



Office of the Technology Services

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TECHNOLOGY SERVICES
Data/Network/Web Management
Electronic Media
Publications
Technical Support and Training

Southern University Ag Center

Office of Technology Service

Policy Statement on Website Hosting and URL Addressing

Because the websites of Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center's (Southern University Ag Center) divisions (Research and Extension), program areas and affiliated programs reflect upon the Center as a whole, it is necessary to define policies concerning fundamental elements of collaborative web development for the Center. These policies have been adopted not as restrictions to progress or impedances, but as uniform guidelines to remedy immediate and foreseeable problems with the distributed website development and maintenance system now in place.

1. Hosting

The Southern University Ag Center provides web hosting free of charge on 24/7 supported, high bandwidth systems. The Office of Technology Services (OTS) likewise provides account creation and software for accessing these systems, as well as basic training upon request on using the system (please note that OTS does not provide web development training). In addition, the Southern University Ag Center OTS provides dedicated application server space for more sophisticated development initiatives, such as dynamic web sites, web application services, database integration, and streaming technologies. These services are provided at minimal cost, as the environment space is shared among multiple entities. In addition, Southern University Ag Center OTS has a development division whose primary mission is to provide Center-wide web services in coordination with the specific needs of users and its clientele. Thus, it is neither technically nor fiscally viable for each Center unit to operate its own web server, negotiate contracts with third party hosting companies, or procure web service or domain name from any external vendor.

2. URLs

The official URL for the Southern University Ag Center shall be ***http://www.suagcenter.com***, and it is not necessary to operate one's own web server to achieve an abbreviated or customized web address. Divisional websites, as well as any other programs or offices which report directly to the Center's central administration, should be referenced one level below ***http://www.suagcenter.com/DIVISIONNAME*** (case insensitive). This will be the official URL, as recognized by the Southern University Ag Center, and can be redirected elsewhere. No Exceptions!!!

3. Policy on Web Advertisements

Southern University and Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center are considered non-profit entities, and thus cannot engage in commercial advertisement on any of their websites, whether Center hosted or not. Sites hosted on ISP or public domain servers which rotate advertising banners constitute a violation of Center policy and are not permitted links from other Center pages or rights to use the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center's name.

4. Commercial Domain Names

The Center provides a full range of DNS services, in addition to the Southern University Ag Center's OTS managed directory structure beneath <http://www.suagcenter.com>. If desired, it is possible to create domain aliases in the *suagcenter.com* domain without the unnecessary expenditure and configuration associated with purchasing *.net* or other external domain names. Per Center policy, all officially recognized Southern University Ag Center websites must exist within the *suagcenter.com* domain. Sites hosted externally or with *.net* or other domains extensions may not use official Southern University Ag Center logos, represent themselves as official Southern University Ag Center sites, or obtain links from official Southern University Ag Center sites.

5. Changes to URL

Changes to official site locations impact the entire Center's website, as every link to the site must be updated whenever a change occurs. Thus, if a Southern University Ag Center entity wishes to change its URL, it must first inform Southern University Ag Center's OTS so the official site redirect can be established. It is seldom necessary to actually change the physical location of the website files, as DNS aliases are quickly and easily created to change the "preferred" URL, while the old address continues to function.

For questions about this policy, please contact:

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