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Use Internet wisely to help OU contain costs

By **Dawn Pauli**, contributing writer

As Oakland continues to face challenging budgets, it's important for employees to watch expenditures and help contain costs whenever possible.

Theresa Rowe, assistant vice president of University Technology Services, offers suggestions to employees regarding Internet usage.

"We need robust, highly responsive Internet connectivity at a reasonable price. But, we all need to remember that our Internet service is not free," Rowe said. "Our focus needs to be teaching, learning, research and effective communications."

The university spends \$300,000 each year for Internet access/bandwidth, Rowe said.

Using the Internet for other activities forces OU to use, and pay for, more Internet service than is needed.

The following guidelines should be followed for Internet usage:

- KaZaa and downloading of music, movies and software use a great deal of bandwidth and are often done in violation of copyright laws.
- Internet radio should only be accessed if needed during a crisis or during a storm.
- Web broadcasts should be consolidated at one location whenever possible, instead of individuals attending at their desk.
- Web browsing should be limited to university-related activities.
- Instant messaging and e-mail should be used for university-related communications.
- Desktop computers should have anti-virus software and Microsoft operating systems up-to-date to prevent viruses and denial-of-service attacks from using an unnecessary amount of network bandwidth.

"Technology is necessary for each of us to do our jobs," Rowe said. "But we all need to help conserve bandwidth and help keep costs down by only using these tools for university-related functions."

SUMMARY

As Oakland continues to face challenging budgets, it's important for employees to watch expenditures and help contain costs whenever possible. The university spends \$300,000 each year for Internet access/bandwidth. Using the Internet for other activities forces OU to use, and pay for, more Internet service than is needed.

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