

2024_06-14 Meeting Notes

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- + there has been an IT Club in the past but they had difficulty getting students to come to meeting because UMB is a commuter school
- + advantages of an IT Club
 - we can learn from each other
 - get all of us in the habit of talking to IT people at UMB
 - share information about courses and developments at UMB
- + we will have regular meetings on Zoom to get things going, which will be recorded and links available on a web page
- + at least one student has managed to get a job doing IT work for a researcher on campus. what she needed to do to get it is an example of what I hope students can learn from the Club
- + IT students don't always get the skills they need in IT classes. we need good video tutorials to teach these skills. club members could create them, and we could make them available on our website. creating a tutorial is a good skill and it is something you could put on your resume
- + Ryan Smaller volunteered to create a video on how to connect to `users.cs.umb.edu` from both Mac and Windows
- + some IT students are working on interesting projects. the Club would give them an opportunity to present their work and for others to learn or to get help from others when they have problems with their code
- + a previous IT Club set up a discord server. we need a volunteer to manage it and make sure it does not have content which is defamatory or otherwise objectionable
- + we need a social media presence. we could put video tutorial there. when we do we could let the IT help desk know about it to help them and to help spread the word about the Club
- + we should have a presence on Instagram. it is more widely known than Discord. it allows links to web pages. Dhriti volunteered to lead our efforts on Instagram
- + in our outreach efforts we should contact the IT help desk. we also need on campus because they help to draw in students
- + Tom talked about the great atmosphere in the old Unix Lab in the demolished Science building. IT and CS students hung out there and helped each other. there was a great deal of sharing of information. it was a real social space because it was next to the CS office so it was a natural point of congregation. students used to work on their homework assignments there. the new CS Lab is far away from the CS office and very few students use IT
- + Tom says the help tickets he gets betray a level of ignorance that is new. in the old lab students got help from others and their level of knowledge improved. most IT people don't use the command line much anymore that is a real handicap
- + we need to get more people into the new CS Lab

- + we need periodic pizza parties
- + people talked about the editors they used to do their work
- + we should create cheat sheets for the major editors. Club members should create short presentations about their favorite editor and present it at a club meeting. we can record these and make them available on the web site. this would be a good thing to put on a resume
- + as a recruitment tool, we could have public meets where we demonstrate tutorials
- + we should encourage people to develop individual projects that they can document and share with the club and general public. this work would look good on a resume
- + the CS Club has hackathons. maybe we could do something similar either competitive challenges or group work. Dave volunteered to come up with a list of projects that we could offer to students
- + we need a directory on the Unix filesystem for our work and web server. Tom will create this

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