A new computer program is changing the way Utility Information Group (UIG) team members work. The program, named Logic, is a dashboard and database of utility meter readings that simplifies the process of finding and sharing data about energy consumption.

I think it will really change the way we do things and make things a lot easier.

Mark Menefee, Assistant Director, Utilities Operation Division

Logic was created by a company named Sensus, which IU has been working with for about a decade. Sensus meters on campus use radio transmission to communicate their readings to an antenna on top of Ballantine Hall. This antenna is capable of reading Sensus meters within a 13-mile radius, which eliminates the need for staff to physically visit each meter site.

However, not all of the over-1,000 meters on campus are from Sensus, so Utility Metering Analyst Ian Yarbrough still traverses campus a few days each month to collect readings. A major advantage of Logic is that it allows an import of data from other sources, including ION meters, chilled water meters, and some meters that Yarbrough reads manually, thereby serving as one resource for all utility data.

The UIG started using Logic a few months ago. It’s a slow process of setting up the relationships and calculations so that the data coming out of the system is correct and clear. In the end, it will be worth it to move away from the current system — Yarbrough joked about inheriting 15 years of Excel spreadsheets.

One of the main benefits of Logic will be its ability to summarize all utility consumption for a building at one time — be it gas, water, chilled water, steam, and/or electric. Some of IU’s campus buildings are certified by LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), which means they were built with sustainability in mind. UIG Analyst Andrea Moore said with Logic, it will be easier to look at the effects of LEED design backed up by numbers.

Complete, timely data can help you make smarter decisions,” Moore said.

This is the ultimate goal of Logic — to make data more accessible. UIG Manager Lee Walters said. The more data the University has to work with, the better it can plan new projects and renovations. Walters also wants the dashboard to be available in a read-only setting for anyone looking for data, including students working on sustainability initiatives or engineers planning for infrastructure upgrades.

The UIG has already incorporated Logic into some of its operations. They will work now through the first quarter of 2017 to get the non-Sensus meters incorporated into Logic. From there, they’ll be able to expand the use of Logic in their operations and broaden the audience that can see and use it.

“We’re really interested in how far this software can go,” Walters said.
Don’t let stress get the best of you

Between work life and personal life, sometimes we get more on our plate than we can handle – and stress sets in fast. Stress is damaging to both mental and physical health, so it’s important to keep it in check as much as possible.

The IU Employee Assistance Program (IUEAP) is a voluntary program that provides professional, confidential counseling to help individuals bring their life into better balance. IUEAP is available to all Full-time Staff, as well as their household members. To obtain service, call the 24/7 helpline: 1-888-234-8327. All fees are paid by the University, and all contacts with the IUEAP are guaranteed confidentiality. Visit hr.iu.edu/benefits/eap for more information.

Recycle to help the Green Team!
The Office of Sustainability has a goal to reduce campus waste by 40% by 2020.

Green Team members at the Service Building are working to help reach that goal, but they need your help. Here are some common office products that need not end up in a landfill:

- Soda cans
- Soup cans
- Post-it notes
- Cardboard on coffee cup
- Batteries (use the bin by the Storeroom)
- Any plastic items with chasing arrows #1-7
- Batteries (use the bin by the Storeroom)
- Any plastic items with chasing arrows #1-7

Also, putting trash in the recycle bins may contaminate the recycling to the point where it must all be thrown away. Refrain from recycling:

- Stickers
- Blueprints
- Paper cups and food wrappers
- Paper towels, napkins and tissues
- Wrapper on reams of printer paper

If you have any questions about what should and shouldn’t go into the recycling bin, ask any member of the Green Team!

Fitness at any age

At 64 years old, Linda Hunt can do yoga, flip a tire, and deadlift her body weight.

Hunt, Assistant Vice President for Capital Planning and Facilities, couldn’t imagine being able to do anything so physical four years ago, when she was 60 pounds heavier. She wants people to know that it’s possible to lose weight and become healthy at any age.

“This is the first time in my life that I would describe myself as an athlete,” Hunt said.

Before her transformation, Hunt also was a smoker. She’d started when she was 18 and tried to quit four times before but always went back. In August 2012, she decided she was done.

After getting over nicotine withdrawal, Hunt enrolled in an exercise program and nutrition plan. She said the weight loss came with a lot of persistence, determination, and, on days when she didn’t go to the gym or ate unhealthily, self-forgiveness. Now, she pays close attention to what she eats by writing it down each day in a food log. “It’s not easy,” Hunt said. “It’s about choices, and it’s doable.”

This year, Hunt ran in the Warrior Dash – a 5k race with 12 obstacles. The race is extremely challenging and draws elite athletes to compete. Hunt said she’s had two major events in her life: getting married and completing the Warrior Dash.

Hunt’s next goal is to complete a triathlon. She has maintained her current weight for a year and a half, and she plans to get stronger.

“I want to live the rest of my life thinking of my body as an asset rather than a liability,” Hunt said.

Want to hear more? Linda said she would be happy to speak with anyone who may need help with their own weight loss. You can reach her at lhunt@iu.edu. You can also read more about Linda’s story at https://journey.healthy.iu.edu/linda-hunt.html.
Employee spotlight: Hobbies
Facility Operations staff share their interests outside of the workplace

Daryle Cofield, Building Services Area Coordinator, began writing fiction in 1975. He wrote three novels, but none went to print, so he switched to short stories in the early ’90s.

“I write for fun, but I always have 20 friends waiting for my next story,” Cofield said.

Now, Cofield is close to retirement – and to publication. He retired from Facility Operations at the end of November, and in December his book of 31 short stories is set to be released. Publishing a book has been one of Cofield’s goals for decades, and he plans to give his book out to family and friends as Christmas presents.

“It was something I wanted to personally accomplish,” Cofield said.

The content in Cofield’s stories is 10 percent true and 90 percent imagination, he said. He enjoys writing Westerns and has had two short stories published on an online Western magazine, Elbow Creek. He also writes mysteries, dramas, and historical fiction. One of his stories is loosely based on his Army experience in Vietnam.

Post-retirement, Cofield hopes to start taking writing classes so he can finish one of his full-length novels.

“I love doing it,” Cofield said. “You can’t find a cheaper pastime than sitting there making up stories.”

Equipment Repair Specialist Chris Daugherty is better known around Facility Operations as “Chopper,” a nickname he was given by retired Building Services Group Leader David Lane. Chopper spends much of his time outside of work on special projects, such as improving a grill that he’s been building since 1993.

Chopper uses the grill for family events, birthday parties, and Building Services cookouts. Cooking has always been one of his favorite hobbies, he said, and he can make anything “from eggs to half a hog.”

Chopper said he uses homemade molasses in many of his dishes. His family gets together for a weekend each year to make about 50 gallons of molasses by harvesting sugar cane and running it through a mill. He sells it to Musgrave Orchard, gives out samples at the farmer’s market, and mixes it to make his own BBQ sauce.

Outside of grilling, Chopper likes to work with his hands: A few of his projects include removing the factory-made flatbed on his truck and replacing it with his own, installing plywood flooring in a friend’s house, and painting bear tracks at his son’s elementary school. He also recently took apart his motorcycle, sanded it down, and repainted it.

“I like to do a little of everything,” Daugherty said. “Jack of all trades, master of none.”

Heavy equipment training places emphasis on safety

In October, Facility Operations staff members were trained in the Heavy Equipment Vehicle Safety Program. They met early in the morning at the nursery to learn the basics of operating backhoe loaders, which require significant due diligence and spatial awareness when operating.

Experienced operators Carlos Webb and Greg Humphrey led the hands-on training. Trainees learned to check the tires and hydraulics on the machines and got to try their hands at using them. Humphrey said it can take between five and 10 years to really get comfortable with a backhoe. He compared it to a car: “It’s easy to run one, but it’s different to operate one,” Humphrey said.

Backhoes can be used for a wide variety of jobs, from moving dirt to transferring heavy material or equipment. Webb and Humphrey said typically they have about 10 different tasks to perform in a day. Both have been operating backhoes for many years: nine for Webb and 32 for Humphrey.

There are many aspects of backhoe operation that can make their operation challenging. A backhoe’s bucket – the heavy front attachment that scoops dirt – can cause significant damage to vehicles, utility pipes and potentially people. Humphrey and Webb agreed that backhoes are most difficult to operate on campus around students who often use earbuds or are looking at their phones.

As part of the safety training, even those who likely won’t operate backhoes on a daily basis became more aware of how they can help ensure the safety of everyone involved.
When it comes to landscape equipment, Dan Hill and Jason Hearth can fix everything – from broken mowers and flat tires to campus equipment. While they do make onsite calls, most of the time they can be found in the garage.

“I like working on a wide variety of equipment,” Hearth said. “I can’t think of anything we don’t work on.”

Their tasks include doing an overhead on a diesel, rebuilding a PTO (power take-off), welding, and more, Hill said. Given their skill, it’s rare for the two to send a piece of equipment out to be fixed as they can perform most projects in the shop. Since he’s been here, Hill said, the quality of equipment has improved immensely as they have more and more new equipment.

“If we don’t have something and it’s easier to make it, we’ll just make it rather than going out and buying it,” he said.

Both Hearth and Hill have background in working with a variety of equipment. Hearth worked on race cars for about 10 years before getting hired at a landscaping company, where he repaired tractors and mowers. He’s been with IU Facility Operations for about a year.

Hill started out as a gas station attendant when he was 16 years old. He then moved on to automotive work before getting into equipment repair 18 years ago.

Hill said communication is a huge part of his job. Everyone works together, and it helps having people around he enjoys working with.

“It’s a great group of people to work with because you’re always doing something different,” Hill said. “It’s not like you’re working on the same thing over and over again. It keeps the job interesting.”

Old and New: An Assembly Hall icon

Top: The center court display in the Facility Operations carpenter shop before it was cut and installed in the north lobby of Simon Skjodt Assembly Hall. The display is made from sections of the old basketball floor, which could be removed for concerts and circuses. Wes Jones, General Supervisor in the Carpenter Shop, cut out the design and made the trim to go around the edges.

Bottom: Jim Crabb, left, and Wes Jones carefully assemble the center court display inside Simon Skjodt Assembly Hall.