

A quarterly review of what UW Information Technology is delivering to the UW community

New Web-based tool will improve student academic planning

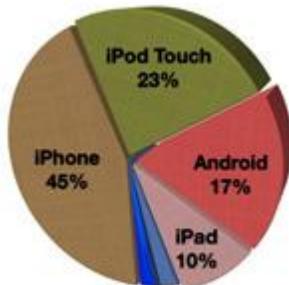


Students will have a new online tool to help with the planning needed to declare a major or apply to graduate under a recently funded project to modernize student academic planning. “MyPlan” will enable students to chart a multi-year academic plan, map out courses of interest, explore academic scenarios (such as what happens if they change majors) and assess their progress towards academic requirements.



Available in fall 2012, MyPlan is being developed by UW-IT in collaboration with students and advisors. It is supported through funding from the Student Technology Fee Committee, the Office of Planning and Budgeting, and resources contributed by UW-IT. MyPlan will leverage technology and design work already created as part of the UW’s partnership in [Kuali Student](#), a consortium of peer universities developing a next-generation student system. It will be implemented at UW and become part of the Kuali Student offerings.

Wi-Fi upgrade receives student technology fee funding, begins deployment



UW Wi-Fi Handheld Devices

A three-year project to upgrade the UW wireless network (Wi-Fi) received \$1 million in funding from the Student Technology Fee Committee in May—an indicator of the importance of connectivity to students. The funding will speed upgrades to student-centered spaces such as libraries, as well as expand coverage to additional sites that students request, such as appropriate outdoor areas.

The project is being driven by a fundamental shift in how people use the Wi-Fi network, coupled with substantial increases in overall use. Wi-Fi is no longer a network of convenience, but a primary mode of communication. The upgrades are needed to support the latest device technology, especially smartphones. More than 66,000 people and 100,000 devices—including 39,000 smartphones—use the network each month. The upgrades will provide faster speeds, greater capacity and improved coverage. Deployment is complete in 15 high-priority buildings, and planning is underway to identify buildings for upgrade in FY 2012.

Efficient, automated tuition change: UW’s first Kuali Rice implementation



A new automated tuition change process, launched in May, enables departments to handle tuition changes more efficiently and accurately. It helps staff track multiple steps spread over

several weeks, shows current status, and records pertinent information and comments about requests—increasing audit ability and ensuring requests are not “lost” or forgotten.

This new process uses [Kuali Enterprise Workflow](#)—UW’s new enterprise workflow solution that automates routing and approval processes. It is part of the [Kuali Rice](#) middleware suite of integrated products that allows efficient development of high-quality business applications. The automated tuition change process is the UW’s first use of Kuali Rice. UW has been a founding partner in Kuali development efforts since 2008, playing a leadership role in defining and developing Kuali Student and Kuali Rice.



Hefty discounts add up to big savings for UW cellular users



More than 26,000 UW students, faculty and staff are taking advantage of significant discounts available through contracts negotiated by UW-IT with cellular carriers AT&T and T-Mobile, saving them an estimated \$3 million a year. AT&T offers discounts of 21 percent for cellular services paid by the UW, 18 percent for faculty and staff and 10 percent for students. T-Mobile offers a 15 percent discount across the board.

All faculty/staff/students are eligible for these [discounts](#) on most services (assuming they meet the credit eligibility). Most existing customers of AT&T and T-Mobile can save by simply telling the carrier that they are affiliated with the UW. These strategic partnerships also mean the UW is among the first to receive network upgrades for faster, more reliable service, including upgrades to the latest 4G speeds.

Online vendor registration to speed purchasing/payments, improve compliance



Development is underway on a new online vendor registration process that promises to significantly quicken the flow of UW purchases and payments. It will reduce the time it takes to register a new supplier from 30 days to 2, and the number of steps from 60 to 4. The result will be reduced delays in ordering and paying for goods and services, decreased use of paper-based forms, and increased compliance with tax reporting and business diversity requirements. The new Web-based [registration process](#) will be available in July for vendors and Procurement Services staff. Approximately 3,100 new vendors register each year with the UW. This project is part of Finance and Facilities [LEAN](#) business process improvement efforts, and it will leverage [Kuali Enterprise Workflow](#) to allow routing and approval of vendor data entered directly online.

Institutional data on the move to data warehouse; goal is strategic reporting

A two-year effort to evolve the Enterprise Data Warehouse (EDW) to deliver strategic, integrated enterprise reports will take a major step forward this summer with the migration of the Office of Planning and Budgeting’s (OPB)



extensive institutional data into the EDW. The work is in two parts:

- Academic data will be moved into the EDW, starting with degree programs, followed by student enrollment. The first part of this data will be tested and available in July.
- At the same time, a modern warehouse structure will be implemented specifically designed for reporting and analytics. This *Integrated* Enterprise Data Warehouse will become the foundation and single source of OPB data. Data will be made consistent across subject areas, enabling analysis and strategic reporting of trends, key metrics and longitudinal data.

EDW currently provides 200 reports that are run 25,000 times each quarter, and it offers two financial cubes for fast analysis. The new data will provide even better analytics and reporting, as well as directly support the program evaluation metrics requested by the Provost of all academic units by 2013. Get [EDW information and access](#).

Isolated network will secure UW smart energy grid



The UW is in the second year of a five-year effort to install “intelligent” electrical meters, water meters and lighting controls in most UW Seattle buildings. As the only university participating in the Department of Energy’s \$178 million Pacific Northwest Smart Grid Demonstration Project, the UW expects to save about \$700,000 in energy costs over the project’s life. The smart devices will allow the UW to participate in experiments with Battelle and the Department of Energy to prove that there are energy savings, increased reliability and lowered costs.

To ensure smart grid communications are reliable and secure, UW-IT is partnering with the Capital Projects Office and Facility Services to provide an isolated, secure Facilities Network for the grid. UW-IT has already installed about half of the new Ethernet ports required. The UW’s Smart Grid project will provide a baseline of energy consumption and test the effectiveness of the new technology.

New online tools improve student experience

- **Students can track their financial aid status online** with a new tool launched in April by UW-IT in partnership with the UW Office of Student Financial Aid.
- **Applying for financial aid loans is easier** thanks to improved integration between UW Financial Aid and DirectLoans.gov. Parents complete Plus Loan applications and forms online as part of the UW’s account processes, saving time and paper.
- **Undergraduate applicants can access restricted UW information sooner** because of improved integration with the UW’s undergraduate application vendor.

