ITS Newsletter Archives

Information Technology Services' series of monthly emails to all employees aimed at improving communications with campus about tips, information, technology updates and services offered in ITS.

IT Partnership Highlight: International Music Collaboration Tool (Netty-McNetFace)

ITS partnered with faculty from the Music department to implement software that allows musicians all over the world to collaborate and play music together in real-time, "Netty-McNetFace." During the COVID-19 pandemic, this project enabled faculty and students to collaborate with musicians around the world; and still provides these opportunities today.

If you are interested in learning more, see Greg Rolling's (ITS) blog post about this project or contact Scott Miller (Music Department Faculty).

IT Partnership Highlight: Online Access Request Forms

To improve customer experiences in requesting building access, ITS assisted Public Safety with transitioning access request forms to an online service.

Individuals can now request building access or removal of building access, report a lost state key or request a list of keys assigned to an individual through Public Safety's Access Request Service Portal.

Camera Issues on your Laptop?
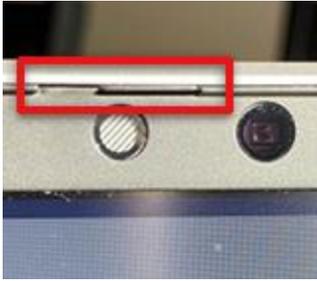
Some newer laptops have a built-in privacy shutter that covers the lens above the laptop screen. This slider door can be difficult to see and many are unaware of its existence. If the slider door inadvertently gets closed, it can seem as though the camera is not working as the video on the screen will appear dark even if video is turned on. This can be especially problematic during video calls.

If you are experiencing camera/video issues and have a newer laptop, see if you have a tab that you can slide left and right to open or close as that may resolve the issue. If that doesn't help, contact HuskyTech for further assistance.

Did You Know? Technology Maintenance and Upgrades
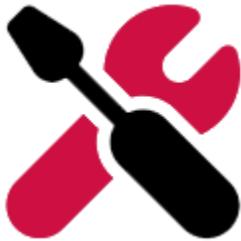
Technology hardware and software requires maintenance and updates, which can cause temporary service disruptions. The ITS department has times proactively planned during which we attempt to schedule most maintenance and updates. You can find more information about scheduled maintenance in the Technology Downtime Schedule on the ITS website. Minnesota State also offers a status page that includes planned IT maintenance and unplanned outages at the Minnesota State System-level.

IT Security Tip: QR Codes

Quick Response (QR) codes, are square barcodes that a smartphone camera can read to provide a quick link to a website, app download or direct a payment. QR codes are convenient and used by many businesses and organizations, however, be aware that cybercriminals can use QR codes to steal data, spread malware and gain access to victim accounts.

To protect yourself, treat QR codes like any other link. Only scan trusted codes, never download an unknown application to read a QR code and use built-in services through iOS and Android devices to verify the QR code link before navigating to that link.

April Fools' Day Technology

Happy April Fools' Day to our campus community!

On April 1st, any topic has the potential to become a target for tricks and pranks, including technology. If you are interested in learning more about OnePlus's Warp Car, Google Tulip and more, see Gadget 360's Best April Fool's Day Pranks From the Tech World article.

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