The Digital Campus

Computing has become ubiquitous in 21st century life, changing the way we work and learn, and even the way we interact with each other. The importance and power of information technology are evident in every discipline at NJIT, particularly in the STEM disciplines, where cascading breakthroughs and advances in information technology, have created a new interdependence among engineering, the physical sciences, computer science and math, and the biomedical sciences. NJIT researchers are leveraging the power of computing and information technologies to meet tomorrow's challenges, to create the tools to help the digital world function, and to evaluate the impact of new technologies on society.

NJIT has built a 21st century digital campus to support teaching, learning research, and the administration of the university. At the heart of the digital campus is the NJIT Network, with over 19,000 connections throughout the campus' 38 buildings, supplemented with the NJIT Wireless Network that blankets the campus, connecting over 22,000 devices each semester. Both networks provide access to servers, storage arrays, a large software library (http://ist.njit.edu/software), and other IT services within the NJIT Cloud, enabling students to immerse themselves in design, discovery, simulation and modeling, and research questions previously inaccessible. Examples include:

• Simulating the interaction of biomolecules and identifying promising leads for drug development;
• Modeling the consequences of various transportation and energy systems;
• Studying global social networks;
• Designing and building the next generation of software and applications;
• Practicing computational science alongside traditional approaches;
• Designing buildings and other artifacts that are environmentally responsible and resource efficient.

Highlander Pipeline (http://my.njit.edu), the NJIT Portal, is the entry point for many NJIT Cloud services. Students conduct most routine business processes online (e.g. register for classes, accept financial aid, pay bills, etc.) via Highlander Pipeline. The NJIT Library (http://library.njit.edu) provides online access to 27 full-text databases, over 33,500 electronic journals and more than 27,700 electronic books. A centralized “search all” portal delivers a single search experience of all electronic library resources.

Classrooms and other learning spaces at NJIT are all network enabled and equipped with modern projection devices, display panels, and other collaborative technologies to facilitate engagement and collaboration among faculty and groups of students. Many classes leverage video conferencing, lecture archival, learning management, and online discussion systems, allowing faculty and students to participate independent of time and place – converging the physical and virtual classrooms.

Students can BYOD (“bring your own device”) or use any of the hundreds of workstations in public-access computer labs or specialized academic department facilities across the campus. A healthy mix of Windows, Mac, and Linux workstations support the diverse needs of a technological research university.

The Tartan High Performance Computing Initiative provides NJIT researchers the broad range of centralized computational and data storage resources necessary to conduct computationally-intensive research. With over 3,200 CPU cores and 26,000 GPU cores, Tartan provides researchers with local resources capable of supporting leading edge research. A separate Hadoop cluster provides the resources for managing and analyzing very large data sets, commonly referred to as “big data.”

For additional information on IT services available at NJIT, visit the Home page of the Information Services & Technology (IST) Division (http://ist.njit.edu).