



May 01, 2024



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The OHIO IT Portfolio and Product Operating Model is Almost One Year Old – How Are We Doing?

As we approach May 15 (the date of our portfolio birthday!), how are we doing? Please take a couple minutes to let us know by completing [this easy and short survey](#).

If it seems familiar, it is - we shared a version of this after the rollout to collect baseline data. Now that we are one year in, it is important for us to understand if the change is helping in the ways we hoped it would. We will share the results in an upcoming newsletter and OHIO IT updates meeting!

Canvas Updates: Wrapping Up Phase 1 and Looking Ahead

As Ohio University concludes Phase 1 and prepares for the full launch of its new Learning Management System (LMS), Canvas, the Office of Information Technology (OIT), in close collaboration with the Office of Instructional Design (OID) and the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Assessment (CTLA), has been diligently adapting and enhancing the platform.

This effort is driven by valuable lessons learned and constructive feedback gathered during Phase 1. Approximately 1,500 students enrolled in courses and 56 faculty members participated, reflecting the broad engagement across our community. Additionally, OIT supported 42 Canvas training sessions to ensure a smooth transition and robust support for both faculty and students.

In preparation for the fall semester, we are taking several strategic actions:

- **Sharing Progress and Plans:** We have updated our approach and shared these developments in presentations designed for various campus groups, including the chairs and directors, the Faculty Senate, the Graduate Student Senate, and the Teaching and Learning Advisory Community.
 - For a detailed view of these updates, please refer to the [April 2024 Updates Deck](#).
- **Expanding Training Opportunities:** A variety of [Canvas vendor-led workshops](#) and OID-supported training sessions are scheduled throughout the summer. These sessions are planned to accommodate everyone from beginners to advanced users.
 - Details and registration can be found on the [CTLA's GivePulse website](#) (GivePulse requires an OHIO login).
 - More training opportunities are available on the [Canvas Faculty Hub](#).
- **Focusing on Student Engagement:** With summer approaching, we are focusing on strategies to increase student engagement with Canvas. Our priority is to ensure all OHIO students are well-informed about Canvas through targeted communication.
 - This goal involves comprehensive campaigns using promotional events, tabling during Welcome Week, and extensive marketing activities, including a social media campaign with University Communications & Marketing (UCM) and digital display ads across all campuses.
 - Additional details about our summer planning for student engagement are available in the [April 2024 Updates Deck](#).

As we prepare to make Canvas accessible to all OHIO students this summer semester, the feedback from our community remains a crucial driver of our ongoing enhancements. We invite all OHIO IT members to log in to Canvas at canvas.ohio.edu and explore the platform.

Additionally, join the [Teaching and Learning Advisory Community](#) to stay updated on Canvas and all other tools supported in the Teaching and Learning Technology Product space.

Design Sprint Collaboration to Develop JIRA Cloud Structure

The Jira Cloud Implementation team is planning a Design Sprint soon to collaboratively develop our Jira Cloud structure. Check out our [latest article](#) to learn more!

Congratulations, Spring 2024 Graduates!

We would like to congratulate our OHIO IT spring 2024 graduates on their academic achievements and commend them for a demonstrated commitment to both personal and professional growth. Please join us in celebrating our graduating team members, including the following:

- **Collin Bartlett**, B.S. in Information and Telecommunication Systems, ECT (VR/AR) track
- **Drew Beasley**, B.S. in Communication
- **Evan Brooks**, B.S. in Computer Science
- **Jaret Crist**, B.S. in Computer Science
- **Blade Eblin**, B.S. in Communication (Media Arts & Studies - Games and Animation Major)
- **Abby Leary**, B.S. in Computer Science
- **Jack Ramsey**, B.S. in Computer Science
- **Nick Schuler**, B.S. in Computer Science
- **Matt Sheets**, M.Ed. in Computer Education and Technology

If your name should have been in this list but was not included, please [Contact Angie](#) via Outlook.

Student Software Engineering Program Announces Spring Graduates and New Cohort

We would like to congratulate this year's senior graduates of the Student Software Engineering Program (SSEP) and the recently announced incoming sophomore cohort.

The SSEP is an OIT program that provides students with real-world practical experience in full stack web development and professional mentorship from the OIT Software Engineering Team. Small cohorts are chosen annually, with eligibility beginning in the sophomore year.

This year's graduating seniors are **Abby Leary**, **Evan Brooks**, and **Jaret Crist**. For their capstone project, the trio built a map feature for potential implementation in the GO OHIO student app, which is intended primarily as a solution for new students who are unfamiliar with the OHIO campus layout.

By integrating the user's schedule data from PeopleSoft, the feature generates daily walking routes while providing estimated distances and arrival times. The work done by the student engineers "also sets the foundation for additional features we intend to implement within our app in the future," noted Application Systems Analyst **Mitch Glass**, who worked directly with the students this year.



In addition to the senior graduates, the SSEP recently announced the fall 2024 incoming sophomore cohort:

- **Kylie Roenigk** (Computer Science) from Peninsula, Ohio
- **William Meyer** (Computer Science) from Pickerington, Ohio
- **Drew Tumblin** (Computer Science) from Coshocton, Ohio
- **Kalina Rabe Harinoro** (Computer Engineering) from Antananarivo, Madagascar

The incoming sophomores will be mentored by **Michael Cooper**, while **Christopher Glenn** will provide mentorship to the junior cohort and **Karl Francis** to the seniors.

Congratulations to both our incoming and outgoing students and thank you to all OIT team members who contribute to the SSEP's success each year!

Join the OHIO IT Events Committee!

The OHIO IT Events Committee is actively recruiting volunteers. If you enjoy event planning, or just want to be more involved, we would love to have you!

The Events Committee holds meetings approximately twice a month in addition to coordinating our events throughout the year. Reach out to anyone on the Events Committee if you have any questions or would like to join. We are planning an on-site strategy and planning meeting sometime in late May – early June. Reach out by May 15 if you'd like to participate.

Events Committee members include: [Kelly Coakley](#), [Bill Harris](#), [Randy Nogrady](#), [Zach Tumblin](#), and [Renee Stickel](#).

Digital Accessibility Tip: Color Contrast

In support of the University's [mission and vision](#) and OIT's [complementary D&I goals](#), the IT Weekly will feature regular tips to [improve digital accessibility](#) in the work we do. These tips are brought to you by the Digital Accessibility team.

In celebration of [Global Accessibility Awareness Day](#) (GAAD), the digital accessibility team will be sharing facts and tips on some of the most common accessibility issues.

According to the updated [WebAIM million project](#) from 2024, Low-contrast text is one of the most common errors found on home pages, with about 34.5 instances of low-contrast text which represents an increase 13.7% compared to 2023.

Why does this matter? Well, there are approximately 300 million people with color blindness worldwide, and every 1 in 12 men is color blind, just to name a few. Check out more statistics on the [Colour Blindness Awareness](#) page and learn more about the different types of color blindness.

How can you check for proper color contrast?

- Download TPGIs Color Contrast Checker in the [Software Center](#) and [watch the tutorial](#) on using the checker.
- WebAIM provides a [free color contrast checker](#).

If you want to learn more, consider joining the OHIO Digital Accessibility Network (OHIO-DAN) and watching the latest presentation [recording on Color Contrast](#).

Don't forget to visit the digital accessibility team's [Global Accessibility Awareness page](#) to learn more about what you can do to celebrate GAAD!

Have a suggestion for a topic, guest speaker, or OHIO IT Win? [Submit your recommendation.](#)

IT in the News



Cayuse update: sponsored projects module implementation delayed

Slated to replace the current Service Center, Transmittal, and Award processes in the LEO system, the Sponsored Projects module is facing challenges that have necessitated a delay in its implementation.



OHIO account information to be sent to recovery email addresses

The Ohio University Office of Information Technology (OIT) is enhancing the student experience by streamlining the onboarding process.



[Upcoming updates to VoiceThread, Panopto for OHIO students, faculty](#)

Significant updates are coming this May to both VoiceThread and Panopto, promising a more streamlined and accessible experience for Ohio University instructors and students.

Upcoming Events



05/06

No Meeting Day

OIT internally observes No Meeting Day on the first Monday of each month. Please read the [October 6, 2021](#) IT Weekly for more information.

05/07

Taco in a Bag/OIT Scholarship Fund

Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, May 7**, as we invite you to indulge in our beloved Taco in a Bag event! Join us from **11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Grosvenor 118** for a delicious treat and an opportunity to contribute to a worthy cause – the **OIT Scholarship Fund**. Donations can be made by visiting the [giving website*](#) and will also be accepted at the event.

You can [sign-up to bring food](#) items for the event.

**When selecting the gift designation, type “Office of Information Technology Scholarship Fund” in the required field.*

05/08 & 05/09

Vendor-led Canvas Workshops

Ohio University will be hosting several workshops to support instructor's transition to Canvas. Representatives from Canvas will be leading various workshops **May 8-9, 2024**. Participants can attend remotely or onsite at the Athens campus in Walter Hall 253, and sessions will be recorded for later access.

Full session details & registration

05/15

Teaching and Learning Technologies Advisory Community Meeting

The [Teaching and Learning Technologies Advisory Community](#) is open to OHIO students, faculty, and staff who have an interest in teaching and learning technologies. The Advisory Community is having a meeting on May 15, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

Event

Employee Spotlight

Josh Thomas began with OIT as the Senior Director of Digital Workspaces on April 10. He previously served as the Senior Vice President for IT at Rocky Brands, Inc. and is a graduate of Ohio University Honors Tutorial College. At OHIO, he earned a Bachelor of Science in Physics and Astronomy with a minor in Mathematics.

Josh is a native of Athens, OH and has lived here most of his life. His parents were both Ohio University alumni. "I'm a 'townie,'" he added.

He also lived near Hilliard, OH (a small town slightly to the northwest of Columbus) before eventually returning home.

To stay active, Josh plays recreational team sports - his most recent interest being soccer. He also enjoys kayaking. When at home, he likes PC gaming and playing musical instruments.

His preferred book genres are science fiction and investigative mysteries. "The *Foundation* book series by Isaac Asimov is a favorite of mine and taught me how to think on a whole different scale," said Josh, "though I just can't seem to get into the TV series." He's also a fan of the *Sherlock Holmes* stories and anything by Agatha Christie.

Josh ended the interview with a memorable travel story, "Once when travelling in the Netherlands, I mistakenly bought deeply discounted student and senior train tickets for myself and my travel group, when none of us fit either category. When the conductor took our tickets and caught my mistake, he and his colleague literally made me dance for my ticket right there on the train packed with passengers. I looked like a fool, but we got away without the hefty fine we were due!"

Join us in welcoming Josh to OIT!

HR Updates

If you have an upcoming job posting that your department would like considered for publication in the IT Weekly, please [submit a ticket](#) to the service desk. Include the following phrase in the ticket title: *Job posting for the IT Weekly*. Please allow up to one week for publication.

Job Postings

- [Assistant Vice President for Student Information Strategy and University Registrar](#)
- [Associate Bursar](#)

Ask the ITLT

There are either no new questions and/or questions still pending review.

Use this anonymous Microsoft form to [ask the ITLT a question or send feedback](#). You can also [suggest a topic or guest speaker](#) for a future OHIO IT updates meeting. Depending on how many responses come in, we might not be able to process them all immediately, or we might combine multiple questions into a single answer.

ITLT Office Hours

To view ITLT members' office hours, visit the [ITLT Office Hours shared calendar](#).

To meet with an ITLT member during their office hours, send that member a Teams direct message. Such messages will be responded to on a first-come, first-served basis, typically with an offer to coordinate a video call.

Follow OHIO IT on X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram to receive reminders about events, news, updates, job postings, and announcements. Share these posts with your students, faculty, and staff directly from social media!



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