managed from a single interface, is designed to be easily expandable, and allows for rapid deployment of additional resources.

WVNET recently purchased a set of Cisco B-Series Blade servers and will be deploying them in the next few weeks to provide computing and virtualization services. These servers will add to our existing infrastructure and allow us to provide additional services to our customers.

### FROM THE DIRECTOR...



It has been a whirlwind month at WVNET! We have been selected along with the University of Wisconsin and Indiana University as one of only three locations in the world to participate in an Early Field Trial of Cisco's first GENI Racks. GENI (Global Environment for Network Integration — [geni.net](http://geni.net)) was announced last Spring by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to make sure that the US maintained its standing as a world leader in building networks. GENI Racks allow West Virginia to leverage our new broadband network to provide world-class network resources to every single Community Anchor Institution: K12 schools, higher education institutions, libraries, public health clinics, first responders and state agencies. We are proud that West Virginia has been recognized as a leader in network innovation.

Next, WVNET has written two large grants for BTOP funds. The first would purchase additional GENI Racks to be placed in Morgantown, Charleston and Huntington. This would provide access to the crucial network enhancements to our users from every public sector.

The other grant is a partnership with the Kanawha County Public Library to build the first 21st Century Digital Library in West Virginia, and one of the first in the world. It would purchase the equipment to allow the library to provide e-books, videos and videoconferencing across our new fiber optic network in West Virginia. WVNET would manage and maintain the network equipment and the library would become a digital hub for providing information using the speed of light fiber network to schools and library patrons alike. As printed books become a smaller part of the library's offerings, Kanawha County Public Library will show how it can become even more relevant in the Digital Age! These are busy times for West Virginia and WVNET. But we are excited about the opportunities and ready to meet the challenges ahead.

#### Read what our colleagues had to say about the Argos training:

*"I truly enjoyed the Argos training and feel it was a huge success. The participation from schools around the state was tremendous and the trainer was excellent. I would like to thank WVNET for an excellent job in managing the purchase of this product and coordinating the training. I have high hopes that Argos will be the reporting tool we so desperately need. We would not have been able to afford this tool without the effort of WVNET."...Tom Cook, Director of Computer Services, Bluefield State College*

*"I participated in the Argos training held at WVNET October 16-18. I have implemented two other popular business intelligence suites in the past and was very pleased with both the power of Argos and the easier learning curve from the other products I've used. I was pleasantly surprised to have the ability to create OLAP cubes without having a data warehouse in place. We've already gotten the product into production and created our first production report. I'm excited about the collaboration that this product will enable among the state higher education institutions with the potential for shared development of common reports. WVNET's staff have been great to work with in getting everything set up for us."...Gary Holeman, CIO, Southern WV Community and Technical College/Ellucian*

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**Update** **Introductions** — At the BUG call held on September 20, James Wolff, our new DBA here at WVNET, was introduced. James comes to us with over 10 years of Banner DBA experience. WVNET also welcomes to the applications services group Russell McCormack, an intern graduating in Computer Science from WVU this semester, working with us on Argos development. We are very pleased to have James and Russell join us!

**DegreeWorks** — The first cohort is near ready for go-live. WVNET is working on procedures for migrating the data from the test system to production, and a mechanism to make changes to the customizations easier. The nightly data extracts of students and courses from Banner to DegreeWorks have been automated. Final changes to localizations are in the works. Actual production rollout will be determined by each campus.

The second cohort had a focus call on September 19. Ellucian's audio bridge for this introductory call would only allow 20 callers, which was inadequate for this group and created issues for some attendees. WVNET and Ellucian will work to be sure all the information is delivered to the participants, so that everyone has what they need to get started, which may include a repeat session.

**Financial Aid Updates** — Dianne Sisler has been working closely with financial aid staff across the state to work through testing the new financial aid updates. Financial Aid 8.15 is the latest full release but there was a patch delivered for 8.15 with fixes for problems found in 8.14.2. Most of the defect fixes are for attending hours calculation issues. We have several schools with 8.15 in test but as of Friday only WVU had it in production. They are having some problems related to being a UNIX shop. Hopefully, we won't have those issues.

**Training Needs** — Marcie Layman [marcie@mail.wvnet.edu](mailto:marcie@mail.wvnet.edu) is coordinating our training efforts at WVNET. If there are any topics that you want or need training on, please contact Marcie and she may be able to arrange something that would make the training more convenient and/or affordable for everyone.

**WVNET Banner Users Group** — These calls are open to any of our Banner user community and are held monthly on the third Thursday at 2:00 pm. Announcements with agenda and connection information are sent out the week of the call to the Banner Users Group email list: [wvnetbug@listserv.wvnet.edu](mailto:wvnetbug@listserv.wvnet.edu) To join the list, send an email to: [listserv@listserv.wvnet.edu](mailto:listserv@listserv.wvnet.edu) with "subscribe wvnet-bug" in the message body, or send an email to Fran Barnes [fran@mail.wvnet.edu](mailto:fran@mail.wvnet.edu)

**Rate Decrease** — Announced by WVNET Deputy Director Allen Daugherty, WVNET has begun to lower its Internet rate charge as we move our networking to research and education partners and buy bandwidth in bulk. The first rate decrease began on October 1 and customers will see it on their October bill which will arrive in early November. This rate decrease is from \$51 per megabit per month to \$39 per megabit per month. You have several options: keep the same Internet bandwidth you have today and pay less per month; adjust your Internet bandwidth so that you pay the same as what you have been paying and have budgeted for; adjust it to some other value. In any case, you should let Allen Daugherty [allen@mail.wvnet.edu](mailto:allen@mail.wvnet.edu) know your intentions or if you have questions. The default will be to make no changes to your bandwidth.

**On a more Personal Note...**

**October Birthdays** — Here's a big **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to the following staff members with birthdays in October: Jerry Burchard, Annette Dick, Kim Jenkins, Phil Snitz, Dave Watson and Lisa Lay.

