“Everyone” E-mail Abuse

By Cory Anderson
News Editor

“Massage therapy openings? I don’t care,” said first-year Josh Brubaker. E-mails addressed to everyone@emu.edu seem to be the bulk of the messages received daily in an individual’s accounts. While many have been expressing concern to Information Systems about the overload of these e-mails, other recipients happen to enjoy them.

John Rutt has been the director of Information Systems for three years and says that the abundance of ‘broadcast e-mails’ have been a problem since the first year he started working here.

“It’s a burden,” he said. “It is a genie out of a bottle.” Rutt said. “Our policy is essentially wide open [on sending out everyone e-mails].”

Rutt though has also tried to field comments from members of the EMU community who enjoyed getting broadcast e-mails or who at least enjoyed sending them. The faculty in particular displayed concern about limiting e-mail sending rights. Rutt was hoping to get a mandate from last year’s survey filled out online against everyone e-mails.

“People feel they need to communicate, and we respect that,” he said.

Few staff however have taken the time to read the FAQs on the Information Systems webpage. There are several questions concerning e-mails sent to everyone. One question addresses the needfulness of sending out an everyone e-mail, and it reminds the sender that this e-mail will go to approximately 1,800 people which encompasses about 1,400 students, 350 staff, and 50 others who are not necessarily working or studying, but have some connection to EMU, such as retirees.

“The web work team has been trying to work out solutions,” Rutt says.

Another effort by the Information Systems team is the Campus Connection digest that is sent out every Monday and Thursday summarizing what can be found on the Campus Connection page. They are also currently working through some proposals on how to categorize abundant e-mails better so that those students who do not want to receive a typical load of e-mails addressed to everyone do not have to deal with them.

Nick Buckwalter, a sophomore, says, “Events and Classified? Delete. But there are some I do read, and there are some good things they send out.”

However, Senior Michelle Kuhns says, “I read almost all of them because I like to know what’s going on.”

“I hate the ones that go to everyone, but are still aimed at certain people,” said First-year Ryan Reese.

“A lot of times they only apply to one group, and I wish people would use their groups more, although some of the emails are helpful,” said Rachel Schrock, a sophomore. “People should not be too quick to use the [everyone@emu.edu address].”

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- Erin Bailey, freshman
  I want your nephew.

- Kristen Mishler, sophomore
  Think more before you act.

- Katie King, freshman
  Humanitarian aid rocks!

- Bu Won Choi, sophomore
  Am I allowed to swear?

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