Historically, wireless projects on campus have focused on providing wireless services for low volume, ad hoc use by a relatively small number of people. This strategy no long suits the way mobile technologies are being used. We are seeing a significant increase in the use of mobile learning devices at universities, as use of mobile technologies by students and staff continues to grow.

Several of Curtin's faculties have already incorporated online and mobile technologies into their teaching and learning strategies and as a result are requiring an increased network capacity as the number of students connecting to the wireless network rises.

CITS is currently undertaking a university-wide Wireless Network Expansion (WNE) project to significantly increase the capacity of the wireless network and the underlying infrastructure around specific locations on the Bentley campus. The WNE project will provide a high density wireless network in the Library, in strategic areas identified by the faculties, as well as in highly frequented Centrally Allocated Teaching Spaces (CATS).

A room with High Density wireless coverage will enable each occupant to connect to the wireless network with up to two devices - such as laptops, tablets and smartphones – and will enable those devices to download information faster. For example, an entire class may be able to use their individual devices to download course material, simultaneously with greater ease. As the WNE project progresses the CATS website (http://prop.curtin.edu.au/cats/) will be updated to reflect these changes, allowing lecturers and students to readily identify the wireless capabilities of the rooms they use.

The CITS Infrastructure team is also considering improving wireless coverage for students and staff at the Curtin Bus Station.

CITS has begun the planning stages of the WNE project, with the Infrastructure team currently negotiating a rollout schedule for 2012.
MANAGED PRINT SERVICES UPDATE

The next phase of the MPS project is now underway following the Planning and Management Committee last year choosing Fuji Xerox as the preferred supplier for the University’s Managed Print Solution.

The introduction of a more efficient, smaller fleet of printer/copiers is part of Curtin’s commitment to reducing its carbon footprint. The new fleet of standardised multifunction printers and copiers feature a ‘follow-me’ printing capability for secure printing, as well as scan to email options. These features will help save energy, paper and consumables.

OFFICE 365 EMAIL MIGRATION COMPLETE

More than 11,000 mailboxes are now in the ‘Cloud’ with the successful migration of all staff mailboxes to Microsoft’s Office 365 service. Staff are now benefiting from larger mail box sizes, improved archiving, high availability of email and calendaring service, and secure online access anywhere and at any time.

CITS would like to congratulate the project team for an outstanding job, as well as all Curtin staff for their patience throughout the migration process.

NEW DEDICATED VIDEO CONFERRING FACILITY

A new dedicated video conferencing room, to be available to all Curtin staff and researchers, will be installed in building 309 in March this year. The room will feature immersive high definition videoconferencing technology, facilitating a new level of collaboration at the University.

Videoconferencing technology can assist bridge the gap between colleagues located at different locations. The potential uses by staff and researchers could include interviews, international/national team meetings, training, consulting, project reviews, and facilitating research collaboration.

The CITS website will offer more information on the videoconferencing facilities and booking process soon.

COLLABORATION SERVICES BEING OFFERED

CITS are developing a new range of services supporting increased collaboration, which will be offered to staff later this year. These services will be provided as sites via a web browser and include:

- Document collaboration
- Managing Committees
- Managing Research projects

These sites will be utilising Microsoft’s SharePoint technologies and the application process to adopt a new site will be announced later in 2012.

Staff Spotlight

CITS would like to take this opportunity to farewell our outgoing CIO Peter Nikoletatos, who is leaving Curtin in February to take a position with Australian National University in Canberra.

For just over three years Peter has been responsible for leading the development and enhancement of ICT services to enable Curtin to achieve its strategic goals. Under his leadership CITS has undertaken some large projects including Managed Operating Environments for PC and Macs, implementation of iPortfolio, and implementation of Cloud email with Office 365.

In addition, Peter and CITS have been recognised with many accolades, including the 2010 WAITTA Innovation Award for iPortfolio. This year Peter has been shortlisted as a finalist for the 2011 WAITTA CIO of the Year award, to be presented in March.

Peter’s leadership, enthusiasm and drive have become an integral part of CITS operations and he leaves us with big shoes to fill. We offer our congratulations and best wishes to Peter and his family for the road ahead, and thank him for his service over the last few years.