

Saying 'YES' to YSU's computing future



By Donna Esterly
Interim chief technology officer

When prospective students or faculty visit YSU or any university – whether in person or over the Internet – the computing capabilities of the institution are an increasingly important factor in the decision to choose YSU or go elsewhere.

That's why YSU, over the past several months, has aggressively moved forward on many levels to ensure that this institution's computer technology remains competitive.

In January, a 54-page Information Technology Master Plan was endorsed by the Board of Trustees. This plan, which will be implemented over the next several years, will transform the way we teach, learn and serve each other on campus.

A major component of the plan is the purchase of enterprise resource planning software, which will boost the university's administrative computing capabilities in human resources, financial aid, finance, student records and alumni/development.

In the spring, YSU signed a contract with SunGard SCT to provide, implement and maintain the enterprise software. The company provides similar services to 25 colleges and universities in Ohio, including Wright State, Miami University, Cuyahoga Community College and the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine. Sungard SCT is a well-established company, dedicated to higher education, and we are excited to begin our partnership.

Implementation of the software will occur over the next three years under a plan dubbed YES (YSU Enterprise Resource Planning Solution). Project managers Eileen Greaf and Dona Madacsi and an 11-member committee are leading the implementation effort. In all, more than 100 students, faculty, staff and administrators are involved in the process, and that number will grow as the project spreads across campus.

The draft budget over the next three years contains approximately \$7 million in one-time costs for hardware, software and implementation services and approximately \$5 million in ongoing costs for maintenance, training and staffing for the three-year implementation period. The cost is similar – if not lower – than what other Sungard SCT universities are projecting.

The hardware required to support the SCT software has been purchased and installed. The new technology will increase YSU's ability to process data by 200 percent, increase tape storage capacity, and dramatically increase electronic data storage from 840 billion bytes to 4.2 trillion bytes.

So, as you can see, we're already taking significant steps forward, and we will continue to do so in the months ahead. We encourage everyone on campus to be as informed as possible about these exciting developments, either through this YES newsletter or the new YES web site at www.ysu.edu/yes. ■

Message from President Sweet

Enrollment is up. We're making record progress in increasing diversity on campus. Faculty and staff grant activity has reached historic levels. And we've moved into a number of partnerships that bode well for YSU and the community in the years ahead.

Yet there may be no more important process at YSU over the next three years as the upgrading of our campus-wide computing systems. While it may not be as visible as some of the other exciting things that we do, improving our computing capabilities – both academically and administratively – is vital to maintaining high quality instruction and services across campus for students, faculty and staff.

Implementing these improvements will require the attention of nearly everyone on campus. This newsletter is intended to keep everyone as up to date as possible on the process.

Thanks to the dozens and dozens of people who have worked hard to get us to this point, and good luck in the months ahead. ■

YES Project Timeline Organization & Planning

2004		2005												2006												2007												
Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec												
			Finance Charts of Accounts/Accounts Payable, Fixed Assets, Grants (July 2005)																																			
			Finance Budget (Nov 2005)																																			
															HR/ Payroll (Jan 2007)																							
			Advancement (Sep 2005)																																			
															Student Admissions (Sept 2006)																							
															Student Registration (Mar 2007)																							
															Student Accounts (Apr 2007)																							
															Financial Aid (Jan 2007)																							
															Luminis (July 2006)																							



Eileen Greaf

Bit & Byte

Eileen Greaf and Dona Madacsi are project managers for the YES (YSU Enterprise Resource Planning Solution). In this column, titled "Bit and Byte," Eileen and Dona will answer some of the most frequently asked questions about the project:

What is an ERP?

Enterprise Resource Planning is a comprehensive administrative software system that integrates core business processes within an organization.

What is SCT Banner?

SCT (Systems and Computer Technology) Banner is the name of the ERP software system that YSU has selected. This software system contains five core modules, including Student, Financial Aid, Alumni/Advancement, Finance, and Human Resources.

What is Luminis Portal?

Luminis is the product name used by SCT to describe their portal system – an internal, customizable web site that will provide YSU the ability to deliver personalized information and web services to students, faculty and staff.

How will the plan be implemented?

A series of core process teams, guided by an implementation team, have been established to work with SCT application and technical specialists to analyze and tailor business processes, install, design and configure the software, transfer current data, and provide training to the university community.

What are the practical benefits of this new system for faculty, students and staff?

In addition to streamlined business processes and improved and expanded access to information, students, faculty, and staff will experience a shift to current technologies that provide increased and improved web access and self-service capabilities.

Why is YSU doing this now?

The academic and administrative computing capabilities of the institution are an increasingly important factor in remaining competitive in higher education. We need to respond to the growing demands to teach and work in a global, networked environment. ■



Dona Madacsi

Implementation involves staff, faculty, students from across the campus

YSU, partnering with Sungard SCT, is implementing a comprehensive, fully-integrated suite of software to replace administrative systems over the next three years, including finance, human resources/payroll, student, financial aid, advancement and luminous portal. Dozens of employees have been hard at work on initial implementation stages:

Executive committee

Responsible for guiding the project implementation from an institutional point of view: Tony Atwater, Cyndy Anderson, John Habat, George McCloud, Donna Esterly, Holly Jacobs, Ron Strollo, Tom Maraffa.

Project managers

Manage all project related activities and, with the Implementation Team, responsible for a successful implementation: Eileen Greaf and Dona Madacsi.

Advisory committee

Provides senior leadership to the project: Eileen Greaf, Dona Madacsi, Rick Marsico, Bill Countryman, Judy Gaines, K.J. Satrum, Hugh Chatman, John Hyden, Beth Kushmer, Holly Jacobs, Tom Maraffa, Jimmy Myers, Ron Strollo, Bege Bowers, Ron Chordas, Cynthia Hirtzel, Peter Kasvinsky, Bob Hogue, Paul Kobulnicky, Terry Fullum, Walt Ulbricht, Bill Beisel, Chris Domhoff, Virginia Phillips, Angela Mavrikis.

Implementation team

The Implementation Team consists of the Team Leaders from each of the core teams: Eileen Greaf, Dona Madacsi, Rick Marsico, Marianne Anderson, Mary Jo Repasky, Jeanne Herman, Jamie Stanger, Catherine Cala, Bob Tupaj, Troy Cross, Betty Jo Licata, Becky Geltz, Donna Wainio.

Core Process Teams

FINANCE TEAM

Marianne Anderson, Lois Catheline, Katrena Davidson, Rich Hideg, Akhande Khan, Jan Loychik, Patty Seachman, Jim Herschel, Tom Masters, May Noble, Fran Wolf, Tina Weintz, Bob McGovern.

HUMAN RESOURCES/PAYROLL TEAM

Mary Jo Repasky, Gary Kirkland, Donna Wainio, Marguerite Thomas, Carolyn Kordupel, Gary Kirkland, Sue Lewis, Diane Scacchetti, Kathy Ferguson, Rich Hideg, Cindy Miller, Maureen Yambar, Jeff Taylor, Becky Geltz, Dennis Konik, Rammohan Kasuganti, Lois Romito.

STUDENT TEAM

Jeanne Herman, Tina Weintz, Sue Davis, Pauline Saternow, Mary Bodnovich, Marilyn Ward, KJ Satrum, Jack Fahey, Dan O'Connell, Judy Richards, Jim Herschel, Shawnee Showman, Elaine Ruse, Jody Patrick, Marie Cullen, Jayne Caputo, Rich Hideg, Becky Geltz, Marayamah Hassan, Tom Masters, Donna McNierney, Shivani Jindal.

FINANCIAL AID TEAM

Jamie Stanger, Beth Bartlett, Cindy Maldonado, Elaine Ruse, JoAnn Sarich, Lisa Croyle, Tom Masters, David Pollack, Tina Weintz.

ADVANCEMENT TEAM

Catherine Cala, Pam Balent, Erin DeBernardo, Jill Massas, Barb Greene, Dennis Konik.

DATA STANDARDS AND REPORTING

Becky Geltz, Beth Kushner, Jeff Taylor, Ron Williams, Jayne Caputo, Jim Hanek, Mike Hrishenko, Tom Doctor, Marie Cullen, Mary Jo Repasky, Donna Wainio, Elaine Ruse, Elaine Beatty, Patty Gillis, Shirley Hood, Mary Bodnovich, Sue Davis, Pam Balent, Bege Bowers, Elaine Jacobs, Tina Weintz, Robin Naples, Jan Loychik, Dennis Konik, Cleo Nastopoulos, Sandy Stanhope, Joseph Blankenship.

TECHNICAL TEAM

Troy Cross, Mary Noble, Tom Masters, Marayamah Hassan, Dennis Konik, Cleo Nastopoulos, Jeff Trimble, Sandy Stanhope, Mark Welton, John Dalbec, Doug Sewell, James (J.T.) Holt.

LUMINUS TEAM

Bob Tupaj, Troy Cross, John Dalbec, Doug Sewell, Kathy Leeper, Steve Taraszewski, Shelly Zhu, Bob Hogue, Sal Sanders.

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Betty Jo Licata, Ron Cole, Walt Ulbricht, Gayle Magnuson, Fred Owens.

TRAINING TEAM

Donna Wainio, Chuck Daubner, Mike Hrishenko, Debbie Garchar, Cynthia Hirtzel, Karen Duda. ■

Youngstown STATE UNIVERSITY

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