Engineering Student Technology Committee

College of Engineering
Colorado State University

The Engineering Student Technology Committee (ESTC) invites proposals from students, faculty, and staff for technology related equipment to enhance the student educational environment in the College of Engineering at CSU. Each year, the ESTC allocates funding for strategic projects that will have a near-term benefit to students. This year, the committee is soliciting proposals in the $5K - $40K range. Proposals must be primarily for equipment and have a direct benefit to the educational mission of the college. Please review the Charge for Technology (CFT) manual for permissible use of CFT funds:
http://ucft.colostate.edu/aspx/www.ucft/pdf/cftmanual.pdf.

The ESTC is particularly interested in intra-departmental proposals or proposals that benefit a large cross-section of students. Partnerships with the ESTC that fund projects beyond the limitations of the CFT are especially compelling. Note that the committee is not, in general, interested in funding projects that are specific to a particular research group or that affect only a small number of students. To submit a project proposal, please complete this form and send it as an e-mail attachment to estc@engr.colostate.edu by April 30 for full consideration.

1. Title of Proposal: Switching Engineering Sun Rays to Kiosk mode _____

2. Proposal Participants:

Primary Contact for Proposal

Name: CJ Keist _____ E-Mail: cj.keist@colostate.edu _____

Department/Major:ENS _____

Circle One: Undergraduate Student   Graduate Student   Faculty   Staff(X)

Additional proposal participants

Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

Department/Major: _____

Circle One: Undergraduate Student   Graduate Student   Faculty   Staff

Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

Department/Major: _____

Circle One: Undergraduate Student   Graduate Student   Faculty   Staff

3. Proposal Abstract (limit to 100 words):
Currently the Engineering Sun Ray thin clients present a Solaris Login screen, requiring students to have to log in twice in order to use the Windows Desktop. ENS proposes switching the Engineering Sun Ray thin clients to kiosk mode. Going to kiosk mode would then only require a single sign on.

4. Proposal Budget

List of items to be purchased and cost
There is no cost to make this change.

Dollar or percentage amount requested from ESTC:

Dollar or percentage amount(s) to be provided by other fund(s):
 Include name of person providing other funding (must be a participating party in the proposal):

5. Full description of proposal:
specifically address:
- student group(s) that will benefit from this proposal
- explanation of why the project is a valid use of CFT funds
- financial partnerships that leverage use of CFT funds for greater impact

Currently when students use a Sun Ray thin client they have to log in twice, once for the Solaris desktop and a second time to log in in to the Windows Desktop. (Most students use the Windows Desktop exclusively.) By switching to kiosk mode we can change this to a single sign on. In the kiosk mode there would be a simple user interface presenting four buttons. Each button would give the student a choice as to what desktop environment he/she wants to work in. For example, the four buttons might be: Windows Desktop, Admin Desktop, College of Business, Solaris Desktop. When the student selects the desktop area they want to work in, they would be switched to a full screen login of the desktop session they chose. The login process on the Sun Ray would then operate much the same way as the lab Windows PCs, with the addition of just one click.

The switch to kiosk mode will also save computing resources on the Sun Ray servers, as they will no longer need to run an entire desktop environment. Fewer resources needed on the Sun Ray servers means smaller, more inexpensive servers required to run the Sun Ray thin clients. The money saved here can then be use to purchase more servers for the Windows Desktop farm.