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COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

IBM awards MU cluster computer for genomics research

By Naomi Stevens

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COLUMBIA — As part of a grant, IBM is giving MU a cluster computer to aid in genomics research in humans, plants and animals.

The cluster computer, which is a group of computers that work as one, will provide additional processing and storage power. Over time, it will help create a "cloud computing environment" — in which computing resources can be shared — that can be accessed by others involved in similar research.

IBM will provide related software and staff to help install the equipment, worth between \$175,000 and \$200,000, said Gordon Springer, associate professor in the department of computer science and scientific director of the University of Missouri System Bioinformatics Consortium.

Springer wrote the proposal for the grant in February with Chi-Ren Shyu, director of the MU Informatics Institute. Springer received word from IBM that the grant would be awarded about a month ago.

The grant is unrelated to a service delivery center that IBM will establish in Columbia, IBM spokesman Jeff Tieszen said.

"This is something that we've been discussing with Missouri since last fall," he said.

"Some solution could come out of this that could eventually become a product, but that's not really the idea," Tieszen said. "We're trying to work with the University of Missouri to help them conduct the research to tackle some of the problems that they're trying to tackle."

IBM worked with MU in 2008 to offer students information technology security and compliance training and partnered with Missouri State University in 2007 to introduce a degree in IT service management. Relationships with universities are important to the company for several reasons, Tieszen said.

“It’s a way to tap into the wealth of talent and resources at the university level and to share research,” Tieszen said.

“Having a shared resource, so we can work together collaboratively is of interest to them,” Springer said of IBM. “Plus, we’re educating students who have the potential to become future IBM employees.”

Bioinformatics is the attempt to combine biology and computing to manage the massive amount of data being generated within the biological community, Springer said. The cluster computer provides the bioinformatics consortium with powerful data processors and storage space. It also offers the first opportunity to participate in cloud computing in the area of genomics.

Cloud computing is data sharing and processing that utilizes the Internet. It would allow the consortium to partner with other facilities involved in genomics research.

The consortium currently researches ways to engineer a type of corn that can survive severe drought conditions, detect genetic-level changes in cancer cells and increase reproductive efficiency in livestock, according to news releases from IBM and MU.

The cluster computer includes 64 central processing units, or CPUs, for processing and 24 terabytes, or TBs, of memory. It will be added to the 800 CPUs and 500 TBs that the consortium already possesses, Springer said.



Par Pharmaceutical starts shipping generic Zegerid

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WOODCLIFF LAKE, N.J. --

Par Pharmaceutical Companies Inc. said Thursday it has started shipping a generic version of Santarus Inc.'s acid reflux drug Zegerid.

Meanwhile, Santarus said that Prasco LLC has started shipping an "authorized" generic version of the prescription drug. Santarus is therefore trimming its work force by 37 percent, or about 120 employees, and will no longer promote Zegerid prescription products.

Par Pharmaceutical, based in Woodcliff Lake, N.J., began shipping 20 mg/1,100 mg and 40mg/1,100 mg strengths of omeprazole and sodium bicarbonate capsules, which aim to prevent heartburn by suppressing stomach acid for 24 hours.

Par said annual sales of Zegerid are about \$195 million.

Santarus and the University of Missouri, licensor of the patents, had filed suit to prevent Par from launching its version. But in April, a federal judge found that five patents covering the drug were invalid.

Par said the case is on appeal at the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. It has six months of marketing exclusivity for its capsules.

Last year, the Food and Drug Administration approved an over-the-counter version of Zegerid. Santarus partnered with Schering-Plough Corp. on that version. Merck & Co. then took over the application after buying Schering-Plough in November.

Shares of Par Pharmaceutical rose 36 cents to \$26.32 in Thursday afternoon trading, and Santarus stock dropped 14 cents, or 5.6 percent, to \$2.34.

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COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

New rules bring online piracy fight to U.S. campuses

MU Mention on Pg. 4

By ERIC GORSKI/The Associated Press

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Starting this month, colleges and universities that don't do enough to combat the illegal swapping of "Avatar" or Lady Gaga over their computer networks put themselves at risk of losing federal funding.

A provision of the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 is making schools a reluctant ally in the entertainment industry's campaign to stamp out unauthorized distribution of copyrighted music, movies and TV shows.

Colleges and universities must put in place plans "to effectively combat the unauthorized distribution of copyrighted material by users of the institution's network" without hampering legitimate educational and research use, according to regulations that went into effect Thursday.

That means goodbye to peer-to-peer file sharing on a few campuses — with exceptions for gamers or open-source software junkies — gentle warnings on others and extensive education programs everywhere else.

Despite initial angst about invading students' privacy and doing the entertainment industry's dirty work, college and university officials are largely satisfied with regulations that call for steps many of them put in place years ago.

But whether the investment of time and money will make a dent in digital piracy is uncertain.

"If the university is going to prohibit underage drinking, I think it ought to prohibit anything on the Internet that's illegal, too," said Alicia Richardson, an Illinois State

University junior who applauds her school's restrictive policies on file sharing. "I'm not going to mess with it. I know the consequences."

Among other things, schools must educate their campus communities on the issue and offer legal alternatives to downloading "to the extent practicable."

Colleges and universities that don't comply risk losing their eligibility for federal student aid.

Many colleges worried they would be asked to monitor or block content. But the provision says schools can get a great deal of flexibility, as long as they use at least one "technology-based deterrent."

Their options include taking steps to limit how much bandwidth can be consumed by peer-to-peer networking, monitoring traffic, using a commercial product to reduce or block illegal file sharing or "vigorously" responding to copyright infringement notices from copyright holders.

Almost all campuses already manage bandwidth or vigorously process infringement, or "takedown," notices, said Steven Worona, director of policy and networking programs for Educause, a higher education tech advocacy group.

Although the recording industry has backed off its strategy of suing illegal file sharers, it still sends infringement notices to colleges — a shot across the bow that urges users to delete and disable computer access to unauthorized music to avoid legal action.

"The problem campuses have is that commercial network providers are not doing anything to limit the amount of infringement on their networks or educate their customers about copyright law," Worona said. "Every fall, a new cadre of students arrives on campuses who have been engaging in infringing activity since the third grade."

Since October 2008, the Recording Industry Association of America said it has sent 1.8 million infringement notices to commercial Internet service providers — and 269,609 to colleges and universities.

RIAA, which represents the major music labels, stressed that the numbers don't necessarily reflect piracy trends but rather the group's ability to detect it.

College officials argue notices are a flawed measure of illegal activity because it's up to copyright holders whether to send them and that false positives are possible.

RIAA President Cary Sherman said the group can't say whether campus programs are putting a dent in piracy. But he said the threat of a gradually tougher response to repeat violations is working, pointing to the University of California, Los Angeles, as one example.

"We think we're beginning to get to a scale now where it actually can make a difference," he said.

UCLA has developed a system that notifies users by e-mail when the school receives a copyright infringement notice, setting into motion a process that includes a "quarantine" on the computer's Internet access and the student's attendance at an educational workshop. Repeat offenders typically face one-semester suspensions.

Since the workshops started, repeat offenders have virtually disappeared, said Kenn Heller, assistant dean of students. Earlier this year, UCLA also struck a partnership with Clicker Media Inc. to make both university-produced videos and network TV shows, music videos and movies available through its undergraduate student Internet portal.

The Motion Picture Association of America, which also pressed for the legislation, is encouraged by what campuses are doing, but it's too early to tell whether it will curb piracy, spokeswoman Elizabeth Kaltman said.

Few campuses have gone as far as Illinois State, which raised eyebrows by seeking and accepting entertainment industry money to underwrite a now-abandoned research project on digital piracy.

The university also blocked all peer-to-peer activity in residence halls and on wireless access points, said Mark Walbert, Illinois State's chief technology officer. Students who use the technology for legal means, such as tapping open-source software Linux or downloading World of Warcraft game updates, can get exceptions.

For students seeking legal download options, the school developed BirdTrax, a website with links to the free movie and music streaming websites, such as Hulu and Pandora.

In 2007, the University of Michigan took a different approach, launching a campus initiative called "BAYU," which stands for "Be Aware You're Uploading." At little cost, the school developed a software program that automatically notifies users of university networks when they are uploading or sharing files from their computer with users elsewhere.

The university does not look at what is being shared, and notices go out regardless of whether the activity is legal or illegal, said Jack Bernard, a university lawyer who devised the program, which Michigan offers free to other schools.

As a result, the number of copyright infringement notices the university receives has slowed to a trickle, he said.

"We think scare tactics and most technological means don't realize the ends we want because technological means never seem to keep up with people's ability to thwart them," Bernard said.

New technologies have made it more difficult to assess how much enforcement has affected piracy, said Joe Fleischer, chief marketing officer for tracking firm BigChampagne Media Measurement.

File-hosting services, such as RapidShare, store infringing content on distant servers, meaning uploaders' identities are difficult to track. Websites that share links to those files can be searched through Google.

"It's a much more complicated battle than it was five years ago because so many new modes of infringement are emerging," Fleischer said.

The University of Missouri Acceptable Use Policy states that users of its networks must "respect the intellectual property rights of authors, contributors, and publishers in all media."

Failure to do so can result in denial of access to the university network, required completion of a "Safe and Legal Computing on the Internet" course taught by the Department of Information Technology and a \$200 administrative fee.

A second violation can result in suspended network access for one semester, and a third violation can be punished by permanent forfeiture of network access.

According to the Department of IT website, attempts to circumvent disabled network access are treated as a violation of university policy and are forwarded to Student Judicial Affairs for punitive action.

Missouri policy prohibits the use of all peer-to-peer applications, such as BitTorrent and LimeWire.

Clay McGlaughlin contributed to this story.



Hospital's healthy new grill to open tomorrow

By Janese Silvey

Thursday, July 1, 2010

University Hospital administrators are hoping employees, patients and visitors will find the healthy offerings at the new Essentials café just as tasty as their fried predecessors.

So far, those given a sneak peek at the new menu have raved over the marinated portabella mushroom sandwich, said Ron Hausheer, assistant manager of the hospital's Dining and Nutrition Services department. That grilled mushroom on ciabatta bread, topped with provolone cheese, a mix of spring greens, onions and dried tomato aioli, adds up to 355 calories and 11 grams of fat, by the way.

The hospital's new lobby-level café opens tomorrow, touting a "fusion of flavor and health." It replaces the old Main Street Café, which shut its doors in December after serving hospital patrons for more than 20 years.

The \$350,000 renovation project was twofold, said Becky Hassinger, manager of Dining and Nutrition Services.

First, the hospital wanted to catch up with other health care providers and do away with a hospital eatery that served fried foods and ignored portion control by providing a buffet.

"We do not even have a deep fryer here," Hassinger said this morning, giving the Tribune a tour of the new café. "We're a health care organization. We need to promote healthy eating."

And customers will know exactly what they're getting. In addition to prices in the \$5 to \$6 range, the menu also lets diners know just how many calories they're going to be taking in.

But that doesn't mean the new restaurant won't serve filling meals. The breakfast menu includes a scrambled egg pizza, quiche and even turkey sausage patties and bacon. The lunch and dinner menu has a number of sandwiches, whole-wheat pastas, salads and burgers. There is a charbroiled, bleu cheese burger option that adds up to 32 grams of fat, more than a typical daily allowance. To make them healthier, though, the burgers are made from grass-fed, hormone-free beef from Legacy farms in Salisbury.

Another reason the hospital changed its dining format is to be more efficient for customers, many of whom are doctors and nurses, Hassinger said. Unlike the wait staff that served patrons before,

customers will now order at a counter with the option of getting their meals to go or sitting in the restaurant. Essentials has about 15 fewer seats than before.

Those not wanting to wait for a hot meal can grab prepackaged sandwiches, salads, baked potato chips or granola bars and simply check out.

Despite early concerns about doing away with Main Street Café for a quicker option, Hausheer said those who have been given a sneak peak of Essentials are “blown away.”

“It’s encouraging,” he said, “and lets us know that what we’re doing is the right thing.”

Essentials will replace The Grille, the basement-level cafeteria, as the hospital’s main eatery. It will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

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