

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER



WINDOWS 11 UPDATES: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

GVSU IT has started rolling out the Windows 11 upgrade across the university in designated phases. This update applies only to Windows computers and is not required for Mac computers. The transition is necessary as Microsoft will end support for Windows 10—including updates and security patches—on October 14, 2025.

As we continue this project, we will provide regular communications and updates. Here are some key pieces of information you need to know:

When will my area transition to Windows 11?

GVSU IT is collaborating with university leadership to schedule each unit's Windows 11 transition at a time that best aligns with your area's needs while considering workload demands throughout the year. A full deployment schedule will be released in March.

Ahead of your upgrade, you will receive targeted communications. These messages will include:

- **Detailed instructions** on preparing your device.
- **Steps to back up your files** to prevent data loss during the transition.
- **Action items** to ensure a smooth and seamless upgrade.

What Windows 11 Training and Resources are Available?

Windows 11 Webinars

We encourage faculty and staff to attend an upcoming Windows 11 webinar. This training will overview Windows 11 features, preparation steps, best practices for file backup using OneDrive, and action items to ensure a successful upgrade. [Register now to secure your spot!](#)

Windows 11 Resources and Information

The Service Portal offers a variety of [Windows 11-specific Knowledge Base articles](#), and the [Windows 11 @ GVSU](#) webpage is a great resource to bookmark for ongoing updates, current information, and helpful links.

Thank you for your partnership as we work to provide access to the latest tools and technology, enhancing productivity, efficiency, and security across the university.

If you have any questions about Windows 11, contact IT Services via the [Service Portal](#), at it@gvsu.edu or 616-331-2101.



Virtual & Academic Computing Updates WinLab Transition & Software Requests

WinLab Transition and Upgrade:

At the conclusion of the Winter semester the virtual Windows computer lab (WinLab) will be retired and replaced with a new hosted solution. The new service will offer increased capacity, enhanced computing power, and greater flexibility to adapt to the needs of our faculty and students.

This environment provides access to resource intensive applications like SolidWorks, Ansys, ArcGIS Pro, and others that leverage GPU's for advanced work which the current environment lacks; allowing work that currently requires specialized hardware in limited physical labs to be done from anywhere. Whether for use during instruction, for homework, or research, the environment provides more robust and scalable solutions for all of GVSU.

All university computer labs, both physical and virtual, will be upgraded to Windows 11 during the Spring/Summer 2025 semesters. These upgrades will be completed before the Fall 2025 semester.

Academic Computer Lab Software Requests:

Reminder, it's never too early to submit [software requests](#) for next semester!



Dell Technologies Event March 18: Building an Innovation Mindset with Data and AI

Join GVSU IT on March 18 for a special guest lecture with [Bill Schmarzo](#), the "Dean of Big Data" and Customer AI & Data Innovation Strategist at Dell Technologies. Discover key insights on fostering an innovation mindset with Data and AI.

Date: Tuesday, March 18

Time: 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Location: Charles W. Loosemore Auditorium, Richard M. DeVos Center, located on the Robert C. Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Key Takeaways Will Include:

- Comprehensive Understanding of AI's Role in Value Creation
- Human-Centered Innovation through Design Thinking
- Enhanced Data Science and Analytical Skills
- Cultural Literacy in Data-Driven Environments
- Framework for AI-Driven Strategic Thinking
- GenAI Innovation Prompting Framework

Registration is required so sign up today!

[Learn More and Register for Dell Event](#)



GlobalProtect VPN Updates Begin in March

GVSU will begin transitioning Mac computers to the GlobalProtect VPN next month, replacing the current Ivanti system. This will be a phased migration across university departments.

For Windows devices, Direct Access will remain the VPN solution for all systems running Windows 10 and will continue to be supported throughout their lifecycle. GlobalProtect will be installed on devices upgrading to Windows 11

GlobalProtect VPN provides a secure, reliable connection to university resources from anywhere. Key benefits include:

- **Enhanced Security** – Stronger protection against cyber threats.
- **Simplified Access** – A user-friendly experience for seamless connectivity.
- **Universal Compatibility** – Works across different networks and locations.
- **Improved Performance** – Faster, more reliable remote access.

Additional information can be found in the [GlobalProtect VPN Overview Knowledge Base article](#).

IT will notify departments ahead of their scheduled transition, providing instructions and support.



GVSU IT Staff Recognized at Annual Service Awards

Each year, Grand Valley State University hosts [Service Awards](#) to honor employees reaching milestone anniversaries for their dedication and service. This annual event celebrates faculty and staff who have contributed 10, 15, 20, or more years to the university.

At this year's ceremony, seven members of the GVSU Information Technology Division were recognized for their commitment:

Colleen Cameron – 10 Years

Justin Melick – 10 Years

Nick Nelson – 15 Years

Katie Clark – 20 Years

Melissa Cunningham – 25 Years

Jim McPherson – 25 Years

John Klein – 35 Years

[GVSU IT team member event photos](#)

[GVSU Service Award event photos](#)

GVSU IT extends its heartfelt congratulations to these individuals. Their expertise, dedication, and contributions play a vital role in supporting the university's mission. Thank you for your years of service!



Meet Hunter Bridwell Emerging Technologies Coordinator, IT Innovation + Research Team

Hunter Bridwell has been part of GVSU IT for 8 years. As the Emerging Technologies Coordinator, he helps oversee the Atomic Object Technology Showcase and the Student Technology Innovation Guild. In both roles, he works with students to explore new tech and create innovative solutions, all while helping the university stay on the cutting edge of emerging technologies.

He finds his work particularly rewarding because of the students. "They are so bright, creative, driven, and inspiring. It's an honor to mentor and watch them grow," he says. He also loves the opportunity to build new things, and his work allows him to do just that.

Hunter holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography from Kendall College of Art and Design and a Master of Science in Communications from GVSU. He's passionate about being a lifelong learner, constantly soaking up new knowledge and skills.

In his spare time, Hunter is an avid video game creator. Over the past year, he's built several games, including an endless-runner game featuring a friend's music, a flying game using Google Map data, and a Pacman and Space Invaders clone for the guitar string company Ernie Ball.

Outside of his game development hobby, Hunter enjoys spending time with his two cats, Hudson and Gus. If you've ever been on a Zoom call with him, you've probably spotted Hudson in his profile picture—perched on his shoulders.

Need IT Assistance?

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



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