EasyPass required for access to campus network

By Valerie J. Cedeno

Library and student services have encountered changes this fall with EasyPass, amid many other changes to occur at Rider University this year. El Dap, or EasyPass, is an authentic sign-on for students on campus to access applications on the Internet.

Identity management also plays a role in EasyPass. It sim- plifies to a single pass code gaining access to Rider services and secures all at once, according to Carol Kondrach, Associate Vice President for Information Technology.

EasyPass has been used for about four years. This year, however, it is being used as a means of access for many features on the Rider network, including the new Print system, which allows students to print to other buildings around campus for convenience. It also being utilized for other services such as Blackboard. However, several students and faculty say that in the past, it has gone unnoticed.

“I didn’t even know EasyPass existed until this year,” said sophomore Jesse Torres. “I’ve never had to use it before this year. But now when I try to print something in the library, I have to enter into the computer a couple times before it’ll print. It’s really annoying.

Unlike in the past, EasyPass now accesses new Rider services. Among all its advantages, protection from identity theft is its main goal, according to the technology department.

During the summer, the department thought it would be best to remove students’ Social Security number as their “identity” and replace it with the “Bronc ID and synchronized e-mail with EasyPass.”

For those students who were currently using EasyPass at the time, passwords were not changed, but the distribution of ID numbers did cause some confusion.

Incoming freshmen received letters introducing the new EasyPass system and the transition that would occur.

However, the EasyPass system has caused some confusion among some students and staff. At the start of the school year, many students turned to librarians when confusion occurred. “There are problems of communication and us librarians have experienced these problems when OIT introduced this to us during the summer,” said Librarian Ralph Quinn.

“But OIT has answered our questions and provided us with tools to help students make the adjustment.”

While many administrators claim that it is difficult to keep track of user names and passwords, others think the change is positive.

Freshman Keishondra Thompson assures, “I think EasyPass has helped me access things much faster, but for those that are unfamiliar with the system, it may take some time to get used to.”

Rider University Technology department feels the need to prepare for future and later authentication in order to transfer credentials to other schools. In the future, OIT will continue to keep up with technology and expand EasyPass access to services like Rider web advisor and e-mail next summer.

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Last week’s panel discussion and numerous election-related programs are aimed to change that. Assemblyman Gusciora cited the war with Iraq and the economy as two key issues in November’s presidential election. He said the outsourcing of jobs has resulted in large numbers of unemployed Americans and New Jersey’s administration has learned no lessons from Vietnam.

“We should not have went into Iraq alone when there was an opportunity to work with the other nations and there were troops on every corner,” said Baroni.

“I meet won’t vote and half of them won’t vote. It’s a shame that here, half the people are not involved or aware. What I don’t think is beginning to start and is an effective way to promote involvement. He tells students all the time that they can pers- onally call him to get the information they need to be a part of the political process.

“I think we live in a soci- ety where everybody is very busy,” said Hagan. “But because the results of certain elections don’t directly affect college stu- dents, the students are not as involved or aware. What I think is beginning to start and needs to grow with momentum is that college students need to realize that college is only four years, they have time out and in the job market working hard every day. That’s when those decisions that elected officials make are directly affecting you. That’s when you realize you could have done something during your college years.”

“Our country was built on the idea of people choosing who runs our government. So whether you are Democrat, Republican or whatever, you have to get involved. Or else what you need or want from your government or elected official doesn’t happen, you have nobody to blame but yourself. When you don’t vote in an election over a small number of votes, it makes a difference,” said Hagan.

The political parties have lost the ability to reach out to as many voters as they may have in the past. Advancements in technology have been a factor in determining the way people get involved, according to Nelson.

“A lot of campaigns are being waged in the airwaves that aren’t out there registering voters. Instead they’re running the campaign through new mediums of communication such as the Internet and cable television,” said Nelson.

“You don’t have the same kind of grassroots organization that you used to have before advancements in technology. I think the Internet has got- ten more people involved,” said Nelson. “Maybe they’re not voting, but they’re talking and reading about politics more and possibly signing up people and petitioning online. In the past, the only way to get involved was voting. Now there’s many ways to get involved.”

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