

STUDENT LIFE

Accessing lab content on your personal computer

By Logan Stack
staff writer

Dear ASCII,

It's cold outside. I don't want to walk to the labs, but I really need to use a program installed on the lab computers. Is there a convenient way around walking there?

- Snug in my dorm

Dear Snug,

Absolutely! There are a couple of ways to avoid the labs. You could use an alternate (free) program, buy the program at a student discount through Penn State, or use the Virtual Lab from your room.

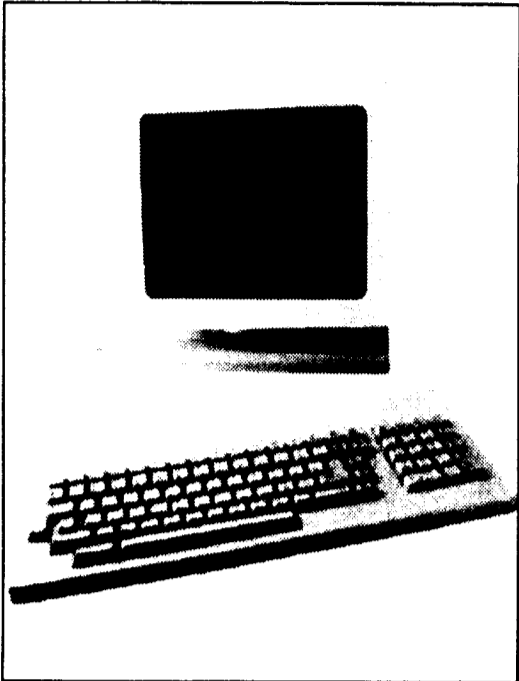
Many programs have free alternatives. If you need Photoshop or Illustrator, you could try The Gimp. If you need Visual Studio, you could try Dev C++, or Visual Studio Express Edition. If

you don't have Microsoft Word, Excel, or PowerPoint, you can get Open Office for free. But these programs don't all work exactly the same way, and if you're accustomed to the pay-ware lab software, you may want to buy it.

Http://computerstore.psu.edu sells a lot of software, much of it at a student discount. Some discounts are larger than others - you can get Microsoft Office or Mac OS X at a small fraction of the normal price, but Macromedia's studio is still expensive. And some of these programs are "student versions," and not the same as the full

versions. They usually don't have features removed, but may do things like watermark your documents with "Student Version" so that you couldn't sell them or use them for anything but class assignments.

A free way to use the lab software is to log into a lab computer from your dorm. Penn State Behrend has a virtual lab for student use. In



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Windows, go to Start > Programs > Accessories > Communications > Remote Desktop Connection. In Linux, use tsclient. And under Mac OS, download the "Remote Desktop Connection Client" from Microsoft's site (it's actually quite good, despite the Windows/Mac rivalry). This remote desktop program lets you connect to a lab computer and use it with your monitor, keyboard and mouse. If you're connecting from off-campus, it may be slow because of the amount

of bandwidth needed. If you're on campus suffering through a bandwidth violation, forget about it.

The computer you connect to is called "virtual-lab2.psu-erie.bd.psu.edu". You log in with your Penn State username and password. Using this does not count against your download limit because it is on campus.

If you need to get files to your computer from the virtual lab, you can either e-mail them to yourself, or use your P drive. Simple instructions for accessing your P drive from your computer can be found at <http://pdrive.bd.psu.edu/>.

Cypress String Quartet to play Music at Noon



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The Cypress String Quartet brings "Inspired By America" to Behrend on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1.

By Sean Mihlo
student life editor

On Wednesday, Jan. 31, the Logan Series presents the first of three performances this spring semester in the Music at Noon series: Cypress String Quartet.

The Cypress Spring Quartet formed in San Francisco in 1996. The quartet, comprised of Cecily Ward (violin), Tom Stone (violin), Ethan Filner (viola) and Jennifer Kloetzel (cello), has performed across the country at various institutions, including the Kennedy Center, the Ravinia Festival in Chicago and M.I.T. and Stanford Lively Arts. The group has also debuted 25 orchestral pieces from many American composers over the last decade. While residing in San Francisco, Cypress String Quartet is the Quartet-in-Residence at San Jose State University in California. In 2001, the group premiered its "Call and Response" program, which combines performance and educational outreach via commissioning new pieces. The program has since reached nearly 100,000 students across the U.S.

Now in its 11th year, the quartet continues to perform live and has debuted a new project called "Inspired By America," a tight and impressive combination of technology and music. According to the band's official website, "Inspired By America" is "a multi-media collaboration with best-selling author Jacob Needleman and Emmy Award-winning film

maker Michael Schwarz. Supported by funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, and blending live music, original film and the spoken word, this performance fuses precision playing with world-class technology to create an evocative, thought-provoking portrait of the American spirit." The world premiere of the project took place last month at the Lied Center of Kansas in Lawrence. Cypress String Quartet's upcoming performance at Penn State Behrend will be only its third of "Inspired By America."

Besides the Music at Noon performance, which is just a preview of "Inspired By America," Cypress String Quartet will also be playing Music at Night, on Thursday, Feb. 1, at 7 p.m.; this is also a part of the Logan Series, which is celebrating its seventeenth season this year. The Music at Noon event, held in McGarvey Commons in the Reed Union Building, is free to the public and students. Tickets for Music at Night, also held in McGarvey Commons, can be purchased at the door on Feb. 1, at the main desk in Reed Union Building or online at www.pserie.psu.edu/musicatnight. The tickets are priced as follows: \$10 for adults, \$8.50 for adults over 60, \$5 for Behrend students and \$4 for children under the age of 16.

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