

ITCC Meeting Minutes November 13, 2013

Attending: Thomas Vojta, Nicholas Fouche, Cheryl Ahrens, Greg Smith, David Esping, Angie Hammons, Maggie Trish, Roger Weaver, Gerry O'Brennan, Abhijit Gosavi, Jeff Schramm, Richard Dawes, John Singler, Bob Cesarior, Al Crosbie, Maciej Zawodniok, Behzad Talaei, John Bax, Lori Duncan

Meeting called to order at 4:00 PM.

1. Approval of October's minutes.

Motion to approve by R. Dawes & A. Gosavi 2nds. Unanimous vote to pass.

2. Password change policy & process (Greg Smith on behalf of Karl Lutzen)

The plans are to meet with academic and administrative departments at least once per year to introduce changes such as the password reset changes. At the meetings we will go over the security items of importance, likely there will be new items annually, as regulations, UM policies are changing. For the first year, it will be predominantly the password reset change and likely the workstation mobile device data classification system policy. We will encourage the faculty/staff to change their campus passwords after the meetings to spread out the number of people that will be impacted by turning on the controls. Also, we will send out email reminders that the change is coming. Then later in 2014, prior to Fall or at the end of the Fall semester, depending on how many people we reached, we will change the global policy object to force an annual password change. That is, the longest you can keep a password is 365 days. The only accounts exempt from this change will be service accounts which are used by applications and other campus services. These are accounts that are not used outside controlled environments.

We will also want to create some notification application to let campus know their password is nearing expiration. We have not built that piece yet and need to get that done prior to the global policy object change.

As for a policy, as we discussed that this isn't really a policy, but rather our campus password standard and will just become part of that standard. We will get that modified and forwarded to the security subcommittee when it is ready.

The CIOs on all 4 campuses have also decided to purchase security awareness training videos from SAN, similar to the Preventing Sexual Harassment training videos, that everyone will be required to watch a few videos each year.

3. Update on Missouri S&T web presence and IT's involvement (Greg Smith)

The Chancellor, Provost Wray & IT are assisting EMARCOMM in filling 2 FTE for web services. Chemistry dept. is very much interested in this service. We will probably stay with Terminal 4 as the front system, but there is some discussion on getting some add-ons. We would not rule out having student workers assist as well. Greg is working closely with Andy Careaga. We would also consider giving each department a WordPress

account that they would control, and use for secondary pages probably following some WordPress template guidelines. Please express your concerns to EMARCOMM.

4. Learning Management System, LMS (Blackboard) replacement (Jeff Schramm)
(See handout) Bb is NOT being replaced. We are looking very carefully at Bb & other alternatives to see which meets our needs the best. A unanimous decision was made by the committee to explore other options. We hope to have a demo sometime before Christmas. The goal is to have a decision made by Summer 2014. If you want to be on the committee, let Angie Hammons know.

Gosavi – EMAN department is very concerned about possibly losing Bb. They are just now getting used to Bb & tickets are very slow to be responded to. They are concerned about a high learning curve for a new system. Will all faculty on campus be allowed to submit their vote?

Jeff Schramm – the LMS committee will take their findings to the faculty senate first; we would like student input as well, but this should mostly be a faculty decision. Please encourage all of your faculty to get involved now.

5. Desktop enhancement program proposal for Mac users (Greg Smith)
(see handout) We offer the 13” MacBook for no additional cost. If you want the 15” MacBook there will be cost sharing involved. The figures quoted on this handout don’t reflect the new faculty coming in. Vojta would like to see a grandfather clause for existing users. IT will work with departments with unique requirements such as Music.

6. “Big data” computing (Greg Smith)

There’s been a lot of discussion because of various centers for excellence that the depts. are working on. We are heavily involved in this. Comp Sci, BIT & Comp Eng are moving forward with certificate programs. SAP is the leader in in-memory, but we are going to look further into a HANA project where we may host other universities. We are really interested in applying this In-Memory model to our STEM programs and research.

We have registered XSEDE Champion now. We submitted the paperwork & registration, but are not fully up to speed just yet. We want a version that will allow us to pilot this new in-memory processing.

New Business

7. Denial of service attacks – The latest attacks were DFS related. The attacks are retaliatory attacks to gamers on this campus. We can’t stop the attacker, but we can block the attack after it is identified. We will probably be investing in some additional bandwidth shaping network appliances as well as some stricter policies.
8. Wireless – in particular better coverage in the Physics building. The goal is for all academic space to have wireless coverage. If you have a specific need, just let us know.

Meeting adjourned at 5:04 pm.