

# Networking 101

West Virginia Network (WVNET)

## HONU — SCHEDULING FOR NURSING STUDENTS

May 16, 2018 by Chevee Dodd, Web Developer

When I started at WVNET in February, I was told of the many applications that we maintain and which needed the most attention. As soon as I heard of the app WVNET developed for the West Virginia Center for Nursing (WVCN), I was excited to work on it. I love problem solving and this application had several requests from our users with no clear solution on how to implement the changes. Also, this was the first time in my programming career that I was inheriting another developer's code, so I would need to learn the software from the ground up in order to unravel its mysteries.



After speaking with the WVCN administration and the application's users, I was able to develop a clear picture of what they needed to have changed, and I even banked a few ideas of my own that I knew they would appreciate. It took me a few weeks to fully understand how the application was built, but after a short few days of writing my own code for this program, it started to become `_my_` code.

HONU is an application that allows schools in a nursing region to schedule their students at hospitals and clinics for observation and clinical practice. Because of this unique situation, using a simple calendar or other scheduling application wouldn't work. We had to develop something custom.

HONU allows medical centers to enter the units they have available for nursing students and how many students they can accept at once. Schools can enter requests for these slots for a range of time and days. These are requests because we allow multiple schools to request slots even if they overlap. One of the biggest changes I made was to make everyone involved aware when an overlap occurs. Both parties that are involved in the overlap receive notices both in the app and through email with contact information. This allows the two administrators to coordinate and negotiate their student's time with very little conflict.

We launched the new version of HONU in April 2018 and with the exception of a few minor bugs, it went off without a hitch. The users have been very appreciative of the changes I've made and my inbox has received many praises:

*"You are the best and this was much smoother than any other time."* - Melissa Layne, RN, MSN - Assistant Professor of Nursing, University of Charleston.

Currently, the software is in use by a single nursing region, but we have branded the app as HONU in anticipation of expanding to several additional regions. We have already begun work on introducing a new region and I am very excited for the future of my little turtle.

Volume 8, Issue 5

May 2018

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## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 5, 2018**

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### **West Virginia Network for Educational Telecomputing (WVNET) Announces the Addition of URcast to Their Suite of Services for Public Schools**

**Morgantown, WV:** WVNET, long known in the state for offering innovative technology solutions for K-12 and higher education, has added URcast, a content caching system to their suite of services. URcast is a system designed specifically for public schools to take advantage of offline access to expand and improve learning experience as well as to save time and money.

For public schools, downloading and caching (storing) digital content on the student's device creates powerful benefits. Students can watch videos, read books, and work on assignments offline—without the need for Internet. Caching allows students to access content immediately, frees up more school bandwidth, and allows students access to learning opportunities from anywhere on any device. Learning content, messaging, and homework are automatically synced between student devices and the caching server when students enter their school.

The URcast caching system addresses a number of concerns for public school teachers and administrators like student equity, extended learning opportunities, cost savings, and bandwidth efficiencies. All students are assured equal access to educational content and digital learning without Internet access, thus enabling school systems to bridge the homework gap in the event of school cancellations. Teachers can distribute more content, quickly flip the class inside and outside the school by extending online resources through offline access. Quicker delivery of learning content allows more time for learning in the classroom and at home.

URcast is currently in use in Barbour, Summers, Upshur, and Wyoming counties, with several other counties coming online in the current funding year.

For more information on how your school can subscribe to this service, go to [wvnet.edu/URcast/](http://wvnet.edu/URcast/) or contact WVNET at 304-293-5192.

**837 CHESTNUT RIDGE ROAD, MORGANTOWN, WV 26505, 304-293-5192**



Dan O'Hanlon, Director

## From the Director...

Spring has sprung! And before I could begin to enjoy it, it seemed like summer had arrived.

I was young and thriving, then this week I turned 70. A year used to seem like forever when I was a kid. Now the years fly by so fast it's hard for me to keep track of them.

In 2010, I retired as a Judge after 30 years. Then Governor Manchin, who used to tease me about all the technology projects I had worked on by saying I brought new meaning to the title "Circuit Judge," appointed me as Director of WVNET. I promised him 2-3 years. I've now been here almost 8.

Every day of that has been wonderful. I have enjoyed helping our schools and working with some of the brightest, most tech savvy people I've ever known.

I hope all of your lives have gone as well as mine. Thanks for letting WVNET help you run your schools and do your jobs. Enjoy the weather, enjoy your job and enjoy your lives!

### WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEE...

Originally from Brooklyn, Khristan Crooms moved to the panhandle of WV almost 10 years ago. He is currently a computer science major at WVU and spends much of his time learning new ways to create all types of things. If Khristan had to choose one interesting fact about himself, it would be that he is really good at playing the ukulele.

In commenting about his new position as Web Developer Intern, Khristan says, *"I'm excited to start working at WVNET because until now I haven't had much opportunity to work on creative topics related to design and web development. I think this will give me a chance to pursue interests and hone skills important to my career."* **Welcome Khristan!**

*(Article by WVNET staff member Fran Barnes)*



### YEARS OF SERVICE TO WVNET

WVNET has an exceptional technology savvy team with a strong customer orientation. We're happy to acknowledge the fact that three members of our staff, in particular, have reached significant milestones in their careers with us this month — **Allen Daugherty** (Deputy Director) has completed 42 years of service, **Marcie Merrill** (Web Assistant) 36 years, and **Phil Snitz**, (Business Manager), 23 years. Thank you, Allen, Marcie, and Phil for the contributions you bring to our organization to make it what it is today!

*(Article by WVNET staff member Fran Barnes)*

## CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY WINNER

Each month, WVNET recognizes a customer who took the time to complete our *Customer Satisfaction Survey* to tell us how we are doing. We thank everyone who takes that extra time to give us advice, kudos, or criticisms that will help us improve our service. **During the month of April 2018, the Network Operations Center logged a phenomenal 977 tickets!**



A call came into the NOC from Fonda Hawley at Pierpont Community and Technical College concerning a video that wouldn't load. Fonda stated that Harmony Garletts helped get it moved from a Fairmont State course to a Pierpont course previously so Network Operator Zackery Smith transferred the call to Harmony. WVNET's *Distance Learning/Blackboard group* worked with the user to identify the correct URL for the video and obtain assistance accessing the video on Fairmont State University's server. *Distance Learning Team Lead Harmony Garletts* loaded the video and offered guidance on what students needed to do in order to watch the video. Fonda Hawley had these nice things to say about Harmony's timely assistance, *"The Design Principles video is now operational thanks to you and Vickie McVaney and it is running beautifully. Now I can open lesson C9 Design Principles on time today. Your helpfulness and kindness are gratefully appreciated."*

As always, at the end of every month, we will draw a winner, contact them by email, and send WVNET memorabilia in appreciation. Please complete our survey by looking within the incident email of any interaction that you have had with us. All comments are taken seriously and help to improve what we do on a daily basis. Thank you, *Fonda*, and thanks again to all of our customers who continue to shape and improve WVNET.

*(Article by WVNET staff member Fran Barnes)*



West Virginia Network for Educational Telecomputing  
24/7/365



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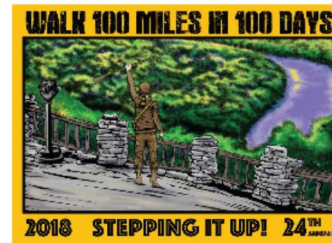
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## WALK 100 MILES IN 100 DAYS



April 16 – July 24, 2018

The *Walk 100 Miles in 100 Days* annual walk began on April 16 and will end on July 24. WVNET staff member Karen Saffron collected completed Registration Forms and provided participants with individual mileage forms.

WVNET has 10 participants (8 employees, 1 spouse, 1 former employee). Total miles walked over a 2 week period was 349.48 miles.

More info: [www.wvumedicine.org/thewellnesscenter](http://www.wvumedicine.org/thewellnesscenter)

(Article by WVNET staff member Fran Barnes)



### LATEST NEWS FROM WVNET

#### Greetings from WVNET!

February 19, 2018

#### WVNET Significant Accomplishments 2017

February 4, 2018

#### WVNET Partners with URcast

July 1, 2015

