Personal Web Space at Creighton  

Feb 10, 2006

Creighton provides a personal web space server for all Creighton community members, faculty, staff, and students. This server is called *People* and can be found at

https://people.creighton.edu/

To get an account on this service, follow the directions at the site linked above. To use this service, read on.

1. Read the policies

All use of technology provided by Creighton (including the network and web space) is governed by the Fair, Responsible, and Acceptable Use Policy. You can find it here: http://www.creighton.edu/doit/policies/

2. Think about your options

*People* provides very flexible web space, giving users the opportunity to do a lot, or just a little with their web sites.

Basic web sites: Use Frontpage or Dreamweaver to create and maintain basic web sites. Some of the cool “interactive” web sites those programs can create will also work on *People*, which includes Frontpage extensions and can handle Javascript.

Advanced web sites and web applications: The *People* server also understands PHP, a programming language which can be used to connect to MySQL databases and manipulate information. Creighton offers MySQL databases as well, through the Datastore server. In addition, you can use *People* to host forms for submission, you can password protect your sites, and so on.

Third-party software: Installing third-party web software, for blogging, discussion board, or other applications is also possible.

3. Recognize your limits

While *People* offers all of these options, there are some limitations.

Support: The basic functionality of *People* is to send web pages out to the world. This is the functionality DoIT supports. We will help you connect to the server, upload your files, learn how make web pages, and we’ll make sure
the server is running. But DoIT is unable to support all the myriad applications you might create or install using the advanced capabilities of People. We will, of course, try to help. But there may come a point at which we are unable to assist.

Space: People accounts come with 250 MB of space for your use. This limit is set by policy, and will not be raised. Plan accordingly. If you envision needing a lot of space, you may need to explore other options. If your needs are institutionally related (for instruction, or for departmental use) they should be hosted on a different server. People is intended for personal use only.

4. Consider if this is the right service for you

DoIT provides, or is planning on providing, specific servers for some specific services in the next year. While some or all of these can be achieved with a People account, if your needs are specific, these may suit you better:

Streaming Media. Creighton’s streaming media service, Winstream, is available now for faculty and staff to use. If you have video or audio files you want on the Internet, this may be your ticket. Learn more at http://www.creighton.edu/doit/streaming/

Blogging. DoIT is currently testing a blogging service. If you want to blog, please consider helping us test this service. To find out about testing availability, email vanbrandwijk@creighton.edu

Podcasting. DoIT is working on creating a podcasting service, to be available soon. Podcasting can be done via a People account now, but we envision this podcasting service will be a preferable choice.

Faculty. We are in the beginning phases of creating a web space service geared specifically for Faculty, as an alternative to People and/or Blackboard. While details are few, we do know we expect this service to provide more space than People, and friendlier URLs. This space will be for course or instructor related materials.

5. Do it!

Once you have an account, there’s not much standing in your way. Create your personal web site, or blog, or image gallery, or bulletin board, or whatever you envision.

The Service Desk (402 280-1111) is available to answer all technical questions regarding registering an account, connecting to an account, and troubleshooting.

If you need help, IDD is available to teach faculty the ins and outs of some of this technology: tnownes@creighton.edu or dnovo@creighton.edu