

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
DIVISION**

MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER

Update to Zoom Workplace & Introduction to Zoom AI Companion

In the coming weeks, GVSU IT will be rolling out the latest version of the Zoom application on all IT-managed desktop and laptop computers, introducing many exciting updates and changes to Zoom. In addition to upgrading Zoom to version 6.0, the GVSU community will soon be able to access Zoom's AI Companion.

Zoom Version 6.0 Application Update

In April 2024, Zoom released version 6.0 of the Zoom app. This version will be updated university-wide on all IT-managed computers automatically starting Monday, May 20, 2024. GVSU community members may manually update Zoom before this date if they wish.

Here are some key highlights:

- Zoom app is now named Zoom Workplace
- Updated look and feel, with customizable toolbar within meetings.
- Enhanced functionality in Team Chat including split view, chat settings and resource management.

For a complete list of features, changes, and notices, please refer to the [Zoom 6.0 release notes](#).

Zoom AI Companion

Zoom AI Companion uses AI technology to provide meeting hosts with an AI-generated summary of their meetings, summarized chat threads, and suggested responses. In recent months, GVSU has been testing and preparing to launch Zoom AI Companion for anyone interested in accessing it.

Visit the [Zoom AI Companion Overview webpage](#) to learn more about its functionality and features. In addition, Zoom has provided documentation regarding its practices regarding data privacy and artificial intelligence training, which can be found on this [Zoom support page](#).

Requests for access to Zoom AI Companion can be submitted through an IT Service Ticket - [Service - Activate Zoom AI Companion \(gvsu.edu\)](#). Requests will be automatically processed; the ticket resolution will provide information on activation timing and next steps. Beginning in August, AI Companion will be enabled automatically for all GVSU Zoom users.

Zoom AI Companion can be enabled for an individual meeting, or configured to automatically start for all meetings you host. [Using Meeting Summary with AI Companion](#) provides information on how to activate and utilize Meeting Summary.

If you have any questions regarding the Zoom updates or AI Companion, please contact IT Services by submitting a ticket through the [Service Portal](#), email at it@gvsu.edu, or phone by calling 616-331-2101.



Laker Dock App is Available Now!
App & Online Hub Make Finding Resources Simple

GVSU now has a single point of access to information, technology applications and tools, university resources, and notifications. It's called [Laker Dock](#)! Laker Dock is a web-based service that is accessible from any device, as well as a mobile application that can be downloaded from the Apple and Google app stores.

While the Laker Dock is currently focused primarily on student experiences, it is also available to faculty and staff at GVSU. It is expected that additional faculty and staff-targeted content will be added as the platform is developed.

[Learn More & Download the Laker Dock App](#)

Watch the IT Service Status Page for System Updates

Spring and Summer are Key Times for Maintenance

Spring and summer are crucial times for routine maintenance windows and updates to GVSU's systems and applications. As a reminder, GVSU IT maintains a [Service Status webpage](#) that is updated in real-time with any current, upcoming, or recent updates. If you encounter any issues or changes with the systems you regularly use, please bookmark and review this webpage before submitting an IT Service Request.



Innovation Insights:
Deep Faking History: Examining AI's Impact on Academic Integrity

The IT Innovation + Research (I+R) team is exploring the intersection of artificial intelligence (AI) and historical research at Grand Valley State University, where experts are raising critical questions about AI's ability to generate seemingly authentic historical evidence. This investigation, led by I+R Innovator-in-Residence Joseph Van Harken and history professor Dr. Steve O. Buckridge, delves into the profound implications of AI-generated content and academic integrity. From classroom exercises that recreate archival images to thought-provoking symposium talks, discover how GVSU is investigating the challenges posed by advanced AI technologies. Read more about their findings and the ongoing discussions on AI's role in preserving or distorting our understanding of history.

[Read More About These Findings](#)

Boost Your Productivity in Microsoft

Dive into the Microsoft 365 Efficiencies Series!

Looking to advance your Microsoft 365 skills? Check out the new Microsoft 365 Efficiencies learning series! The series covers a variety of topics, from Time-Saving Tips for Outlook to Practical Ways to Enhance PowerPoint Presentations, as well as Excel 101, Getting Started with Teams, Bookings, Forms, and more! The goal of webinars is to simplify tasks and maximize productivity. Register for as many virtual webinars as you like.

More information can be found on the [Microsoft Webinar eLearning Technologies website](#) and registration is available in [Sprout](#). Questions can be directed to [Stephanie Balaskas, IT Training Specialist](#).

[Register for the Microsoft 365 Efficiencies Series](#)



Safely Navigating Mobile Device Use
Tips for GVSU Faculty and Staff

Mobile devices are indispensable tools for staying connected, accessing information, and enhancing productivity. Whether checking emails, collaborating on projects, or accessing course materials, we continue to rely on mobile devices. This convenience is accompanied, however, by the responsibility of protecting our personal and professional information.

As faculty and staff at Grand Valley State University, it's essential to adopt safe practices when using mobile devices. We do this to protect sensitive data and maintain our integrity.

[Learn How to Stay Safe on Your Device](#)



Academic Research Computing Addresses Growing Data Needs
Updates to High Performance Computing Environment Benefit Faculty and Students

Due to the exponential increase in usage over the past 9 months, the High Performance Computing (HPC) environment known as "Clipper" has undergone a major upgrade recently. The additional hardware and re-configuration will:

- improve performance
- improve network speeds for getting data in and out of the environment
- increase capacity for research data and processing power across the board

This project was a joint venture between Academic Research Computing, Enterprise Architecture, and our HPC user community of faculty and students. If you're interested in leveraging the HPC cluster for your research, please put in a [request](#) and the Academic Research Computing team will get you access to the environment and onboard your project.



IT Team Member Highlight
Stephanie Webber, Instructional Technology Project Specialist

As an Instructional Technology Project Specialist within IT's eLearning Technologies team, Stephanie Webber works closely with faculty to create online learning experiences and help with integrating Blackboard and other third-party tools into their teaching practices.

Stephanie meets with faculty to discuss course sites and provide guidance on online teaching methodologies. When asked what she loves about her work, Stephanie shared, "I love that I get to advocate for both the student and faculty user experience. Expectations around technology use are constantly changing. It's so important that instructors have the proper support systems in place to deliver effectively."

She has worked for GVSU for a little more than four years. Stephanie previously graduated from GVSU for her undergraduate degree in Business administration and is attending Boise State University for her graduate degree in Organizational Performance and Workplace Learning. Additionally, she has obtained certificates in Project Management and Franklin Covey's Seven Habits of Highly Effective People and Five Choices to Extraordinary Productivity. Currently, she is pursuing a certificate in Workplace Instructional Design after completing a course on artificial intelligence tools for learning and development professionals.

Outside of work, you will find Stephanie working alongside her husband to restore an old farm they purchased and moved into several years ago. She calls it a true labor of love. Thank you for all you do, Stephanie, to strengthen education and learning at GVSU!

Need IT Assistance?

Phone: (616) 331-2101 **Email:** it@gvsu.edu **Service Portal:** services.gvsu.edu

