

Wired and Ready to Go

Institutes of higher learning cooperate on IT management

NUS STUDENTS Teng Han Chern and Marc Wo recently accessed their NUS computer accounts from a “hot” spot in Singapore Polytechnic, an act made possible by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the Chief Information Officers (CIO) of Singapore’s 10 institutes of higher learning (IHLs). The IHL-CIO Forum has created a common platform for sharing of technical challenges and best practices for IT management across the IHLs.

The IHL-CIO Forum’s first project, Educational Wireless Network (EDUWIN), enables students to access the Internet and their own institution’s full range of e-services from any of the IHL campuses. Currently, NUS, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore Management University, Republic Polytechnic and Singapore Polytechnic are plugged in and ready to go. The other five IHLs - Institute of Technical Education, Nanyang Polytechnic, National Institute of Education, Ngee Ann Polytechnic and Temasek Polytechnic are expected to be on board by the end of the year.

Han Chern is excited about the EDUWIN’s possibilities. He said, “Previously when we went to visit our friends in NTU or SMU, we were unable to surf the Internet or check our email unless we got a temporary password from that institution’s computer centre. With EDUWIN, a lot of time is saved. We can attend seminars or study at another institution and still be able to retrieve our email and surf the Net with our NUS accounts.”



The IHL-CIO Forum takes best practices in IT management and cooperation to new lengths.

First mooted by NUS, the IHL-CIO Forum is another step in strengthening the cooperation among the IHLs. Even before the Forum was formed, the IHLs got together to make a first-ever collective purchase of Internet bandwidth in March 2003, saving almost 50% on Internet services over the previous year’s cost.

The IHL-CIO Forum's future plans include monitoring and reviewing relevant IT practices; identifying opportunities for expanding communication, cooperation, collaboration; and undertaking related information interchange, technology transfer and joint projects.