

**From:** [Weber, Lon](#)  
**To:** [CNREHelpDesk](#)  
**Subject:** CNRE Websites Update  
**Date:** Friday, April 01, 2011 4:18:59 PM

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Hello CNRE,

Below you will find three sections of information detailing existing and future changes with how we will be handling all the college's websites:

[Redirection:](#)

I want to make everyone aware of a change that we recently made with regard to website addresses within our college. When the World Wide Web first came into existence pretty much all website addresses began with www. Over the years the usage of www in the address has diminished and now we're to the point of not using www is more common. When we register the address for a website within our college we've been submitting both versions, an example of this would be www.it.cnre.vt.edu and it.cnre.vt.edu. This way it doesn't matter if someone uses the www or not, they will find our sites. The change that we recently invoked is the redirection of all the www versions of our website addresses, with a few exceptions, to the non www addresses. What this means is that if you enter in www.it.cnre.vt.edu in the address bar of a browser you will be redirected to it.cnre.vt.edu. Without going into the gory details the main reason for doing this redirection that it helps our ranking in all the different search engines out there like Google and Bing. Another advantage to this redirection is that it's helping speed up the process of purging the existing search engines of our old subdomain names like CNR and Forestry which will be going away very soon and replacing them with CNRE and FREC! **I'll take this opportunity to remind everyone to make sure you have updated any website references that still may be using the soon to be defunct subdomains of either CNR or Forestry.**

[Server Migration:](#)

In case you were not aware, we are in the process of moving all the websites hosted on the existing webserver housed in Cheatham to one of three new web servers. The main college website along with all the top level departmental websites along with Virginia Water Resources Research Center are moving into VT's Content Management System (CMS). The majority of all the other websites will be moving over to Hosting which is a VT supported web hosting service. The remaining websites that can't move into the CMS or Hosting due to incompatibilities will move over to our Virtualized webserver. We will no longer be supporting any physical hardware with regards to websites once we have completed this huge task. Either Les Fuller or myself will be contacting everyone individually who has a website on our existing server to discuss and assist them with the

moving process.

Website Naming:

As we move websites we will be changing the site's address using our new naming standard. If your website is a subfolder off one of the departmental sites (which will most likely be the case) then your address is currently something like <http://DepartmentalSiteAddress/YourSiteNameHere>. The new naming standard will be <http://YourSiteNameHere.DepartmentalSiteAddress>. An example of this is a site that we just moved to Hosting that used to be <http://vwrrc.vt.edu/hydro> is now <http://hydro.vwrrc.vt.edu>. Note that your current subfolder name does not have to be what you call your site in your new address. Our IT website is an example of that, [http://cnre.vt.edu/cnr\\_it](http://cnre.vt.edu/cnr_it) became <http://it.cnre.vt.edu>. The three biggest advantages to this new naming standard is that it's cleaner, carries more emphasis, and is more transportable in case our website hosting structure changes down the road. It's important to understand that the old site address will continue to work even with the new naming convention. That way if someone has your old site address bookmarked they should still find you.

Thanks for your time and have a great weekend. Lon.

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