

## APS 105: Computer Fundamentals — Fall 2000

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### 1 General Information

APS 105 – Computer Fundamentals – is designed to give you an introduction to computer systems, their role in problem solving in science and engineering, and to provide you with the important basics for courses in subsequent years.

### 2 Getting Started Online

We wish to save a large number of trees this year by placing all assignments and handouts online. This will make it easier for you to access them, and we'll never print too many copies. For this to work really well, you should refrain from printing them yourself.

To get started online, you'll need your *userid* and initial password. Then, after *logging on*, you can start *netscape* to read the rest of your instructions.

1. To obtain your *userid*:
  - (a) Find an empty, unused terminal in either SF1106 or SF1012.
  - (b) At the **login**: prompt, type the special *userid* "getname".
  - (c) At the **Password**: prompt, just hit the *ENTER* key.
  - (d) A window will pop up asking you for some personal information. Respond with this information — you may have to move the mouse pointer into the window to type. If you make a mistake, continue until the system gives up and start these instructions over again.
2. Your initial password is the 8-digit number SSSSMDD, where the digits are formed by:
  - (a) SSSS the last 4 digits of your student number,
  - (b) MM your birth month, and
  - (c) DD the day of the month you were born.
3. Logging on the **first time**:
  - (a) Log on with your new *userid* and password.
  - (b) If you can't log on, make sure you have obtained the correct *userid* and formed your password properly. If you still have trouble, go to the ECF office (GB154).

- (c) Some messages and progress information will appear as the system starts up.
- (d) Two windows will appear, a *RedHat Help* window and a *File Manager* window. If you wish, close the *Help* window by clicking on its "X" button at the top-left.
- (e) The *File Manager* window makes a long search of all the files on the system, an enormous effort; you shouldn't use this tool until ECF finds a better replacement. To cancel the program, wait for the error message like: '*gmc*' program not responding and tell it to abort. You may have to click on the *File Manager* "X" button as well. If the program is persistent, repeat this step until it goes away.
- (f) After the *File Manager* has ended, you should immediately logoff and save your 'desktop' settings so it doesn't come up next time.
  - i. **Make sure the *File Manager* window is gone.**
  - ii. Click on the GNOME **footprint** button at the lower-left of the screen, select *Log out*.
  - iii. **Select the *Save current setup* button.**
  - iv. Answer *Yes* to log out.

Logging on normally and starting *netscape*:

- (a) Log on once more. The system should come up much faster. The *RedHat Help* window will reappear if you didn't close it last time.
- (b) Start *netscape* by clicking on the large "N" button located in the bottom row of your screen.
- (c) Go to the *Location*: entry field near the top of the *netscape* window. It currently displays `file:///usr/doc/HTML/index.html`. Replace this with the course web page listed below and follow the new instructions!  
  
`http://www.ecf.utoronto.ca/~aps105w/`

### 3 Resetting the Computer and Using the Lab

**Please remember, there is absolutely no eating or drinking in the labs.** If you are caught, your computer account privileges will be suspended immediately **without warning** and you will be unable to complete your assignments.

**DO NOT EVER TURN OFF THE WORKSTATIONS.** The computers have a built-in security device that will result in dismemberment and you will be unable to complete your assignments! :-0 Seriously though, it's just a bad thing to do. If your terminal appears to be hung, or you can't log out for some reason (such as your mouse pointer disappearing), press the following magic three-finger salute:

*Control-Alt-Backspace*

These keys will kill the Xserver and all of your currently running programs.

If this doesn't work, ask for help. If there is general equipment failure on ECF, use another computer to send email to "trouble@ecf". Be sure to explain where the computer is located, its hostname, and the type of trouble you are having.