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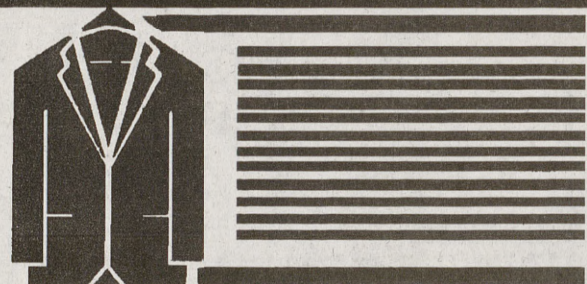
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## Something Neo online

CIS creates a more user-friendly, Web-based emailing system

By SOMMER BRUNCE  
The Battalion

Just as thousands of students will start classes today, Neo, a new email system, also begins its first full semester at Texas A&M.

Last spring, Computer Information Services (CIS) developed Neo, which allows A&M students to access email from any computer.

Student Computing Center (SCC) Computer Equipment Operator Sarah Schroeder said the result is good business.

Phasing out the older telnet-based email programs such as UNIX and granting more options than the client-based labs system, the Neo server allows students and faculty to check their email on the Web or through a popular client like Microsoft Outlook Express.

SCC employees followed CIS' lead in recommending Neo to new students and to those new to the computer world, Schroeder said.

"Everyone can surf the Web," Schroeder said. "Neo is easier for new users, and it's not hard to figure out."

The majority of freshmen and transfers whom SCC staffers have aided in setting up email accounts were given Neo addresses, Schroeder said.

Neo is not just for students opening new email accounts with the University. The Neo system forwards mail to any account, whether the account is with Hotmail, labs or America Online, said CIS Director Thomas Putnam.

Neo accounts are effective from the time of admission until a year after graduation, allowing students to maintain the same email address throughout their academic career with time to change and notify email senders of a new address after graduation.

"It is a better service than what we've had before," Putnam said. The Neo system is available to any student or faculty member and is set up like an ordinary email account, with 10 megabytes of storage and a customized log-on name and password

for each student.

One of Neo's most valuable uses is "official" email, best classified as mass mailings from faculty or administrators that contain information important to students. Professors often email assignments and updates to their classes, yet some are unable to reach every individual due to old or invalid email addresses.

Neo, when used more widely on campus, should eliminate this problem by streaming official email and

forwarding it to the student's current address, Putnam said.

Official email may also include itemized listings of Aggie Buck counts and other student-related business.

Another advantage of using Neo as a primary account is its capacity for personalization. Students and faculty members are able to choose an alias not yet selected by another

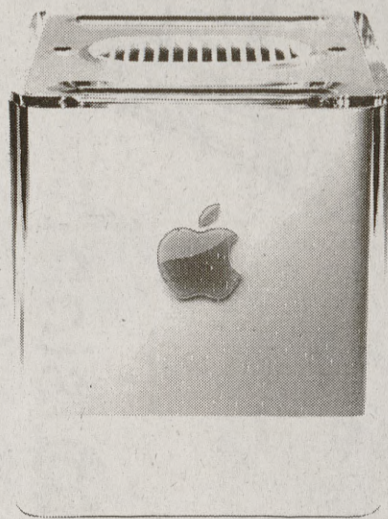
See NEO on Page 4C

**WHOA...**

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RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION



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