**VISTA AT UF: AN INTRODUCTION FOR STUDENTS**

- **What is WebCT Vista?**

WebCT Vista is a course management system: a collection of online tools that enable faculty to teach courses all or in part over the Internet. **Note:** To learn how to do common tasks that your instructors may require of you in Vista, click the Student Demos link under WebCT Resources at http://lss.at.ufl.edu.

- **What hardware and software are required to use Vista?**

You must have a computer with Internet access and a supported web browser. Supported browsers include: Microsoft IE 6.0+, Netscape 7.0+, and Mozilla 1.6+. Browser settings must be configured to allow cookies, Java, and Javascript. Likewise, browser security settings should not be higher than “medium.” You must also have Sun Java 1.4.2+ on your computer; **Microsoft Java will not work properly.**

To check whether or not you have a supported browser and if your browser settings are properly configured, use the WebCT Browser Tune-up linked from http://lss.at.ufl.edu. To check your version of Java, click on the Check Java link. Likewise, a UF HelpDesk consultant (see below) can assist you making sure your computer and browser are ready for Vista.

Depending on the course, you may also need additional software to view different kinds of materials posted in the course (e.g. Acrobat Reader, PowerPoint, etc.). Occasionally, an instructor may require a class to use specific software which must be purchased; much like buying a book for a class.

- **How do I login to Vista?**

Assuming that you are enrolled in a course using Vista, you can login by directing a supported web browser to http://lss.at.ufl.edu and clicking on one of the Vista links. You will need to type in your GatorLink user name and password to access your course.

- **Are pop-up blockers a problem with Vista?**

Vista uses pop-up windows; so pop-up blockers can be a problem. As a result, if you plan to use a pop-up blocker on your computer, you must learn to override popup blocking or disable the popup blocker while using Vista. Note that a pop-up blocker is automatically included in Windows XP SP2.

- **How do I get support if I run into a problem?**

First check with your instructor to make sure you are registered for and listed in the online course. Then contact the UF Computing HelpDesk: CSE Building, Room 520, 352.392.4357, helpdesk@ufl.edu.

If you get a message that the server is unavailable, first go to http://lss.at.ufl.edu and check for notices of service outages. If there are no outage notices, if it is M-F, 8-5 contact the UF HelpDesk to report the problem. If it is after hours or on the weekend, contact Computing and Networking Services: 392-2291 or http://www.cns.ufl.edu/index.html (click “Report A Problem”).