

MIT DNS hacked; traffic redirected

Emails sent to KAIST, other traffic redirected to Harvard

By Joanna Kao
ONLINE MEDIA EDITOR

MIT was hacked yesterday shortly before noon, with MIT URLs redirecting to a webpage claiming credit for the attack in remembrance of Aaron Swartz. MIT's email was also diverted.

As a result of the hack, people who tried to reach MIT over the Internet outside the MIT network were redirected to a hacked web page, and some emails may have been lost or delayed. The hack affected all names under mit.edu, such as *web.mit.edu*, *tech.mit.edu*, etc. Activity within MIT was not believed to be affected by this attack.

The hack and subsequent outages were due to a configuration change at EDUCAUSE, the registrar that provides information on all names that end in .edu. A

registrar, which allows users to purchase domain names, also specifies the domain name system (DNS) servers for a domain, which convert domain names to IP addresses needed to actually load the page. It is unclear how the hackers gained control of MIT's information at EDUCAUSE.

Because of the attack, the EDUCAUSE registry listed the name of the administrative contact for mit.edu as "I got owned," and the name servers were changed to CloudFlare servers, an external DNS provider.

Chronology

From 11:58 a.m. to 1:05 p.m., MIT's DNS was redirected from MIT's own servers to CloudFlare, where the hackers had configured servers to return a Harvard IP address.

Hack, Page 15



NICHOLAS CHORNAY—THE TECH

Institute Professor Robert Langer in his office, where *The Tech* spoke to him last week. The walls of Langer's office are covered from floor to ceiling in awards given to him for his pioneering work in biological engineering; the next award to be added is the National Medal of Technology and Innovation, which will be presented to him later this year.

Langer wins additional accolade

Receives National Medal of Technology

By Bruno Faviero
STAFF REPORTER

Robert Langer SCD '74 — professor in chemical engineering and biological engineering — was recently named one of the 11 researchers to receive the National Medal of Technology and Innovation, becoming one of only seven Americans to have received both this and the National Medal of Science, which he won in 2006. Langer, who has received over 220 awards and honors, will meet with President Obama at the medal ceremony. According to *Xconomy*, he plans to discuss "the importance of funding basic research in science and engineering, and of funding young scientists," a conversation similar to the one he had with the president in 2006 that appeared in Obama's book *The Audacity of Hope*. *The Tech* sat down with Langer for a quick interview.

The Tech: How does it feel to be one of three Americans to win both medals?

Langer: It's a tremendous honor. It's a tremendous honor to win anything like that, and I think it's sort of shocking that people are nice enough to pick me for both. I feel very lucky, very privileged.

TT: How do all these prizes affect your research? Do they get in the way? Do you get too much publicity?

RL: I think getting a prize is good for the field. To me, biomedical engineering, which is the field I work in, is kind of a young field, and I personally feel it's a very important

Langer, Page 13

MIT Aaron Swartz report to be released "in a few weeks"

Following the death of Aaron Swartz on Jan. 11, 2013, President L. Rafael Reif announced that Hal Abelson PhD '73 — Electrical Engineering & Computer Science professor and a founding director of Creative Commons and the Free Software Foundation — would be leading a "thorough analysis of MIT's involvement" from Fall 2010 to the present, specifically describing "the options MIT had and the decisions MIT made." The report resulting from the analysis will be made public.

Obtained through the *MIT News Office*, the official charge from Reif to Abelson appears on page 5, along with a letter to the

MIT community from Abelson.

The review will be conducted in two phases, writes Abelson. The first phase will be completed "in a few weeks," with a report that gives a "clear record" of what happened and provides "insight into what MIT did or didn't do, and why." Upon the conclusion of that phase MIT will enter a second phase of analyzing the implications of the findings.

MIT will refrain from commenting on the situation until the release of the report.

Members of the MIT community can suggest questions for Abelson's analysis via <http://swartz-review.mit.edu>.

—Anne Cai

President nominates Maria Zuber

EAPS professor will be second to serve on National Science Board

By Stanley Gill
NEWS EDITOR

Maria T. Zuber, MIT's new vice president for research, was recently selected by President Barack Obama for nomination to the National Science Board. When confirmed, she

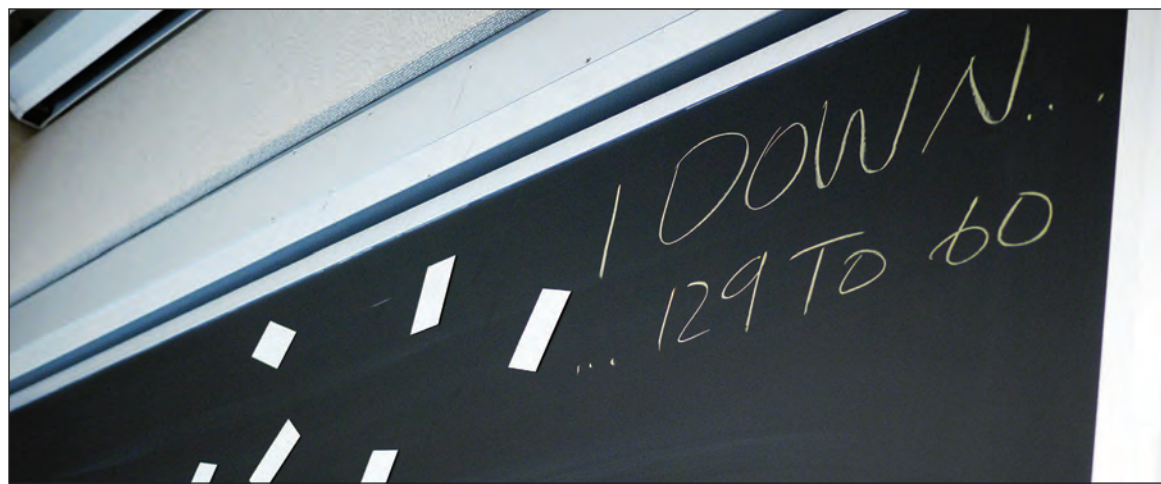
will be the second MIT professor that is currently a member of the board alongside Subra Suresh ScD '81, who serves as an ex-officio member as president of the National Science Foundation (NSF).

The 25-member board governs the NSF and advises the president

and Congress on policy matters related to science, engineering, and education.

The Tech had the opportunity to sit down with Zuber last week to discuss her thoughts on her appointment.

Zuber, Page 14



EMILIO PACE—THE TECH

Codex, a team that participated in this year's Mystery Hunt, celebrated solving their first puzzle only 12 minutes after the hunt began.

IN SHORT

Online registration for spring term opens on Jan. 28. Registration day is Feb. 4.

The getfit@MIT challenge begins on Jan. 28. The last day to create a team is Jan. 24. Teams of 5–8 people can log their exercise minutes during the 12-week challenge to qualify for prizes and DAPER discounts. Visit getfit.mit.edu to sign up.

The Annual Hummus Taste Off will be held Thursday, Jan. 24, 12–2 p.m. in Lobby 10.

Looking for a UROP? Stop by the IAP UROP expo on Thursday, Jan. 24 from 2 to 4 p.m. in Kresge Lobby.

The LSC's 35th Annual Science Fiction Marathon is Saturday, Jan. 26 at 7 p.m. in 26-100 and features *WALL-E*, *Looper*, *The Andromeda Strain*, and *Galaxy Quest*.

Send news information and tips to news@tech.mit.edu.

BEAUTIFUL WORDS BY HAND

Discovering and nurturing a love for calligraphy. **CAMPUS LIFE**, p. 10

BOTH MUSICIAN & ENGINEER

An interview with Amanda Wang, MIT alum and violinist. **ARTS**, p. 11

ON THE STRENGTH OF MIT IS&T

Or lack thereof? Frustrations with IS&T and MIT's network. **OPINION**, p. 4



ANNUAL WEEKEND OF MYSTERY HUNTING

See highlights from this year's Mystery Hunt, designed by the Manic Sages. **PHOTO**, p. 8

LETTER ON SWARTZ ANALYSIS

Hal Abelson outlines his goals for analyzing MIT's involvement. **OPINION**, p. 5

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A Hunt of Epic Proportions

Atlas Shrugged wins, sets record for longest team name

NICHOLAS CHORNAY—THE TECH

By Stan Gill
NEWS EDITOR

At 2 p.m. Friday afternoon, Mystery Hunt team Sleipnir's Wranglers was prepared for the long haul. Their classroom in Building 12 was outfitted with snacks, caffeine, a chalkboard, and even a webcam so their remote solvers could join the atmosphere of the live hunt. As they excitedly opened the first puzzle, little did they know they would be a part of the longest hunt in history.

Mystery Hunt 2013, written by the winners of last year's hunt, the Manic Sages, ended on Monday afternoon after 73 hours and 18 minutes of intense puzzle solving. The team that found the coin — hidden behind a safe constructed in 13-1143 (just off of Lobby 13) amid a pile of similar coins — was the team whose name was the entire text of Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged* (there was no character limit for team names during registration).

By Monday morning, the hunt had already been declared the longest in history.

The hunt began on Friday after a short opening ceremony in Rockwell Cage. It seemed that the Manic Sages had mortgaged the coin for their own profit to Enigma Valley Savings & Loan, and the coin could not be withdrawn for a period of "no less than 50 years." Thankfully, Alyssa P. Hacker enlisted the help of consultants from the Institute for Heist Training, Facilitation, and Planning (IHTFP) to rescue the coin so the tradition of the hunt could continue.

After a short delay, the hunt was on.

Codex, the team that wrote last year's hunt after winning in 2011, cheered as they solved their first puzzle in a mere 12 minutes, commemorating the occasion by pressing a Staples-brand Easy Button.

Benjamin M. Hill SM '07 has been with Codex since he started hunting during his first IAP at MIT in 2006. Hill feels that he has a different perspective on the hunt after having been a part of the team that wrote the hunt last year.

"I think that going through the process of creating a puzzle forces you to think about what things will be obvious and improves your ability to solve puzzles," Hill said. "Writing the hunt was a very positive experience."

Hill also mentioned that the reason he continues to solve puzzles is for the "Aha!" moment you get when you finally solve a puzzle.

"In my day job, I work on a lot of problems that maybe don't have answers," Hill said. "It's really awesome to work in a space where if you put in 1-5 hours of mental energy, you will have a solution. Someone has test-solved for it, you know that it's solvable; you know that there is an answer and that there was designed to be an answer. There's something really satisfying about being able to do that and do that on a certain scale."

Indeed, writing the hunt is a lot of work in its own right. Manic Sage Adam "Pesto" Hesterberg G estimates that he put "somewhere in the range of 500-1000 hours" into creating the hunt. He also noted that other members of the team put in similar amounts of work.

What is Mystery Hunt?

Mystery Hunt is a large puzzle hunt held annually at MIT over Martin Luther King Jr. Day weekend. The puzzles are generally solved in teams of varying size and origin. Some teams, such as those based in dorms and living



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EMILIO PACE—THE TECH

groups, are comprised largely of current MIT undergrads and alumni. Others, such as Codex, consist of a mix of MIT affiliates and puzzle enthusiasts with no connection to MIT. In fact, Codex was originally started by Harvard undergraduates.

Teams solve puzzles including simple word searches, complicated encodings in semaphore, run-arounds — where the answer to the puzzle is revealed after visiting several different spots on and off campus — and creative challenges, like one that required participants to create an article similar to those that appear on the popular website Cracked. The answers from those puzzles feed into larger metapuzzles, whose answers feed into even larger "super" metapuzzles, a metapuzzle of metapuzzles. Puzzles can be forward solved, backward solved (if finding the answer to a different puzzle lets you infer the answer to a given puzzle), or bought using "options" that were awarded over time and as prizes at the various events held over the weekend.

This year, there were seven "rounds" of puzzles (rounds 0-6). When a team solved the super metapuzzle in a given round, the team would successfully recruit a consultant (characters such as Indiana Jones and Agent 86) to help them pull off the heist. Completing all seven rounds unlocked the chance to go on the final run-around consisting of three final challenges that yielded the key cards that unlocked the coin.

Friday

At the start of the hunt, some teams knew they were in it just for the fun of solving puzzles and had no intention to win.

"The 30-70 people range doesn't really put us in contention [to win]," Gregory Reimann, a member of Sleipnir's Wranglers said. "Our strategies will be around trying to get people involved and to have more fun."

Other teams, such as Atlas Shrugged, were in it to win it. The team, comprised mostly of students and alumni from two floors in the East Campus dorm (2nd west and 3rd east), previously won in 2003 and was out to win again. They, like other teams, had members working remotely from around the world.

"We have 15-20 people hunting together in San Francisco right now," said Laura Royden '13, member of Atlas Shrugged. "We have people in Chicago, France, and all over the place."

Friday proved to be a slow day for most teams. However, enthusiasm was high at the first event on Friday night, a Casino night in Lobdell. Following that event, at midnight, was a "dinner party." Teams were asked to bring a drink to share; many gath-

Mystery Hunt, Page 9

Mystery Hunt, from Page 8

ered outside the Mezzanine Lounge on the 3rd floor of the student center (W20) with various forms of caffeine. This was expected; it is not unheard of for hunters to sacrifice sleep while their team is actively hunting.

By Sunday, the hunt was taking its toll on many of its participants.

Matt Lahut, member of the team A Plate said, "For these weekends, I tend to expect to get 2 hours of sleep, so I take the next day off from work when I get back so I can catch up."

In return, attendees were given plates with an encrypted message.

Saturday

Despite the fact that a number of the hunters worked on puzzles through the night, Saturday morning started with a packed Mezzanine Lounge full of hunters playing a version of telephone for more options. Later that afternoon, one member of each team was invited to play a geography game in the style of *Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego*. After the game — which consisted of a 21 question trivia game, a lightning round, and a matching game — concluded, participants used the pieces from the matching game, cutouts of the United States — presented to them upon entry — and a blacklight to reveal another hint. The evening event was a tad quieter; members from each team were invited to play "Bananagrams" in groups of four. Satisfying certain conditions would complete the event and reward the team with another hint.

It was apparent by Saturday night that the hunt was moving slower than expected. Hesterberg said that the Sages aimed for the hunt to end around Sunday evening, but they underestimated the amount of time it would take for the teams to solve each puzzle.



NICHOLAS CHORNAY—THE TECH

In addition, the email outage that happened late Friday night into Saturday morning hurt communication between teams and HQ. However, Jacob Hurwitz '14, Associate Logistics Director for the Sages, added that most teams who had trouble getting in touch with HQ via email then tried other means.

Sunday

By Sunday, the hunt was taking its toll on many of its participants. The Manic Sages did their best to alleviate the frustration; HQ dispatched some of their members to help the teams that were far behind, made it extremely easy to accumulate more options, and even substituted in easier puzzles as the hunt dragged on.



EMILIO PACE—THE TECH

"We had a puzzle that we removed for time," Dan Zaharopol '04 said during the closing ceremonies as he was met with laughter from the audience. The puzzle removed was a "bureaucracy" puzzle in which you submitted answers to a form, but each question had two possible answers. When solved, the form would return the phrase, "Enigma Valley gives you the run-around," which would prompt the team to proceed to the final stage.

The teams felt the pressure as well. According to statistics from HQ, the team Death from Above (which ended the hunt as Death and Mayhem after merging with Electric Mayhem), was in second place until the end of Sunday. Death and Mayhem's rate of puzzle solving dropped overnight, allowing Palindrome to overtake them for second place.

For hints on Sunday, teams could visit Lobby 7 in the morning for an event similar to the moneybag scene in the movie *The Thomas Crown Affair* or the Bush Room (10-105) in the afternoon to solve a human Rubik's cube of sorts.

Monday and Closing

By Monday morning, the hunt had already been declared the longest hunt in history, surpassing the previous record, the 68 hour hunt created by the French Armada in 2004. On Sunday, HQ sent out an announcement that teams only needed to solve five of the six super metapuzzles to win. While many people had to leave starting Sunday night, there were still 25 teams that submitted answers sometime on Monday. The Manic Sages in HQ cheered when team ChemE, a five person team that registered at 9 a.m. on Friday morning, correctly called in their answer to a Round 0 puzzle at about 8 a.m. Monday morning.

The mood in tweets about Mystery Hunt changed from excitement to good-natured frustration that the hunt was still going.

Jeff Schwartz remarked via Twitter that "this #mysteryhunt is so long that it spanned 2 presidential terms," referring to the presidential inauguration on Sunday morning.

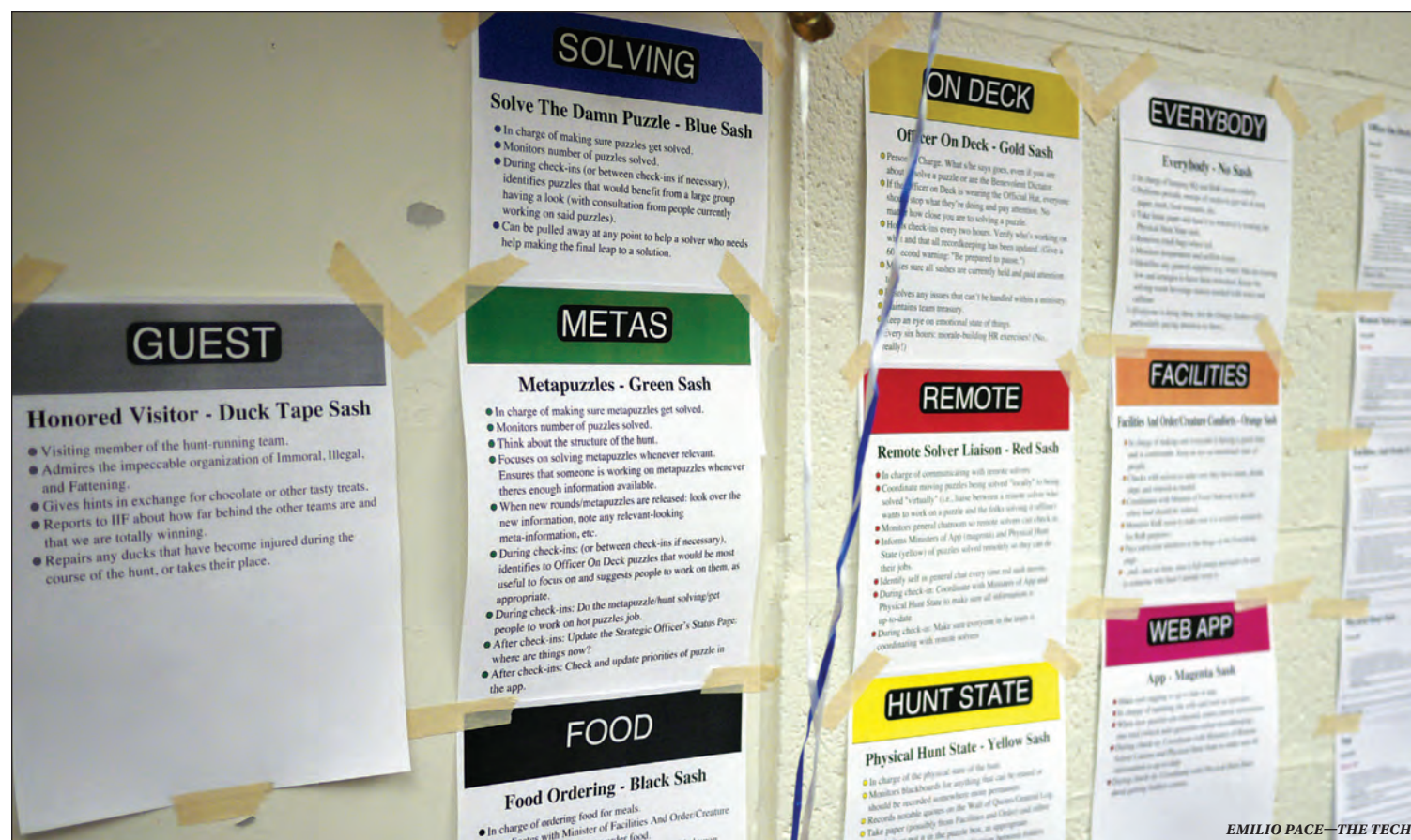
The Manic Sages declared Atlas Shrugged the winners at 11:56 a.m. on Monday. Atlas Shrugged then went on the final run-around and found the coin three hours later. HQ was still receiving call-ins for answers up to 25 minutes before the hunt officially ended. Normally the winner is not declared until after the coin is found, but because hunt ran so long with no other close competitors, the Sages preemptively declared Atlas Shrugged the winners.

After 73 hours and 18 minutes and a humorous closing ceremony featuring a run through of the hunt's structure and the unveiling of some especially creative and tricky answers, the hunt concluded with a party in the Mezzanine Lounge.

For The Tech's video footage of the Mystery Hunt, go to <http://bit.ly/SzBlAL>.



EMILIO PACE—THE TECH



EMILIO PACE—THE TECH

LIFE CAMPUS LIFE STRANGER THAN FICTION

The right way to write

Reconsidering the cursive handwriting style

By Deena Wang
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

The hardest thing about taking the SAT was writing the honor code in cursive. Well, that's kind of an exaggeration, but after having drilled the essays and math, the cursive was the only thing that took me by surprise. I spent agonizing minutes, trying to remember how to form capital letters. When that was over with, I thought that I would never touch cursive ever again.

I was proud of my poor handwriting. I thought the content mattered more than the form. After all, there's that old joke that doctors have illegible prescriptions. When taking notes in class, my chicken scratch was so much faster than round bubbly letters and i's dotted with hearts. And if, on a test, the grader couldn't quite make out the answer, but it looked okay, I'd get the points, right?

I also never saw the use of cursive. Why bother learning to write in two ways, when print is sufficient, and keyboards abundant? Plus, it was slower to write, and hard to read. I could barely understand the boxes of letters that my high-school English teacher brought to class. Once my school

abandoned teaching me that form of writing, I never looked back.

My attitude changed after I met a calligraphy enthusiast. He would write quotations to put on his door, and leave beautiful words on scrap paper, lying about. The form complemented the meaning, directly or ironically. A quote about truth and beauty was all the more beautiful (although I can't say it was all the more true), but even a page of curse words was delightful.

Everything was redolent of an older time, when the written word was more valuable.

He piqued my curiosity about penmanship, so I investigated the subject myself. On the website of the International Association of Master Penmen, Engrossers, and Teachers of Handwriting was an archive of old penmanship manuals and handwriting exemplars. The words were so precise and neat, they resembled a typeface. Everything

was redolent of an older time, when the written word was more valuable. Thus encouraged, I found a student's handbook teaching Spencerian Cursive and set to work.

It turns out I had been taught the subject incorrectly all those years ago. The American D'Nealian style of teaching cursive emphasizes copying letter forms in a slow, laborious process, whereas Spencerian cursive, originating from a time when handwriting was the only way to communicate, emphasizes producing letters using fluid, wave-shaped motions. I found out that I had been writing 'A's and 'O's incorrectly the entire time, which had no doubt increased my previous frustration with cursive.

Trying to retrain my script gave me an appreciation for the work of medieval monks. There were drills to practice the individual shapes of letters, to write as fast as possible. It took two months to get my cursive in an acceptable state, and more to get it fluid. I found that for cursive scripts, the lower-case letters are all the same, and only for the upper-case letters do the styles differ.

Once I mastered Spencerian cursive, everything I wrote got that much classier. Before, it was a grocery list. Now, it was a grocery list, in cursive!

Soon, I was taking the next step in old-school charm: using a fountain pen. Writing with a fountain pen is beautiful; I can feel the scratch of the paper transmitting vibrations to my hand. The well of ink is a tap from my cerebrospinal fluid to the page. In the infinity of all possible words, I am the one that decides what is written.

Writing with a fountain pen is beautiful; I can feel the scratch of the paper transmitting vibrations to my hand.

Writing in cursive may have advantages beyond aesthetics. According to a Princeton study, studying text in a more difficult-to-read font can improve long-term learning and retention of information. I can feel vindicated for writing my class notes in cursive just to practice.

Now that I have tasted the benefits of reformatting my handwriting, I would like to urge my fellow students to pick up a pen, and join their letters.

CAMPUS LIFE



Council
for the Arts
at MIT

GRANTS PROGRAM

All current MIT students, staff & faculty are invited to apply for funding to support art related projects.

**NEXT DEADLINE
FEB 22, 2013**

arts.mit.edu/participate/grants/



Photo: 2012 Grant Recipient Joel Lamere's Sans/Sense

File Edit Options Buffers Tools Im-Python Python Help

```
import new_skills
```

```
def learnMarketableJobSkills():
    return linux, OSX, javascript, applescript, perl, python
```

```
if you.interest == True:
    print "E-mail join@tech.mit.edu"
```

-----:-----F1 joinTechno.py

(Python)--L1--Top-----



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BAIN & COMPANY 

Langer speaks on research, publicity

Calls medal 'tremendous honor'

Langer, from Page 1

field, and yet I don't think in medicine it's that well-recognized, so I think if I get an award or anybody in the field gets an award, it's good for the field. It may also contribute to making students or postdocs feel that biomedical engineering in general is a good field in which to work, which I also think is a good thing. So I think all those things are positive.

'The early days were discouraging, but... I would probably tell myself that things would get better.'

—Robert Langer

TT: Your latest project is In-Vivo. You've done tissue engineering, you're done cancer research, you've done hair care. How do you pick your next project?

RL: Well, most of what we start within the lab is pretty fundamental bioengineering research. It's like, we make a discovery or invent something and it really doesn't necessarily have an immediate application. Some inventions or discoveries might have some potential applications that we or others might envision, but sometimes you're wrong. For example, when we did the earliest work on controlled release, I thought it might be useful for diabetes but our approaches turned out to be useful in different kinds of cancers and other diseases. Many of these discoveries were published in *Science* or *Nature* originally, and they're sort of broad-platform technologies that you can apply across the board. So at MIT we've done a lot of fundamental work, and we've published these papers and filed patents, and you can apply them to many things.

TT: If you could go back in time and give yourself some advice, what would it be?

RL: I guess it depends how far back in time. When I started out my career, even here as a young assistant professor, a lot of people didn't believe in what I was doing.

They didn't think it would work. In fact, I remember when I was here just for a year or two a lot of professors told me I should leave, that I'd never even get a three-year appointment renewed. And, to be blunt, that was depressing. I was depressed and sad about it because I believed in what I was doing, but I was probably the only person that did. I tried to tell myself that, 'well, things will work out okay,' because now it's easy to look back, and I know that it did work out okay. But certainly at the time, when almost everybody was telling me that I would never make it at MIT or anywhere, and that the things that I was doing didn't work and that they shouldn't fund my grants, I mean, that was sad. The early days were discouraging, but like I said, I would probably tell myself that things would get better.

'I used to do magic shows at MIT, but I haven't done them in a while.'

—Robert Langer

TT: So many people wonder, it seems like you've gotten every prize but the Nobel. Is that on the horizon?

RL: I'm lucky to have won the engineering prizes — Nobel Prizes are normally given for very fundamental work. As an engineer I feel very privileged to have gotten the Draper prize, which people consider the engineering Nobel, and other prizes too.

TT: What's something people don't know about you?

RL: I exercise two to three hours a day — I work while I'm exercising. We have a recumbent bike: I sit there with a Blackberry, papers that I'm going over, and I just do that. I actually can do it on the elliptical too, and even the treadmill I figured out ways to do it. I have to do it on a high incline if I want to burn significant calories, but I can read on a high incline. I [also] used to do a lot of magic; I used to do magic shows at MIT, but I haven't done them in a while.

Boston unveils three new student-assignment plans

School department hopes to shorten commute

By James Vaznis

THE BOSTON GLOBE

The average distance students travel to school in Boston would shrink by about a half mile, under three proposals officials released Tuesday to allow more children to attend schools closer to their homes.

"It's a significant savings" in traveling distance, said Carleton Jones, the School Department's executive director of capital and facilities management. "Did we meet our goal of having more children attend schools closer to their home? We certainly did."

Mayor Thomas M. Menino instructed school officials last year to come up with a new student-assignment system that allows more children to attend schools closer to their homes, as he criticized the current system for tearing apart the fabric of neighborhoods by causing students who live on the same street to scatter to many different schools.

The three proposals released Tuesday would reduce the number of schools from which parents can choose to send their children to, but students would still travel on average more than a mile to school, ranging between 1.12 miles to 1.19 miles.

One proposal creates 10 assignment zones that divvy up the city's approximately 80 elementary and K-8 schools and its early childhood centers, a plan that would offer between three and fourteen school choices.

One zone would stretch from

the Fenway to South Boston, another from North Dorchester to Mattapan, and another would tie together West Roxbury and Hyde Park.

The two other proposals — created with assistance from an MIT doctoral student and a professor — call for no zones.

Instead, a complex algorithm would generate a list of schools parents can choose from based on a variety of factors, such as distance from home, school capacity, and MCAS performance.

One of the "no-zone" proposals would guarantee at least six school choices and the other at least nine.

The computer-generated plans seek to ensure that all parents have at least some good-performing schools to choose from, especially if there are none in immediate proximity to their homes.

The 10-zone plan and the two no-zone plans represent a big break from the current system, which divides the city into three large assignment zones, with each offering about two dozen choices. Students currently commute an average of 1.87 miles.

School officials will present the proposals Wednesday night to the External Advisory Committee, which Menino appointed last year to recommend changes to the student-assignment system.

Helen Dajer, the committee's cochairwoman, said she has a favorite but declined to identify it, saying she wanted to keep an open mind.

"I want to hear what the community has to say and I want to

hear feedback from other committee members," Dajer said. "I have been swayed in the past."

Other committee members also expressed optimism about the new proposals, which replace five initial plans pitched in September that were strongly criticized by many parents and some advisory committee members as leaving too many families with only low-performing schools to choose from.

"The good news is that all these options will get students attending schools near home, but 'near' is a relative term," said John Nucci, a member of the panel who favors neighborhood-based schools. "To me, the challenge will be to decide which plan gets students closest to home and into a quality schools."

Miren Uriarte, a committee member who has repeatedly raised concerns that some neighborhoods do not have quality schools, said she is leaning toward the no-zone options because the algorithm tries to ensure that all families have at least some good schools from which to choose.

"The nine-school model seems to offer more possibility, but I want to see how it plays out neighborhood by neighborhood," Uriarte said of the no-zone proposal that would generate at least nine school choices.

Beyond the committee, some political leaders said they too were encouraged by the new proposals.

The advisory committee could vote on its recommendations next month. The School Committee must approve any final plan.

SMBC, from Page 7



Solution to Techdoku
from page 7

4	6	2	1	5	3
2	4	6	5	3	1
5	1	3	2	6	4
6	2	4	3	1	5
1	3	5	4	2	6
3	5	1	6	4	2

Solution to Sudoku
from page 7

3	1	4	9	2	8	7	5	6
9	7	6	4	1	5	8	2	3
8	2	5	6	3	7	4	9	1
7	4	1	5	9	2	6	3	8
6	9	8	3	7	4	2	1	5
5	3	2	8	6	1	9	4	7
4	8	3	2	5	6	1	7	9
2	5	7	1	8	9	3	6	4
1	6	9	7	4	3	5	8	2

Solution to Crossword
from page 6

T	A	M	A	L	E		M	A	R	C	H			
I	R	O	N	A	G	E	P	I	A	N	O	L	A	
P	R	O	G	N	O	S	T	I	C	A	T	I	O	N
P	A	R	E	D		P	O	L	E	M	I	S	T	S
L	I	A	R		B	O	N	E	D		T	H	E	
E	G	G		S	L	U	G	S		C	R	E	E	L
N	E	W	N	E	S		C	H	A	R	D			
	R	O	S	E		L	O	I	N					
A	R	A	B	S		S	E	A	M	I	E	R		
S	L	O	P	S		P	H	A	S	E		L	O	P
C	D	T		D	A	U	N	T		M	A	U	I	
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I	N	T	E	R	S	C	H	O	L	A	S	T	I	C
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Zuber sees overlap with VP of research duties

Says conducting current research is key to providing relevant advice to policymakers

Zuber, from Page 1

ment and what she will do going forward.

TT: How do you feel about the whole situation?

MZ: It's an honor, obviously. Those of us who are in a position to help the government do its business ought to help. One of MIT's core values is to try to help the nation, and so around here, if you get asked to do something like this you just do it; it's just a given that whenever MIT can help the country, we help the country.

executive branch does. But even as that's going on, you don't know if it's actually going to happen because things happen and many possible appointments don't move ahead for one reason or another.

TT: What are you going to do in your new position?

MZ: This position is on the board that oversees the National Science Foundation, which funds a great deal of basic research in this country. My job is to provide advice in that area and make sure they can use their investment in the best possible way. In this capacity, the group of individuals

TT: Do you have an idea of what your specific role in the board will be?

MZ: What I was told is that their interest in having me participate was my experience with large science projects. So much of science has become interdisciplinary and many of the challenges that face the country deal with interdisciplinary projects that are large in scope and have complex interactions. In that sense, my experience is hopefully relevant to that.

TT: Are you still going to stay an active researcher?

MZ: I think it's impossible for me not to do research; I still have my research group here, responsibilities at MIT as well, so I'm going to balance everything as well as I can. What I was told by the White House was that the fact that I was an active researcher was something they viewed as very positive because people who are active researchers understand the challenges with the current research environment very well.

TT: Are you still going to fulfill your duties as the newly appointed vice president for research here at MIT?

MZ: The White House position

is four meetings a year in Washington, a lot of teleconferences, and trips to Washington when needed in order to advise whoever needs advice. Because part of my responsibilities as vice president for research are to manage relationships in Washington and to provide information to decision makers in Washington, or pointing them to members of the MIT community who can provide them with expert information. The role on the NSB is actually very compatible with the position that I have here at MIT. The fact that both of these things happened at the same time is fortuitous.

ing to educate decision makers on how crucial research and education are to the future of this nation, including in terms of its economic productivity. We have not dealt with the issue of sequestration and across-the-board cuts. We have to do our very best to make sure that we educate individuals in Washington, to show that you're eating the seed corn if you cut the research budget. Future productivity in this country is going to be largely rooted in advances in science and engineering. That said, we have to make sure we're prepared if cuts occur, and work to make sure that we can bring opportunities that are available, even in this challenging time, to the attention of our faculty. I have great confidence that our faculty and research staff will compete very effectively for the research dollars that are available.

TT: Any final comments?

MZ: I'm extremely excited about doing this and very excited about student involvement in research. Whatever I can do in my new capacity to help students have access to the experience of creating knowledge is something I'm going to be sensitive to and a big advocate for.

'People who are active researchers understand the challenges with the current research environment very well.'

—Maria Zuber

TT: Are you going to accept the nomination?

MZ: Yes, that is correct. It's a lot of work to get someone nominated to something like this; you really don't pursue it unless you're going to do it. It was a six-month process to get nominated that involved lots of background checking and related things, like any appointment to the

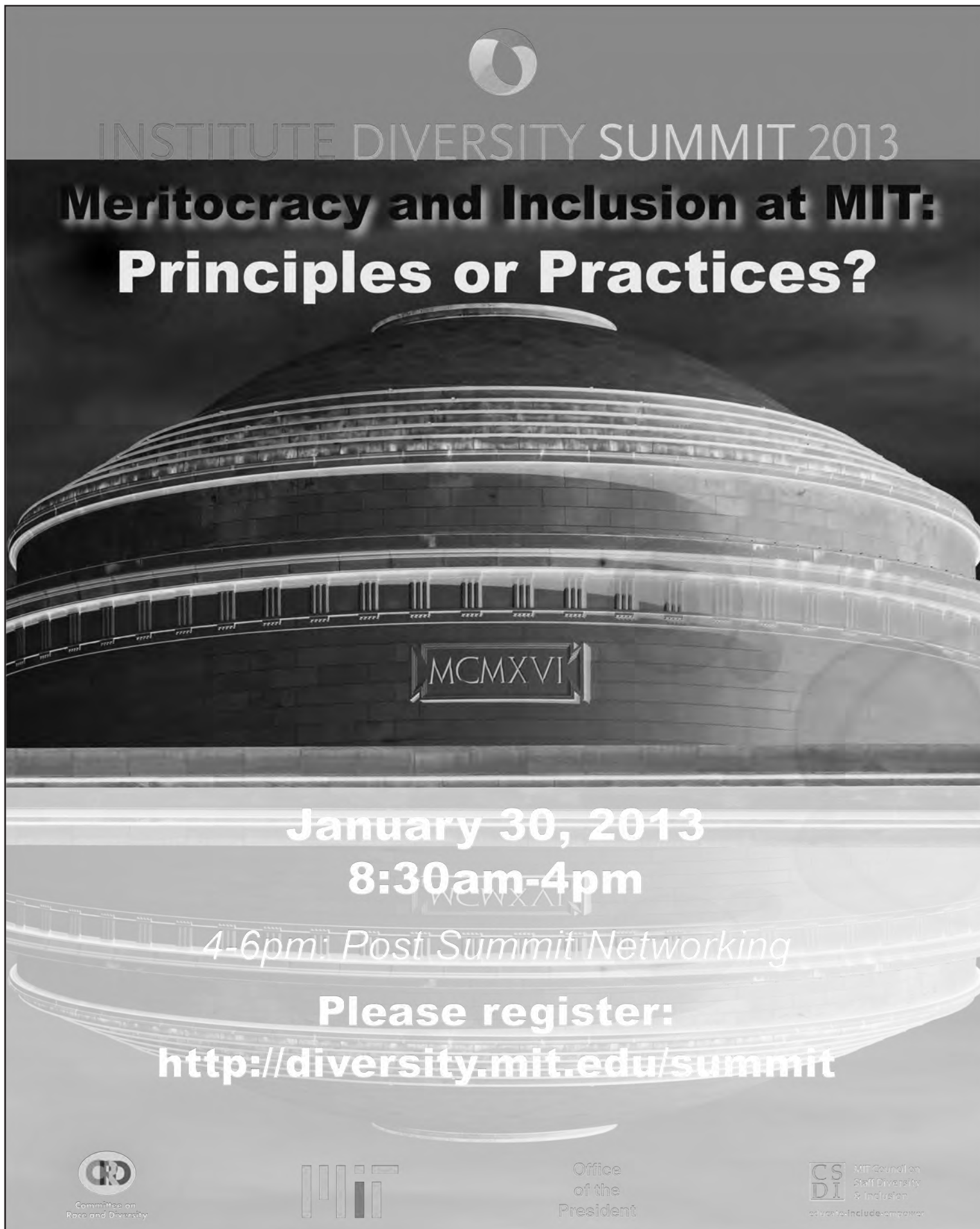
that's associated with this also make themselves available as a resource for either the White House or Congress on matters on science and technology. If issues come up on Capitol Hill or within the White House for which the expertise of individuals on the board are desired, we would try to help however we can.


'Future productivity in this country is going to be largely rooted in science and engineering.'


—Maria Zuber



TT: Where is the fiscal cliff in your mind on how it relates to your new job?

MZ: One of the things that I will be doing in Washington is try-





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Flu epidemic in Boston, mild-mannered on campus

Despite violent strain in the area, no increase in student hospitalizations due to flu

By Jessica Pourian
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Heard any sneezing around campus recently? You should probably wash your hands. This year's strain of H3N2 is particularly virulent and has hit Boston hard, though MIT has remained relatively unscathed by the illness.

Heller confirmed no one at MIT had been hospitalized because of the flu or related complications.

Boston has seen over 950 confirmed cases of the flu so far this season since Oct. 1, up from last year's total of just 70. Of the 950 confirmed cases of the flu, 25 percent were severe enough to require hospitalization. MIT, on the other hand, has had a "relatively light season" compared to past years, said Dr. Howard Heller, M.D., MIT Medical's chief of medicine and infectious disease specialist.

"We were prepared," assured Heller, citing the record 13,000 flu

vaccinations MIT gave out this year (this includes their facility in Lexington). According to Debbie Friscino, MIT Medical's director of operations, this number is up from last year's 12,000.

"We recognize that the flu vaccine doesn't work 100 percent," said Heller, "but every case we can prevent translates into another few people who won't catch the flu from that person."

When asked if Student Support Services had seen more cases of the flu this year than in the past, head of S³, Dean David Randall, said "No, not yet."

"Reports of the flu spreading came after the semester ended," Randall wrote in an email to *The Tech*. "We typically don't see that many students with the flu during IAP because there is less academic stress. We are prepared for whatever comes our way in the spring, though, and have a solid process in place that we developed in preparation for H1N1 a couple of years ago."

Another indication the flu has not hit campus hard is a lack of hospitalizations. Heller confirmed no one at MIT had been hospital-

ized because of the flu or from any complications from the flu. There were hospitalizations due to pneumonia, which can sometimes branch from the flu, he explained, but the pneumonia cases from this year were not flu-related.

The flu in Boston and at MIT

Zero hospitalizations at MIT is a stark contrast to Boston's hospitals, which have seen an influx of influenza patients. The flu accounted for five percent of all hospital visits this month, as opposed to the usual one percent during non-influenza season. Eight people (seven seniors and one child under age six) have died from flu-related illnesses this season.

response, a number of free flu vaccination clinics were offered, and over 7000 people have been vaccinated since.

The worst of the outbreak may be behind us. The flu season in Boston ranges from October through March, though the peak of the illness changes from year-to-year.

"It usually peaks in January and February," Heller said, but "this year it peaked a lot earlier."

He attributes the lack of flu cases at MIT to the timing of winter break. "This year, the flu started peaking in Boston a few weeks ago while students were away on winter break," he explained. This might have been a good thing, he said, since students were not around to

Prevention

"Prevention is the best thing we can do to minimize the impact of the flu at MIT," Heller said. Planning for the flu season begins in the summer, when supplies are ordered for the coming winter. Friscino coordinated the organization of the immunization effort, which involves ordering the number of necessary vaccinations from the pharmacy, making sure there are enough syringes, needles, and bandages on hand, and hiring nursing staff to assist with the flu clinics run in the student center, among other tasks.

The flu clinics, where free vaccines are offered to the MIT community, are generally very popular. "We administer thousands of doses in a day," Heller said.

It's still not too late to get a flu shot. MIT community members who have not yet been vaccinated can call 617-253-4865 in Cambridge or 781-981-7080 in Lexington to schedule an appointment for a free flu shot. For more information about the flu, tips on prevention and more, check MIT Flu Central at <http://medweb.mit.edu/about/news/flu/index.html>.

'We recognize that the flu vaccine doesn't work 100 percent, but every case we can prevent translates into another few people who won't catch the flu from that person.'

—Dr. Howard Heller

Mayor Thomas M. Menino declared a public health emergency on Jan. 9 in response to the spread of influenza in the city. In

catch the illness as it spread across town. By the time IAP started and most students returned to campus, the flu in Boston had declined.

More hack attacks

Hacking group not Anonymous

Hack, from Page 1

dress for all mit.edu queries, except email. The Harvard machine returned a web page that showed "R.I.P. Aaron Swartz, Hacked by grand wizard of Lulzsec, Sabu, God bless America, Down with Anonymous." (see photo.) A continuously looping chiptunes version of the National Anthem also played. The hackers also signed their names ("hacked by aush0k and tibitximer") over text from Aaron Swartz' blog post titled "Immoral" in the background.

This attack had the potential to be much more severe.

Unlike previous attacks, which temporarily disabled some services, this attack had the potential to be much more severe. Email was specifically affected. Mail is normally received by one of nine different MIT servers; however today, mail that was sent between 11:58 a.m. and 1:05 p.m. was directed to a machine at KAIST, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, meaning the attackers had complete control of emails successfully sent during that time. It is unclear what percentage of emails were successfully transmitted during this time. It is assumed that the machines at Harvard and KAIST were compromised and that Harvard and KAIST were not responsible for the attack.

Some time before 1 p.m., CloudFlare stopped directing non-email traffic to Harvard and sent it all to MIT's main web server, 18.9.22.69. All traffic to any part of MIT went to that server — for example, going

to csail.mit.edu would return MIT's homepage, which is not normal behavior.

By 1:05 p.m. EDUCAUSE had corrected its listing of MIT's DNS servers, from CloudFlare back to MIT's own servers. However, any machines that accessed mit.edu during that hour could have cached the wrong mapping and would continue to refer all queries to CloudFlare for the next 48 hours.

At 4:20 p.m., with information from MIT, CloudFlare started returning the correct addresses for all mit.edu queries, except for email. By 7:15 p.m., CloudFlare removed the "mail.mit.edu" record, which referred to the machine handling MIT email at KAIST. It is unclear whether MIT email went to KAIST between 4:20 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.

This is not the first time MIT has been hacked since Swartz' death. On Sunday, Jan. 13, MIT experienced a network outage due to a DoS attack. And on Saturday, Jan. 19, MIT's email went down for 10 hours due to a "mail loop caused by a series of malformed email messages," according to the *MIT News Office*.

MIT spokeswoman Kimberly C. Allen said that Information Services & Technology became aware of an issue affecting mit.edu domain registration at 11:58 a.m. this morning. "IS&T was made aware of the problem via automated email from the domain registrar to MIT indicating that MIT's Domain Name Servers (DNS) had been changed. MIT's domain rights and the mit.edu domain were returned to MIT's control at 1:05 pm."

John A. Hawkinson contributed to this article.

A previous version of this article ran on the web at <http://tech.mit.edu/V132/N62/hack.html>.



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Men's swim team wins

No. 1 ranked Engineers overtake Tufts

By Charlotte Brackett
DAPER STAFF

On a windy Saturday afternoon in New England, the No. 1 nationally-ranked, undefeated MIT Men's Swimming and Diving defeated Tufts University, 255-101. The Engineers won all but two of the events, sweeping first through third place in a number of them. Five different MIT swimmers won two of their individual events.

MIT started things off the right way, coming in first and second in the 400 yard medley relay. The A relay touched first in 3:26.47, and the B relay came in a few seconds later with a time of 3:32.48, a full four seconds before Tufts' A relay. Michael Lu '16 finished just half a second after Christian Jones of Tufts in the 1000 yard freestyle with a time of 9:52.92. Timothy A. Wall '14 finished third in 9:55.66 and Maxwell T. Pruner '13 was fifth with a time of 10:16.86.

In the remaining five events, the Engineers took first, second, and third place in all but one of them, the 100-yard butterfly.

Brendan T. Deveney '13 finished just three one-hundredths of a second ahead of Cam Simko in the 200 yard freestyle in a time of 1:44.53. Langston E. Fitts '16 was third in 1:46.65 and Remy A. Mock '14 came in fifth with a time of 1:48.43. As expected, Bradley A. Mattix '16 won the 100 yard backstroke with a time of 50.64. Bradford E. Jokubaitis '16 came third, Brendan F. Liu '13 was fourth, and Ron Rosenberg '13 was fifth.

MIT freshmen dominated the 100 yard breaststroke, taking first through third place, with Dion W. Low '16 touching first in 59.06, the only swimmer in the event to go under one minute. Alexander I. Lednev '16 came in second with a time of 1:01.82, and Michael Fu '16 was third in 1:02.78. It was the same story in the 200 yard butterfly, with MIT underclassmen finishing in first through fourth place. Thomas E. Norris '16 was first in 1:53.95, Benjamin R. Bauchwitz '15 came second in 1:56.10, and Luke S. Schlueter '16 was third in 1:56.19.

In the 50-yard freestyle, Wyatt L. Ubellacker '13 reprised his role as the winner with a time of 20.21. Craig B. Cheney '14 touched second in 21.99, and Anthony Chen '13 was third with a time of 22.04. Austin D. Fathman '15 finished first in the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 46.52, Chen was second in 47.96 and Fitts was third in 48.40. The Engineers then took first through third place in the 200-yard backstroke, with Mattix finishing on top in 1:54.80, Lednev following behind with a time of 1:55.35 and Liu in third place with a time of 1:55.50.

In the remaining five events, the Engineers took first, second and third place in all but one of them, the 100-yard butterfly. Low won the 200-yard breaststroke in 2:10.22, Norris had his second win of the day in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 4:43.59, Ubellacker won his second event, the 100-yard butterfly, in 49.38, and Lednev was victorious in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 1:56.55. To end the session, the MIT 400-yard freestyle A relay was first with a time of 3:09.60, and the B relay was second in 3:13.43, finishing almost ten seconds ahead of Tufts' A relay.

The Engineers will hit the road next to face Amherst College on Saturday, Jan. 26, at 1:00 p.m.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Wednesday, Jan. 23

Women's Basketball vs. Wellesley

7 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Friday, Jan. 25

Rifle vs. Beanpot

5 p.m., DuPont Athletic Center

Saturday, Jan. 26

Track and Field vs. Coed Invite I

12 p.m., Johnson Athletic Center

Rifle vs. Beanpot

9 a.m., DuPont Athletic Center

Women's Basketball vs. WPI

2 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Track and field earns sixth

Women's team dominates the 3000 meter run

By Charlotte Brackett
DAPER STAFF

The MIT Women's Track and Field, which was ranked 11th in the nation in the most recent U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association rankings, officially opened the season at the Harvard Challenge on Friday and Saturday. The Engineers ended the weekend in sixth place with 26.5 points, just a handful of points behind Williams with 34 and Brown with 46.

In the opening event, the 60 meter dash, Veronica Szklarzewski '15 came in eighth place in 8.19 after qualifying for finals in exactly the same time. Madeleine E. Bairey '15 completed the 200 meter dash in 26.94, finishing in 14th place just behind Annie Lynch of Williams.

Louise E. van den Heuvel '14 earned a point for the Engineers in the 1000 meter run when she finished in sixth place with a time of 3:01.50, completing the race less than a tenth of a second ahead of a runner from Brown.

In the mile, Alexandra B. Taylor '14 added four more points to MIT's score when she finished third in 5:04.24.

The Engineers' best showing was in the 3000 meter run, where they earned 11 points total. Elaine D. McVay '15 came in second place with a time of 10:06.32. She was followed by Allison M. Hallock '16 in third with a 10:07.70 and Martina A. de Geus '14 in fifth with 10:25.78.

On the field, Preeti Vaidyanathan '15 earned a point in the high jump, and Lauren B. Kuntz '13 earned a point and a half in pole vault.

Szklarzewski was back in action in the triple jump, finishing in seventh place with 10.28 meters. Katarina Ross '16 came in eighth with 10.24 meters, and Stephanie Birkhimer '14 was 11th with 9.80 meters.

In the shot put, Isabella R. Stuoipis '16 came away with three points after throwing 13.05 meters, landing in fourth place. Kristine A. Bunker '14 came in 13th place with 10.98 meters, and Christine Labaza '14 finished directly behind her in 14th place with 10.83 meters.

MIT will return to the track next weekend when the team travels to Boston University for the Terrier Classic, Friday to Saturday, Jan. 25-26. They will return home on Saturday for the first of two MIT Co-ed Invites.

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The Literature Section Hosts

4th Annual Mobile Reading Marathon

Come join the 4th annual Literature-sponsored Mobile Marathon on Jan. 23rd, when we will be reading the ENTIRETY of Homer's Odyssey in a single day for a Homer-athon! It took Odysseus 20 years to get home from Troy, but through the wonder of the codex book we are redefining what 'epic' means; in the great Greek peripatetic tradition, we will move across the campus reciting (and sometimes performing) the story, in translation. Come and go as you please, or join a hearty crew of professors, students and other community friends who journey together from start to finish. Starts at 9am in 14N-417, and moves with the story from East to West Campus, stopping for rest and refreshment in congenial rooms (see room list below). Appropriate garb and monster outfits welcome but not required: just a sense of humor, desire for community, and a willingness to listen or read. Feel free to join during any part of the day.

- 9:00-10:00: 14N-417
- 10:00-11:30: 4-349 (Pappalardo Room)
- 11:30-1:00: 62 (Talbot Lounge)
- 1:00-3:00: 50 (Pritchett)
- 3:00-5:00: Lobby 10
- 5:00-7:00: W20 (Twenty Chimneys)
- 7:00-9:00: W1 (Maseeh Hall)

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