

Re: May ITCC meeting

Thursday, May 12, 2011
8:42 AM

Subject	Re: May ITCC meeting
From	Insall, Matt
To	Insall, Matt
Cc	Worsey, Paul Nicholas; Zawodniok, Maciej Jan; Gao, Stephen S.; Wunsch, Donald C.; itcc-grp@mst.edu; Chancellor, Beth C.; Allen, Gary K.; Isaac, Kakkattukuzhy M.; ajberry@usa.net; Cline, Margaret; Hale, Barbara N.; Liu, Xiaoqing Frank; Lutzen, Karl F.; Madria, Sanjay; Miller, Ann; Potthast, Adam; samulde@sandia.gov; Stanley, R. Joe; Tauritz, Daniel R.
Sent	Tuesday, May 10, 2011 11:59 PM

The recent response by vice president Gary Allen and Ms. Chancellor to my email message focused on the concern that I (we faculty) should not be denied the ability or right to archive our important email messages. I am glad that it has been made clear that We may archive our email messages. However, it still appears that a more dire issue is not addressed, namely the following from my recent email message:

"Green or not green, I want to have a record in my possession, of every important transaction with which I am involved"

The operative phrase is of course "in my possession". But if the archives are not "in my possession", then it seems that the only way I will be guaranteed the ability and right to satisfy this concern is to print a physical copy of every email message I send or receive. This is, as was originally mentioned in the email message forwarded by Stephen Gao, a tremendous waste of time and effort and supplies and resources. It will lead to significant decreases in productivity.

Now, some of the responses of Vice President Allen and Ms. Chancellor to Stephen Gao and Maciej Zawodniok do appear to indicate that perhaps faculty and staff will still be able to archive emails that they deem important enough to keep, but in light of the earlier email on this topic from Don Wunsch [2011-05-09(Monday)], in item 4, in which it is suggested that even technological means may be applied in order to keep individuals from archiving email messages, it seems to me that the heart of the matter still remains unscathed. We need to know that such a technological effort to curtail our individual professional record keeping efforts is not 'on the table', as it were. For I have no desire to find myself some day unable, due to university policy, perhaps combined with some natural disaster or colossal peoplesoft-reminiscent system failure, to document my role in helping to make an important decision to which I contributed.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 10, 2011, at 11:02, Professor Matt Insall <insall@mst.edu> wrote:

Consider also a recent Chronicle of Higher Education article on the resignation of the UIUC campus IT Director, rather than support a similar move by the University of Illinois system to "centralize" IT control far away from faculty.

There was, as I understand it, a time when universities were run by faculty for the purpose of furthering the knowledge of the human race, by performing original research, intellectual enquiry, transferring technology, performing and exhibiting arts, debating religious, philosophical, and societal issues of significant import, and mentoring students and other apprentices, who would then endeavor to carry on that tradition. One former colleague, who now is retired, used to say

that if the students and faculty left The campus for a week, the administrators wouldn't notice. I hope that is not the case. But is his sentiment now becoming a more accurate assessment if 'the system' replaces 'the administrators' and 'the four campuses' replaces 'the faculty and students'?

Sent from my iPhone

On May 10, 2011, at 9:47, "Worsey, Paul Nicholas" <pworsey@mst.edu> wrote:

There is another issue that I don't think anyone has thought about and that is band width. When I was in San Diego at a conference in February Blackboard was lightning fast from my old motel, faster than I had ever managed to do anything before on campus. This lead myself and my GTAs to come to the sneaky suspicion that the blackboard servers are in California not Rolla. Moving the mail servers to System in Columbia will probably result in slower email retrieval. I think system would like to eliminate IT positions at our campus and draw them into system. The system budget is already larger than S&T. It is the 5th hidden campus with no students.

Paul

-----Original Message-----

From: mzawodniok@gmail.com [<mailto:mzawodniok@gmail.com>] On Behalf Of Maciej Zawodniok

Sent: Monday, May 09, 2011 5:59 PM

To: Insall, Matt

Cc: Gao, Stephen S.; Wunsch, Donald C.; itcc-grp@mst.edu; Chancellor, Beth C.; Allen, Gary K.; Isaac, Kakkattukuzhy M.; ajberry@usa.net; Cline, Margaret; Hale, Barbara N.; Liu, Xiaoqing Frank; Lutzen, Karl F.; Madria, Sanjay; Miller, Ann; Potthast, Adam; samulde@sandia.gov; Stanley, R. Joe; Tauritz, Daniel R.; Worsey, Paul Nicholas

Subject: Re: May ITCC meeting

I fully agree with Matt - there is no reason for preventing us from archiving our emails in any reasonable manner (campus-issues laptop, USB drive, etc.) I believe it also would be very difficult for them to legally defend such action (unless related to a "top secret" documents - which is entirely different ball game).

With regards to point 3 (Don's email), I can understand that from legal perspective the university might be required to archive all emails. However, I concur that there will be a very high cost associated with it. I personally accumulate 2-3GB of useful emails each year. Scaling to entire campus or UM system over several years, we might need to build a data-center to keep it. On the bright side we would have another source of "green" (\$\$\$\$) heat for the campus....

Similarly, I might accept consolidation of the email into one system - with reasonable approach and execution (certainly not rushing it next month) it could render savings and improved performance. However, as Stephen pointed out, the past "success stories" make me question how realistic it would be.

Finally, as to forcing us to use the ONLY RIGHT SYSTEM and nothing else - coming from socialistic "Eastern Block" I get red-hot-headed.... against it. It is counter productive and futile in enforcement - thus give an excuse for punishing whoever the administration wants.

Best wishes
Maciej Zawodniok

On Mon, May 9, 2011 at 4:43 PM, Insall, Matt <insall@mst.edu> wrote:

I fully agree with the sentiments expressed in the email message Stephen Gao has forwarded to us.

In fact, if these policy decisions are implemented, then I am likely to stop using email for anything important at all. The reasons would be essentially exactly those that were outlined in the feedback Stephen has forwarded to us. This would be a significant step back for me, and I daresay, for the entire system, because I was trying to "go paperless", as I think is a goal of many here. This endeavor would then come to a screeching halt. Green or not green, I want to have a record in my possession, of every important transaction with which I am involved. Denying me the right to archive my email messages prevents me from trying to have that capability. Thus this is a deal breaker for me. I would not vote in favor of this ever.

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Essays:
<http://web.mst.edu/~insall/Essays/Bernoulli%20Functions%20versus%20modern%20functions/>
<http://web.mst.edu/~insall/Essays/Consistency%20in%20Mathematics/>
<http://web.mst.edu/~insall/Essays/First%20Lines/>
<http://web.mst.edu/~insall/Essays/Set%20Theory/>

Effective Jan. 1, 2008, UMR became Missouri University of Science and Technology (Missouri S&T)

PS: visit lulu.com!

viaR03

-----Original Message-----

From: Gao, Stephen S. [<mailto:sgao@mst.edu>]

Sent: Monday, May 09, 2011 3:50 PM

To: Wunsch, Donald C.; itcc-grp@mst.edu

Cc: Chancellor, Beth C.; Allen, Gary K.; Isaac, Kakkattukuzhy M.;

ajberry@usa.net; Cline, Margaret; Hale, Barbara N.; Liu, Xiaoqing Frank; Lutzen, Karl F.; Madria, Sanjay; Miller, Ann; Potthast, Adam; samulde@sandia.gov; Stanley, R. Joe; Tauritz, Daniel R.; Worsley, Paul Nicholas; Zawodniok, Maciej Jan
Subject: RE: May ITCC meeting

Hi Don and everyone else,

I forwarded the proposal to the faculty in my department and received some feedbacks. The one below is the strongest and most detailed. At the request of the sender, I removed a few sentences. Just for your information.

Steve Gao, Department of Geological Sciences and Engineering.

This proposed system will sap productivity and brings to mind the disaster that is Peoplesoft. It should be opposed at all levels. The Chancellor and Provost should be asked to get involved and listen to the faculty members and not be swayed by the self-serving argument of the legal and information security personnel. These types of systems come in with great promise and then end up with great disappointment. Consider these things that have been implemented in the last 5 years or so:

- 1) Everyone hates Peoplesoft accounting; it cost \$40 million to implement and requires each department to hire a specialist.
- 2) Nobody likes BlackBoard; the latest revision made a slow un-intuitive interface even more un-intuitive.
- 3) Momentum (web authoring software) is so difficult to use, un-intuitive, and inefficient that we need to hire web developers when we used to be able to do this all ourselves.
- 4) Joe'SS works OK, but is very poorly laid out and inefficient (Did I mention un-intuitive).
- 5) Student email changes made last year have been met with significant student complaints. It is not overstating the case to call this a debacle from the viewpoint of the students.

In short what is being proposed is another "debacle" that will undoubtedly result in increase cost and reduced productivity, from the same people that brought us the previous debacles. Although I have no reason to believe this, it is possible that the new software works as advertised (unlike the other junk that has been foisted upon us), but it will still reduce efficiency. For instance, when we travel using our current system and cannot connect to the web, we can still go over old emails, answer them, draft new ones, and send them once we get back in connection with the internet. The new system would prohibit this in multiple ways. And how can it be decided that important emails cannot be archived by the user when there is no guarantee that the university will keep these available? And how do you organize and retrieve old emails? If anything like the web-base Outlook application, the tools are just not there and it will be a slow and cumbersome task to find and retrieve older messages.

Let me suggest the following: If Columbia wants this, let them commence a two year pilot project over there, and solicit faculty feedback after that. Let each campus decide.

From: Wunsch, Donald C. [<mailto:dwunsch@mst.edu>]
Sent: Thu 5/5/2011 11:11
To: itcc-grp@mst.edu
Cc: Chancellor, Beth C.; Allen, Gary K.; Isaac, Kakkattukuzhy M.;
ajberry@usa.net; Cline, Margaret; Hale, Barbara N.; Liu, Xiaoqing
Frank; Lutzen, Karl F.; Madria, Sanjay; Miller, Ann; Potthast, Adam;
samulde@sandia.gov; Stanley, R. Joe; Tauritz, Daniel R.; Worsey, Paul
Nicholas; Zawodniok, Maciej Jan
Subject: FW: May ITCC meeting

Dear ITCC members,

We will definitely continue the discussion of email concerns in the next ITCC meeting. Attached is a document wherein the UMSys is considering the following steps:

1. Consolidating all email into one big system.
2. Requiring us to use that system, and not alternative email services.
3. Archiving the emails centrally, for a duration decided by the system and not by the user.
4. Prohibiting (and preventing through technological and policy measures) the individual archiving of emails.
5. Doing this all very rapidly, i.e., July or August 2011.

While there are legitimate reasons cited for these steps, there are also reasons for significant concerns about a policy change of this magnitude. And the speed of planned implementation is definitely something we should discuss.

By cc: of this email I'm asking K.M. Isaac to have RP&A place the ITCC Report on the agenda of the June Faculty Senate meeting. We had planned to report in September but we will probably want to weigh in on this issue before the changes become a fait accompli. Also our IFC Representative should be alerted to weigh in on this today if at all possible.

Please plan to attend the May meeting and send an alternate from your department if you can't make it.

Thanks!

Yours truly,

Don

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Missouri University of Science & Technology is known as Missouri S&T for short. It was

previously known as the University of Missouri - Rolla (UMR).

From: Cline, Margaret
Sent: Thursday, May 05, 2011 10:18 AM
To: Wunsch, Donald C.
Subject: RE: May ITCC meeting

Don,

In the CIO meeting this morning, the attached document was distributed. I understand it will be presented to the IFC later today. Please distribute it to the membership.

From: Wunsch, Donald C. [<mailto:dwunsch@mst.edu>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2011 4:43 PM
To: itcc-grp@mst.edu
Subject: May ITCC meeting

Dear ITCC Colleagues,

The May meeting is coming fast upon us!

Please send any suggested agenda items if you wish. Margaret and I will meet Monday to discuss it but anything you send before then will also be considered.

One thing we will do is the usual approval of the minutes. They were sent out just after the previous meeting are attached again for your convenience.

The ITCC meeting will be next Wednesday, May 11, 4-5:30, in room 236 EECH.

Thanks!

Yours truly,

Don

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previously known as the University of Missouri - Rolla (UMR).

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Best wishes

Maciej Zawodniok

Assistant Professor

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Assistant Director, Missouri S&T NSF I/UCRC

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