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In addition to these updates being sent periodically via email, they are available via the web as well. Check <http://www.umich.edu/~lannos/exchange/> for the latest news, as well as a collection of old news.

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MOBILE DEVICE SUPPORT BEGINS AUGUST 22, 2006

ITCS begins official support for access to Exchange data using Mobile devices such as smartphones on August 22, 2006. The Exchange servers have always been set up to allow connecting with mobile devices that use Exchange Active Sync (this includes devices using Windows Mobile or Pocket PC, and Treo 650/700p's through their Versamail software). However, use of this capability was unsupported, as we did not have documentation or helpdesk support available. As of August 22, this will be an officially supported feature of our service.

In preparation for the rollout of support for this service, two documents are now available.

"Exchange ActiveSync Configuration for System Administrators"
<<http://www.umich.edu/~lannos/exchange/docs/ActiveSyncConfig.pdf>> is a lengthy document that shows how to configure and use a number of devices that support this type of access. Like other documentation in the Exchange Technical Library, it is technical and meant for Systems Administrators.

"New Windows Mobile 5.0 Security and Features"
<http://www.itd.umich.edu/exchange/faq/mobile/mobile5_security.html> is a document geared toward end users that specifically addresses security and other features available with the Windows Mobile 5.0 Messaging Security and Features Pack, the newest version of that operating system.

WINDOWS MOBILE 5.0 MESSAGING SECURITY AND FEATURES PACK (MSFP)

The newest version of Windows Mobile software running on mobile devices is Windows Mobile 5.0 with the Messaging Security and Features Pack (MSFP). This version of the OS provides a number of security options that we are taking advantage of. These are:

- require 4-digit numeric PIN
- lock after 15 minutes of inactivity
- wipe device after 8 incorrect password attempts
- allow administrator initiated remote wipe of device

These security features will become mandatory (only for devices running Windows Mobile 5 with MSFP) on August 22. The changes will be made on the servers at midnight. Therefore, on August 22 users of these devices will see prompts for input on their mobile devices that they have not seen before.

Information on just how these settings will affect mobile device users, screen shots of what they will experience when using these devices and instructions on how to respond to prompts are given in the two documents linked above.

NOTE: Mobile devices using earlier versions of Windows Mobile or Pocket PC and devices using the Versaterm software (Treas) will NOT be affected by these settings.

Please take a look at this documentation. Even if you do not have users using these devices now, you likely will in the near future. If questions come to mind as you read that documentation, please send them to me and I'll use them to develop a FAQ to help others.

--MaryBeth