

Computers

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interface problem," said Rick Millhollin, assistant director for computer facilities. "It just slowed so much that everyone thought it was down."

Millhollin said that although tests indicated an Ethernet cable

“It looks like an Ethernet interface problem. It just slowed so much that everyone thought it was down.”

Rick Millhollin
assistant director for
computer facilities

was working properly, when the cable was replaced the server returned to normal speed and worked without any problems. Millhollin said the situation is a bit of a mystery because the test equipment usually detects any problems.

"The problem's gone away, but we're not sure why," Millhollin said.

The Oregon server began working normally about 1 p.m. Tuesday afternoon.

Millhollin said the Oregon server is at least four years old and is currently being updated. Daisy, another computer server on campus, will be replaced and the old Daisy hardware will become the new Oregon server. The current Oregon server is smaller than the Daisy server.

Despite the fact that the Oregon server was inaccessible for less than a day, departments on campus still experienced some difficulty and frustration.

"We were not able to work on anything," English Department secretary Susan Dickens said. "It was a little frustrating because we couldn't do anything. We couldn't use e-mail or get into Netscape or get into any online forms from OPS and Telcom."

University President Dave Frohnmayer said that he receives approximately 50 business related e-mails daily. When he returned home from a board meeting Mon-

Quick take:

- The Oregon computer server slowed down about 8 p.m. Monday.
- It was back up and running smoothly by 1 p.m. Tuesday.
- The Oregon server mainly handles e-mail for faculty and staff.
- The system will be going through upgrades in the next few months.

Source: Computing Facilities

day night, he experienced the same difficulty in accessing his e-mail as other University faculty.

"I'm used to speedy communications," he said. "When you can't access your e-mail, you always have a potentially urgent message."

Fortunately, this time he had no urgent messages. Frohnmayer said he was grateful to the staff at the computing center who addressed the problem.

"We have such an excellent staff at the Computing Center because they get on top of these things," he said.

Rogue seal attacks four

VICTORIA, British Columbia—The Fisheries Department is investigating reports of a rogue seal that leaps into open boats to attack tourists.

"When somebody first phoned me on this I thought 'Right, somebody is pulling my leg here,'" department spokesman Ed Lochbaum said.

But after hearing there were four similar attacks, all on people in kayaks or open rowboats, Lochbaum said Monday he will investigate.

In all cases, the victims described a pale-colored seal.

"There was something demented about this seal that it went for any boaters coming around," said Ed Cavin, caretaker of the Shelter Point Regional Park in the Strait of Georgia about 80 miles northeast of Victoria.

Nobody was hurt, but one kayaker was tipped into the water and another was chased ashore.

With the rowboats, the animal seemed to leap straight into the

boats, biting and snapping at young children.

In one case a little girl was the seal's victim.

"He wrapped his paws, or flippers, right around her and he was biting at her face," Cavin said. "The father smashed it with an oar three times and it didn't even faze it."

"He had to get the oar underneath it and pry it off the boat."

It's possible the seal's behavior was actually a misdirected panic response to the large numbers of killer whales that showed up in the Strait of Georgia this past summer, he said.

Resident killer whales generally ignore seals and eat only fish.

But transient whales, which are always on the move, often prey on harbor seals.

Lochbaum said seals can tell the difference between the whales and when a transient is near, will make huge efforts to get out of the water—even leaping into fishing boats.

The Associated Press

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