



PAWS allows upgraded Web hosting

Students can design their own sites

by Chris Day

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Before Tuesday, students wanting to develop personal Web sites through their PAWS accounts used the PAWS Page option. But this limited their formatting options.

Starting this week they can upgrade or start from scratch with free Web hosting, a Student Government initiative funded by the Student Technology Fee.

Students are allotted 250 MB of hosted space — separate from the 1 GB allocated for Web mail — to customize a page however they choose.

“We’ve looked at students using Myspace.com and those sites,” said Heath Hattaway, undergraduate representative on the Student Technology Fee Oversight Committee. “We just wanted to see what the usage would be on it. So we agreed to pilot it for a year.”

Hattaway said students can upload audio and video files with their new Web pages. And they can also provide links to other Web pages such as their Facebook.com profiles.

The typical Web address for students’ personal pages is <http://my.lsu.edu/> followed by their PAWS screen name.

“We’re trying to develop it so that it’s more user friendly,” Hattaway said.

The initiative began with a November proposal from Information Technology Services to the committee.

To design a personal page, students log on to their PAWS account and click on "Mail." Then they click on the "Webhosting" tab at the top of the screen.

This takes students to the Outblaze Web interface, which they can use to upload files into directories and design the page.

Or students can use Microsoft FrontPage to publish their Web content. The software can be found on TigerWare, which is available to all students.

Hattaway said students can only upload about 5 MB of data at one time.

Personal Web pages are subject to the same regulations as all other content posted on the University's computer system, such as personal e-mail accounts.

A student cannot post anything considered defamatory, obscene, offensive or violent, according to University Policy Statement 107.