Moving from Desktop to Notebook

Nenny Noorman & Seow Chow Loon, ACIS

After putting in place the wireless infrastructure in NIE campus, Academic Computing and Information Services (ACIS) is gradually providing, at each personal computer replacement exercise over the next four years, a notebook computer for each academic staff in NIE. Sixty Intel Pentium IV, Centrino notebook computers were issued to academic staff during the replacement exercise held in the first quarter of this year. The academic staff were given a choice of selecting one of four different notebook brands. Ast/P Paul Lee, Ast/P John Tan, Ast/P Peter Gu and Mdm Thaver Thana Luixshme were among the first batch of users who were issued a portable notebook of their choice. They shared their views and experiences on the use of these notebooks with us.

The move towards issuing notebooks instead of desktop computers to academic staff is aimed at providing them with the flexibility and mobility to work anywhere and anytime. As feedback by Mdm Thaver Thana shows, the light Fujitsu notebook has certainly made her life easier in terms of convenience and given her a sense of comfort. “Its portability obviously means that I do not have to save my work on diskettes or zip disks to be able to work at a site other than the office. In addition, my presentations outside of NIE have become much smoother and less stressful – I don’t have to depend on the on-site computers that sometimes cannot open my zip disk and other rather strange problems that crop up,” she commented.

The idea of issuing portable notebooks to academic staff also appealed to Ast/P Paul Lee as he likes to try out new gadgets. He thought it would be useful if he needs to go for overseas conferences. He found the notebook very light and convenient to use and faster than the desktop in his office.

With the wireless network in place in NIE, academic staff can move around in the campus to carry out their work, instead of having to constrain themselves to work in front of their desktop computer in their office all the time. Ast/P John Tan, who is one of the wireless users, shared his experience: “It allows me to work anywhere and almost anytime. I can finish my work at home – just unplug the notebook and bring it back. While waiting for the next class in my student’s teaching practice, I could continue with my paper, write a report or prepare for my lecture”.

During times when the traffic was quite heavy, Ast/P Peter Gu conveyed that he would have to turn off the wireless option and use the Local Area Network (LAN). However, he felt that having the notebook was still a big plus because he could take it around the campus and get connected whenever he needs to.

With the provision of notebooks, we hope the idea of “Learning without limits through wireless@NIE” will be realised.

For FAQs on Wireless@NIE, please visit http://wireless.nie.edu.sg.

Free Web Resources : Help Yourselves!

Ishak Yuyun Wirawati, LIBRIS

LIBRIS has been cataloguing Internet resources that support and enrich the NIE curriculum. Currently, there are more than 600 Internet resources records in the LIBRIS catalogue covering subjects such as education, psychology, language and literature, art, music, sciences and reference information. The resources can be accessed through the URLs that are embedded in the records.

Why catalogue Internet resources?
The Internet contains a lot of information which is, unfortunately, not organised and difficult to access. Using existing library techniques and procedures and creating records for retrieval through existing online catalogues will make it easier to locate and access these resources.

How to locate Internet resources
The Internet resources on ready reference materials (almanacs, atlases, biographies, dictionaries, encyclopedias, maps, etc.) can be found at http://libris.nie.edu.sg/info/webresources.htm.

For Internet resources on specific subjects, you can do a subject search using the WebOPAC (http://libris.nie.edu.sg/webopac.htm). A search on ‘webpages’ will retrieve all the Internet resources recorded in the LIBRIS catalogue.

Have any web sites that you would like to recommend for cataloguing? Send your comments and suggestions to ywishak@nie.edu.sg.