

## Lifelong Email for students and Alumni

### February 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting

**Present:** Dave Spanel, Jim Liebgott, Larry Hartley

Meeting Notes:

Met with Larry Hartley (Foundation) to discuss options on enabling Alumni to sign up for huskers.unl.edu accounts.

- Foundation currently does not have a mechanism to authenticate users, they will in the future but it was decided that we cannot wait this long and an alternative method will need to be developed.

Larry will be developing a web page that will be located on the Alumni Association web site. The web page will allow an Alum to identify themselves and then will pass the identify to huskers.unl.edu account generation program. Jim Liebgott provided Larry with the required parameters for passing the information.

Send the user an HTTP redirect to the following URL. I have broken into multiple lines with indenting for clarity, but in reality there should be no whitespace in it. Details of parameters follow the URL itself.

```
http://huskers.unl.edu/info?  
  APPNAME=blackbaud&  
  NUID=<nuid>&  
  FIRSTNAME=<firstname>&  
  LASTNAME=<lastname>&  
  TIMESTAMP=<timestamp>&  
  VERIFY=<validatehash>
```

<nuid>: this is the primary key in my database of accounts. I have no way to verify the correctness of the values you pass because I have no access to the NUID's for past students. Essentially, I am trusting whatever you send to be the primary identity for the user. This really should be the NUID if the user has one. The value must be composed of letters and numbers and be from 8 - 12 characters. Real NUID's, of course, are always 8 digits. If no account already exists with the given <nuid>, the user will be presented a form to create an

account. If an account already exists with the given <nuid>, the user will be presented with an information/maintenance page for the account.

<firstname> , <lastname> : only used to attach a screen name to the account and to suggest usernames. The values themselves are never verified nor stored.

<timestamp>: the current time in unix epoch-seconds. Since clocks are not always in perfect sync, I use a +/- 30 second window to determine the validity of the request.

<validatehash>: a hash of the preceding values used to insure the request was generated by an authorized client. Here's how to generate the hash:

(1) start with this message:

<nuid>:<firstname>:<lastname>:<timestamp>

(2) using a shared key that we shall establish between our systems, make a HMAC/SHA1 hash of the value from (1)

(3) base64 encode the value from (2)