

VISION PLAN FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

THE COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION

1999-2000

Development of this Technology Vision Plan has included involvement from the following groups in the College of Communication over a four-month period:

Instructional Technology Committee:

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Gigi Durham, Assistant Professor, Journalism

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Julianne Newton, Assistant Professor, Journalism

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Department Chairs and Assistant, Associate Deans

Tech Team

Student CommCouncil

Administrative Council

College of Communication Advisory Council

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The College of Communication seeks to ensure that what we teach and how we teach is relevant and competitive in a fluid and changing technological environment. To do this, the College has established several technology goals:

Achieve digital literacy with faculty, staff and students.

Deploy instructional technologies to improve students' experiences and to optimize the time and capabilities of faculty and staff.

Give students experience and skills with state-of-practice technologies.

Understand and define the requirements for new communication technologies.

Collaborate with non-academics to benchmark/test new communication technologies.

Help set the national research agenda for communication technologies.

Across the disciplines of communication represented in the College's departments, several important intellectual, research and production frontiers have begun to take shape:

Optimizing linear and nonlinear content and communications for a converged media environment in which the audience can control how and when they access what is offered.

Collaborating and exchanging digital information among people working and playing together in an anytime, anywhere environment.

Applying the science and technology of human communication to develop protocols, device requirements and content to improve human communication and the technologies that support it.

Fast moving technology trends in information storage, retrieval and dissemination require that the College of Communication provide its faculty and students with an instructional technology infrastructure that reflects the digital environment in which information is being developed, disseminated and utilized. It requires timely upgrades of hardware and software for faculty and staff. Space constraints in the College are intense, and new technology resources must be developed so that they can be implemented virtually. Existing resources in the Communication Computer Center (C3 Lab) and the Instructional Media Center must be strengthened, and two new initiatives are proposed: The Virtual Collaboratory, and The Digital Archive and Networked Media Lab.

This December the College will convene a team of national researchers to plan an Internet2 Sociotechnical Summit to be held in March 1999. The Summit will bring to UT Austin 25 leading American academic, industry and government thought leaders for a summit on the human and organizational dimensions of Internet2 communication.

The College seeks \$550,000 from ITAC for FY99-00 – \$125,000 for continued management and maintenance of the C3Lab and \$425,000 for enhancement of hardware and software in the C3 Lab, and for the first phase of two new initiatives – A Virtual Collaboratory and A Digital Archive and Networked Media Lab. The capabilities enabled by these resources will help the College meet the fundamental levels of digital resources requisite in the academic fields comprised by the College's departments and required for College of Communication graduates. The availability of these capabilities will also provide vehicles for interdisciplinary collaboration at UT and internationally. Ten faculty members in the College have identified course-related curriculum developments that would use these two new capabilities; half of these have also defined research projects that would utilize these capabilities; four

major symposia (three international, one national) and one professional development contract (Internal Revenue Service communication training) developed by College faculty are requesting these capabilities; and two Austin community projects (one with the business community, one with K-12) would utilize them.

In addition, the College additionally plans FY98-99 expenditures of approximately \$1,000,000 from the Communication Learning Equipment Fee (CLEF) funds for technologies supporting specific College course needs. Approximately \$1,000,000 of CLEF funds will be allocated in FY99-00 on the basis of departmental requests (spring 99) and college-wide resource planning (spring99.) Through faculty and student interaction with hardware and software vendors – and resulting definition of requirements for new communication technologies – equipment gift and grant requests will be integrated into appeals made as a part of the Capital Campaign.

COLLEGE VISION, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES, RECENT PROGRESS

Four years from now when this year's freshmen in the College of Communication graduate and take their first jobs, many of them will work with technologies that haven't even been introduced yet. To prepare them, we seek to create and sustain an understanding of communication technology that is enduring. At the same time we seek to make sure that what we teach and how we teach it is relevant in a fluid and changing technological environment. To do this, task forces and working groups in the College have met intensively over the past four months and have established several the previously mentioned technology goals.

In addition, the College has set the following as required technical skills for its undergraduate students: word processing, spreadsheets, presentation software and Internet access tools/web browsers. Requirements to use these applications are integrated into the curricula. In addition, each program area has identified critical hardware and software capabilities unique to its students and has integrated related requirements for technical know-how and conceptual understanding into coursework.

All faculty and staff of the College have personal computers, Ethernet connections (See Appendix 4) and access to computer tutorial and instructional programs through the University's Academic Computer and Information Technology Services (ACITS.) Both Mac and Wintel computer platforms are used by faculty, staff and students in the College. In some communication fields, specialized software is available exclusively for one platform or the other. Consequently, the College's labs include both platforms, and recommendations regarding student purchase of computers include suggestions for either.

Faculty and students are experimenting with new uses of technology for communication. New computer graphics applications are being tested on workstations donated by Intel; and exploratory uses of video teleconferencing are underway in a lab partially donated by VTEL. Research projects conducted by faculty and graduate students are defining new technological requirements for hearing diagnostics, developing new metrics for measuring Internet audiences, and developing criteria for the application of geographic information systems for the study of telecommunications in rural communities. Technology-based outreach activities are linking students, faculty and professionals in organizations such as the International Clef Palate Association, the American Academy of Advertising, and the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce Multimedia Community.

With funds provided by UT's Instructional Technology Advisory Committee, (See Appendices 1, 2 & 3) the College has upgraded the C3 Lab (available to students across the University after 5PM.) Software upgrades for this lab, funded by the Communication Learning Equipment Fee (CLEF), now offer the compliment of fundamental software programs required for College undergraduates, as well as specialized programs for development of graphic and multimedia products by students; additional resources to support student development of streaming media products are needed. The College plans to continue to contract for maintenance and management of the C3 Lab with the ACITS technology staff. In addition, CLEF funds have financed multimedia equipment upgrades in all CMA classrooms, as well as hardware and software for department-maintained labs.

<http://www.utexas.edu/coc/clef/98/projects.html> and <http://www.utexas.edu/coc/clef/97/projects.html>

Use of the world wide web by faculty to publish and disseminate class-related information has grown, and Internet chat rooms are used for discussion outside of class. The first dissertation was submitted electronically spring '98. Many courses depend on the use of digital resources and require an IT

infrastructure that can make those resources available in several CMA labs as well as off campus. To address these burgeoning needs, the College has begun some investments in college-wide technical resources – hardware and software for the Instructional Media Center and the first computer component of a Digital Archive and Networked Media Lab. As the fields of communication continue to migrate to digital development, storage and delivery of communications, expanded use of instructional equipment is envisioned in all departments of the College, as are more investments in college-wide technology resources.

FACILITIES AND STAFFING, OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE

The College of Communication has one of the most advanced networks on the University of Texas at Austin campus. (See Appendix 4) With these networking resources, the College is capable of implementing high-bandwidth applications from interactive web applications to live video and audio streaming. The College's plans for doing so rests on the strategy of undertaking experimental activities using technical resources internal to the College and then moving successful, ready for "prime-time" applications to UT campus servers that are maintained on a 7/24 basis for consistently dependable reliability and operation. A rapid and steady flow of experimental applications of emerging digital communication technology using the capabilities proposed in this plan from the College to the UT campus servers and network is anticipated. To prepare for this, it will be important for the UT network and server system to have equivalent or scaled-up capability and for the College to have the expanded capacity requested in this plan.

All of the major classrooms in CMA have been equipped with Ethernet access and multimedia capabilities. Because of space constraints in the College, almost half of the College's classes are taught in other buildings. Many of these classrooms have not yet been adapted with updated multimedia capabilities. A process of prioritizing assignment of CMA classrooms to accommodate faculty needs for instructional technology has recently been established. However, limited availability of classrooms with multimedia equipment makes it necessary for faculty who have developed multimedia instructional materials to maintain redundant sets of materials so that, if necessary because of room assignments in other buildings, they can still teach in non-equipped classrooms.

The technical resources and software upgrades of the College are managed and maintained by a small technical support team (7FTE), augmented by contracted services from ACITS. Students tend to rely on classmates, teaching assistants, and UT computing services for help with software. Faculty members rely on teaching assistants for help with software, and sometimes use computing services from the Center for Instructional Technology or ACITS. Teaching assistants use the resources of ACITS and, to a lesser extent CIT, as well as other teaching assistants. Staff members generally rely on each other for software support; some utilize software training resources available through UT computing services (ACITS or Administrative Computing.) Departments in the college operate instructional laboratories that support student skill building and utilization of the hardware, software and knowledge-ware essential for the undergraduate and graduate curricula.

Pressing needs exist among staff and faculty for more "just-in-time" and troubleshooting assistance for learning and using new software applications and new versions of existing software applications. A significant gap exists between faculty who eagerly experiment with the use of new instructional technologies for their classes and those who resist the burdensome expenditure of non-productive time to incorporate computers into their instruction. The polarization of the technology culture of the College requires a two to three year investment of internal human resources to support technology adoption. This infusion will accelerate the rate of adoption and create a cohesive and consistent foundation of digital literacy among faculty and staff, promote the diffusion of digital technologies; and incorporate this know-how into instructional technologies for the College's students.

Ten faculty members in the College have identified course-related curriculum developments and research thrusts that require the additional technical capabilities requested in this plan. Four major symposia (three international, one national,) one high-visibility national professional education contract, and two Austin community projects (one with the business community, one with K-12) would utilize them. A short-term investment in "just-in-time" technical consulting for faculty and teaching assistants will effect a step-function in the technology culture of the College and establish a new level of expected technical proficiency for both faculty and teaching assistants. The College plans a bridge-team approach to this consulting. This approach will team departmental teaching assistants and College technical project assistants over a three-year period – to assist faculty in implementation of instructional technologies following their initial training by ACITS and CIT, and to promote the exchange of lessons

learned and best practices by early innovators.

PROPOSED PROJECTS

Academic instructional projects

Project Title: C3 Lab (Communication Computer Center)

Description:

Although many students in the College of Communication have or have access to personal computers where they live, on or off campus, much of the software required for their courses is specialized and expensive. The C3 Lab provides fifty computer workstations and serves an important function for students who need access to course-specific software, as well as for those who need access to computers. After 5PM, the C3Lab is available to students from all colleges on campus. The College plans continued updating of hardware and software, additional hardware and software to support digitization of video and audio streams for student multimedia products, along with continued contracting with ACITS for management and maintenance.

Space Needs:

The C3Lab is located in a space off the 3rd floor lobby in the CMA.

Audience:

Any University of Texas student may use the ACITS-staffed C3Lab from 5pm until 2am, Monday-Friday and all times on Sunday. The operation of the C3Lab as a joint use facility provides a strong alternative to the SMF for providing student access to information technology. Further, the facility offers access to software and accessories needed by many University students to produce graphic and multimedia products. The lab is restricted to students from the College of Communication from 8-5, Monday-Friday

Proposed Budget/Equipment:

The College requests funding of \$150,000 from ITAC to defray operating costs for the management/maintenance contract with ACITS and to expand hardware and software needed digitization and compression of video for graphic and multimedia products.

	Hardware	16,000
	Software	9,000
	Maintenance contract with ACTIS	125,000
	TOTAL	150,000

Project: A Virtual Collaboratory

Description:

The College seeks to establish a joint-use, multi-purpose computer-based collaborative decision making lab – with expanded video conferencing capabilities that will support communication with research laboratories and instructional facilities at other universities and with selected collaborators. The Virtual Collaboratory will facilitate instruction in "groupware" technologies (group writing, decision making,

problem solving, instruction, therapy, etc.) and research in work-group collaboration, interpersonal communication, and computer-mediated communication. It will also support a network of video, audio and data transmissions among communication colleagues around the world, using high performance computing systems and advanced networking connectivity to cooperatively leverage educational resources, exploit research opportunities, and develop knowledge assets.

Space:

The College of Communication is seriously and severely limited in space at this time; however, the development of this laboratory is time-critical – to keep pace with rapidly advancing experimental and business use of computer-based collaboration and development of work-team communication tools. Existing classroom space in CMA is available to be used for the first phase of this project. An expansion, adaptation and refurbishment of the College’s current Distance Learning Facility is planned. The adapted space will permit continued class and research use of the video teleconferencing equipment now in the space. The addition of a dedicated network server, 20 individual PC laptops (with software) and an overhead projection unit with a public viewing screen will leverage the use of that space and equipment to expanded instruction and research purposes. Modifications to the room will improve the room’s flexibility and ergonomics and optimize available space for multiple instructional and research purposes.

Audience:

The Virtual Collaboratory will enable instructional and research efforts related to digital work group collaboration, interactive and computer-based focus groups, video-conferenced meeting and interview facilities, and observation and data collection at remote locations. It will leverage expertise in both group communication and new communication technologies that support collaboration, considered by many to be the "killer aps" to be enabled by the ultra high speed, high bandwidth communications coming with Internet2-type connectivity. It will also provide essential technical resources for doctoral and postdoctoral research.

UT Austin faculty and students will be able to cooperatively develop and access audio and video with collaborators at other universities for live, on-demand and multicast streams for research and instruction. In addition, the Virtual Collaboratory will open opportunities to link community endeavors to UT Austin, as well as outreach initiatives. Short courses, seminars and conferences conducted on critical research frontiers, industry trends and professional development topics will be offered in both face-to-face and distance education formats. These offerings will enrich current curricula, provide community outreach and offer service to community, alumni and professional stakeholders. Initiatives currently underway in the College are eager to use the Virtual Collaboratory for: collaborative decision-making software technologies; studies with collaborating organizations on children and new media; clinical research and educational support to Austin Smiles (clef palate surgery) outreach in Central America; and seminars with Latin and South American colleagues regarding communications, telecommunications policies, journalism, and NAFTA. It is anticipated that this laboratory would catalyze collaboration with colleagues at UT from related disciplines.

Budget/Equipment:

	ITAC	Other College	External	Total
Hardware	115,000			115,000
Software			15,000	15,000
Renovations	135,000			135,000
Staffing		30,000		30,000
Total	250,000	30,000	15,000	295,000

Project: The Digital Archive and Networked Media Lab

Description:

Broadcasting, journalism, advertising, corporate and health services information fields are rapidly moving to information environments based on digital content that can be remotely accessed for simultaneous viewing and flexibly distributed on a customized basis to multiple destinations. Students in the College of Communication need exposure and experience with information environments that are compatible with current industry standards, as well as with emerging technologies that will quickly evolve into the industry standards in the future – in radio, television, print and online media.

Space Needs:

The Digital Archive and Networked Media Lab can be implemented in existing space in CMA.

Audience:

This archive and network capability is envisioned as an experimental and instructional resource for faculty and students – streaming course-specific resources, completion of class assignments, testing of novel techniques ("not-quite-ready-for-prime-time") and their refinement. Once developed ("ready-for-prime-time" or distance delivery) these digital products would be migrated to equipment and services peered by UT operations and supported by UT staff.

Software, network and computational resources for an infrastructure that will develop, archive and serve digital content for classroom instruction, course enrichment, distance learning and research will provide a College-wide resource. Ten faculty members in the College of Communication have identified instructional and research projects for which these capabilities are needed. Faculty use of and student experience with this digital archive and information network will produce graduates ready to apply their professional skills in the context of industry best practices. It will also facilitate the participation of the College of Communication in national R&D endeavors related to media convergence, digital communications and high performance computing. It is anticipated that strong interest in use of this technology across the UT campus will also provide opportunities for the College of Communication to provide service to other collegiate units, as well as to share know-how.

Budget/Equipment:

To develop this Digital Archive and Networked Media Lab, the College needs high performance computers, equipment for digital capture of audio and video, software for digital conversion and compression, hardware and software for digital audio editing, and software for digital delivery. The development of this infrastructure will begin in 98-99 with the acquisition of an SGI computer that will become the archive and experimental server. Immediate needs call for adding a work station front end, as well as additional network capacity, and upgrading the management and UTnet uplink capabilities. The College requests \$105,000 from ITAC in FY99-00 for a Sun workstation, specialized hardware and software, more direct access to multicast-capable switches, and upgrade of functionality. This would provide sufficient client access ports, uplink ports with which to connect them, and additional management capabilities and throughput in or out of the building complex network.

	ITAC	Other College	External	Total
Hardware	50,000			50,000
Software			25,000	25,000

Staffing		30,000		30,000
Total	50,000	30,000	25,000	105,000

Research:

The Virtual Collaboratory and The Digital Archive and Networked Media Lab will support research, in addition to graduate and undergraduate instruction. They will facilitate the participation of faculty members in the College of Communication in national R&D endeavors related to media convergence, digital communications and high performance computing. Research initiatives in collaborative decision-making software technologies; studies with collaborating organizations on children and new media; clinical research and educational support to Austin Smiles (clef palate surgery) outreach in Central America; and investigations with Latin and South American colleagues regarding communications, telecommunications policies, journalism, and NAFTA will also be facilitated.

Administrative:

Many staff members take advantage of computer and software courses offered by Administrative Computing and by ACTIS. In addition to these formal instructional opportunities, there is an expressed need for just-in-time assistance with special software applications related to staff responsibilities for management, administration and assistance to faculty, teaching assistants and students. Considerable expertise exists among the College's staff, and they have expressed a willingness to share that expertise with each other. At the suggestion of College staff, a voluntary time-share software support system will be developed to identify and mobilize software expertise among staff (and open to teaching assistants) in the College and to facilitate the sharing of know-how on a timely basis. A web-based interface is intended. The structure and action plan for this system will be developed over the next few months, with the objective of beta implementation during 1999. No funds are requested from ITAC for this particular initiative.

COLLEGE INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY FUNDING OVERVIEW AND LIFE CYCLE METHODOLOGY

Investments totaling \$2,767,061 were spent in FY97-98 for technology in the College of Communication. Roughly 20% of these funds were provided by ITAC (\$519,055) and 25% came from the Learning Technology Fee. Over half of this (\$1,555,147) came from the Communication Learning Equipment Fee (CLEF) funds and was directed to instructional labs managed by departments in the College of Communication and to equipment resources that are used by all departments. (See Appendix 3)

Technology resources available over the past two years have been dedicated to bringing the College's classrooms and instructional labs into the modern era and establishing a competitive IT network. Following the completion of FY98-99 technology investments which will establish an availability of fundamental instructional technologies, the College envisions regular upgrades, as well as strategic new initiatives that will define and build pinnacles of excellence in the use of communication technologies that invite interdisciplinary collaboration and are internationally relevant. The College has embarked on a trajectory of technology planning that first began with internal working groups, has now received input from the College of Communication Advisory Council, and will proceed through a series of iterative steps involving academic, administrative and student input. It is envisioned that this planning process will become integrated with basic college planning activities in its second cycle.

The life cycle of computers in the College of Communication varies, and a life cycle approach to hardware and software planning is being developed. Each computer is utilized for the longest possible time period, but not necessarily in the same place for which it was originally purchased. Generally, the

College procures new computing equipment with an expectation that it will be replaced for its intended function at the end of 3 years. If the equipment is still useful after 3 years, it will be given "a new life" in another role and used until it is no longer useful. Repairs, upgrades, replacements become the responsibility of the new owner. New equipment replaces the original and enters a new 3-year cycle. So, one computer may have several three-year life cycles. For example, the College just purchased new computers for the C3 Lab. These computers will have a three-year life cycle within the C3Lab, and after three years, all computers will be replaced. Those computers will then begin a new life cycle as they replace older computers in whatever area of the College the need is most intense. Generally, the trickledown computers replace the older machines of faculty and staff, but they are occasionally needed in labs.

Across the College, instructional computers tend to be newer and closer to industry standard. Those machines are rotated out with greater frequency in an effort to present students with the highest level of function possible. Research machines are generally purchased using research funds and are therefore newer or older depending upon the funds available to the researcher. The age of administrative computers, i.e., faculty and staff desktop machines, varies by department. For example, the Department of Advertising provides comparatively high-level computers for its faculty and staff and updates them on about a three-year life cycle. The other departments in the College (CSD, RTF, SPE, JOU) have more varied equipment needs, and their non-computer equipment needs compete for resources with computer needs, especially regarding computers for faculty/staff. Therefore, older faculty/staff computers in these departments are often targeted for replacement by computers in their second life cycle when they become available.

Appendices 1 & 2. Previous Projects and Progress and Expenditure Report

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

EXPENDITURE SUMMARY REPORT

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION

1997-1998

COMMUNICATION COMPUTER CENTER (C3)

The Communication Computer Center is a joint-use facility which provides students with fifty computer workstations in a fully-staffed center open approximately 92 hours per week. The management of the facility is contracted to ACITS and is coordinated as closely as possible with the SMF. In the spring of 1996, C3 recorded 34,627 individual logins, or an average of approximately 2,000 individual sessions per week. The continuing high usage of the lab provides relief to pressure on the SMF and continues to be a significant resource for the students in the College and augments their use of technology in departmental classrooms.

The C3 has been operational since 1995, and has seen incremental upgrades allowing it to support a wide range of academic activities, in particular the production of digital media. The C3 is also a major facilitator of electronic communication for students allowing them to participate in various online activities.

Hardware and software currently parallel those found in other campus facilities. The College plans to continue contracting with ACITS and will continue to update the facility to meet student needs.

During 1997-1998, the facility was upgraded with state-of-the-art Macintosh and Pentium II workstations, each capable of meeting the advanced computing needs of each department. Each system is equipped to handle tasks ranging from simple document publishing, to digital imaging and web publishing. Software capabilities mirror those found in departmental teaching labs, allowing students to continue their coursework outside their regular class hours.



Percent Complete	Hardware total	Software total	Support total	Maint. total	Other total
Ongoing	217,526.74	0.00	109,318.00	129.79	1,434.74

DISTANCE LEARNING FACILITY

In spring of 1997, the College began a major upgrade to the Distance Education Facility. The facility has been designed to advance the College's participation in distance learning. College courses can be brought to multiple locations with instruction from faculty at this and collaborating campuses.

The facility incorporates state of the art video and audio teleconferencing equipment. Emphasis is on the seamless introduction of technology into a traditional classroom atmosphere.

The facility is capable of delivering instruction through multiple means: ISDN, UTNet and PSTN. Upgrades to add additional capabilities may prove necessary in the future.

During 1997-1998, the College continued its investment in the facility by funding service contracts to protect the equipment installed in spring 1997, as well as the equipment donated by VTEL in the previous year. Warranty service is therefore guaranteed through October 1999.

Percent Complete	Hardware total	Software total	Support total	Maint. total	Other total
100%	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,407.75	0.00

NETWORK/WIRING

Since 1994, the College has made continuous improvements to our building-wide network. Improvements consist of an industry standard cabling plant, shared Ethernet and Internet connectivity. CMA now has over 1200 data ports, serving student labs and faculty and staff offices.

Network upgrades have transformed College communications both in academic and administrative arenas. Online resources are infinitely more accessible, and play a much larger role in curriculum and instruction.

In winter 1997 the College network was upgraded, making it one of the most advanced on the University of Texas at Austin campus. The network consists of two high-bandwidth routing Ethernet switches and over 20 multiport switches. (See attached) Altogether, there are over 550 switched 10Mbps ports in the CMA and CMB buildings, plus over 150 switched 100Mbps ports for high-bandwidth applications. Every classroom, research area and administrative office is networked. This network is linked to UTnet via Fast-Channel Ethernet connections to the Network Operations Center, providing over 400Mbps bandwidth to other Forty Acres campus resources. With such networking resources, the College is capable of implementing high-bandwidth applications from interactive web applications to live video streaming.

Percent Complete	Hardware total	Software total	Support total	Maint. total	Other total
100%	151,891.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

LAPTOP COMPUTER

In 1998, the College purchased a Dell Inspiron Laptop for the new Assistant Dean for Instructional Technology, Martha G. Russell.

Percent Complete	Hardware total	Software total	Support total	Maint. total	Other total
100%	4,759.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

CMB WIRING PROJECT

The CMB building was added to the College network in spring 1997, with the installation of a 300-plus circuit cabling plant. This cabling allows for both instructional and staff connectivity through the aforementioned networking equipment. CMB houses many production-oriented facilities, such as broadcast news/radio, television and film production and both digital and traditional editing studios. In addition, much of the College's technical staff is located in this adjoining building.

Percent Complete	Hardware total	Software total	Support total	Maint. total	Other total
100%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11,489.01

SERVER UPGRADES

Additional computers and software were purchased to augment or replace aging equipment supporting various student facilities in the College. As student facilities are our primary support concern, it is the College's aim to ensure that these supporting technologies meet expected demands.

Percent Complete	Hardware total	Software total	Support total	Maint. total	Other total
100%	14,098.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

BALANCE FORWARD

A minus balance of \$59,950.81 is expected to carry forward into the 1998-1999 fiscal year. The reason for this is because the College requested overdraft approval from Dr. Monti (5/7/98, attached) to expend 98-99 fiscal year funds to allow us to upgrade the C3 Lab during the summer.

OVERVIEW

With the support from the administration for an increase in the College's Instructional Technology Fee and the introduction of the Learning Equipment Fee, the College of Communication is now positioned to make significant advancements toward achieving its technology goals. In particular, we have

accomplished the following in 1997-98:

- expand our Technology Staff to include an additional systems analyst, one microcomputer application specialist, one computer services assistant, and six student assistants;
- upgrade the College's network, servers, and support systems;
- wire the CMB building;
- implement the projects as listed on the Communication Learning Equipment Fee web page, <http://www.utexas.edu/coc/clef/>;
- continue to operate and upgrade the College's joint use facility (student computer lab);
- complete our Distance Education Facility and begin the development of our Intel (computer animation) facility;
- automate data processing and collecting methods (e.g. online consent and degree applications);
- further enhance support for academic facilities and programs.

Appendix 3. Total IT Summary Expenditures Report for 1997-98





Appendix 4. Network Status and Technology Classroom Inventory.

The College of Communication has one of the most advanced networks on the University of Texas at Austin campus. The network consists of two high-bandwidth routing Ethernet switches and over 20 multiport switches. (See attached) Altogether, there are over

550 switched 10Mbps ports in the CMA and CMB buildings, plus over 150 switched 100Mbps ports for high-bandwidth applications. Every classroom, research area and administrative office is networked. This network is linked to UTnet via Fast-Channel Ethernet connections to the Network Operations Center, providing over 400Mbps bandwidth to other Forty Acres campus resources. With such networking resources, the College is capable of implementing high-bandwidth applications from interactive web applications to live video streaming. Classrooms in CMA have upgraded multimedia technologies.

Connectivity outside the University of Texas at Austin main campus have improved recently, with the installation of the Greater Austin Area Telecommunications Network and the addition of a second Network Service Provider. The campus now shares two 45Mbps T3 connections to the outside world (<http://www.ots.utexas.edu/utnet/>). In addition, UT is a partner in the Very High Speed Backbone Network Service (vBNS) and Internet 2 projects, which aim to improve bandwidth among peer institutions nationwide (<http://www.ots.utexas.edu/utnet/utnet-evolve/utnet-evolve-31.html> and http://www.internet2.edu/html/8_october_1998.html).