Software Asset Management Roundtable: September 15, 2015

Attendees: Tom Battaglia, Jay Bruns, Kit Edington, Mary Ann Flockerzi, Kathy Garramone, Sherri McWilliams, Jay Michalik, Jesse Neidigh, Barry Obie, Marvin Paulson, James Poelstra, Suzanne Purdum, Wesley Samson, Janet Sedgley, Ivy Wells

Announcements: Kathy Garramone, IT-TSS

- Office 2016
  - Available for UM employees and students through UM’s MSCA beginning approximately October 1.
  - Students will have access through their UMConnect accounts. The software will be distributed to employees through their departmental IT staff. Kathy will communicate its availability through Tech Partners.

- SPSS
  - License keys for the new contract year (9-1-15 to 8-31-16) are now in place on the SPSS server. Those of you who have faculty/staff with standalone licenses will need to obtain new licenses. The 30 day grace period ends September 30. Please contact Kathy for assistance.

- Windows 10
  - Windows 10 Education and Windows 10 Enterprise are available for distribution. Please complete an Enterprise Software Request available on the IT website for ISO copies of the software.

Adobe CC campus license update: Tom Battaglia, ACIO, IT-TSS

- In 2012 Adobe’s purchasing model changed from perpetual to subscription based. Purchasing Adobe products for UM and most universities across the country became unaffordable. At UM spending dropped from $80,000/year to $10,000/year. In 2013 UM and MSU negotiated enterprise licensing for CC and Adobe Acrobat. The contract price was cost-prohibitive and UM dropped out of negotiations.

- In early Spring 2015 Central IT met with Adobe campus stakeholders to revisit the feasibility and desire for a campus wide agreement. The focus of these discussions has been on CC for UM academics – student computer labs and some faculty machines. At the same time we obtained a count of Adobe use on campus. The numbers continues to grow as more and more campus members learn about our efforts.

- Since the Adobe meetings, Tom has been negotiating with our new Adobe rep and we are close to reaching an agreement. The agreement includes 450 Adobe CC licenses for academic use, to cover student labs and faculty machines. For FY 16, Central IT is fronting the cost of the licenses and will reach out to departments to share in this cost. The Student Computer Fee Committee has agreed to provide $20,000 in contingency funding to help with this year’s purchase. The final cost is still being negotiated.

- During FY 17 and beyond, Academic Affairs has committed to funding the purchase.

- We will be tracking the installations. Once we can justify a certain usage, we may be able to consider adding Adobe Acrobat Pro to the agreement and include administrative licensing.

- We plan to move other products to this new model, such as SPSS and other pervasive types of applications.
Comment (Sherri McWilliams): Adobe Acrobat Pro is used a lot on campus. It’s also accessible. Now is the time to compile administrative use. Acrobat is moving from a tool to a standard.

Question (Mary Ann Flockerzi): Is Adobe CC available to staff? Not through the contract, but it can be purchased for the same price through Central IT. (More information on this to come...)

LANDesk TUMS (Total User Management Suite) update: Tom Battaglia, ACIO, IT-TSS

- LANDesk Total User Management Suite is an integrated systems, security and mobility management solution to help maximize user productivity while reducing IT complexity, cost and risk. More about TUMS is available on the Software section of the IT website.
- LANDesk TUMS is now self-funded by Central IT as a campus-wide license. There are products included in the suite that we haven’t used yet. It’s very sophisticated. Key products: remote management tools (pushing scheduled updates, usage reports, create images for particular groups who use the same software); distribution tool for Kapersky anti-virus and malware; Service Desk (IT service desk management system that dovetails with the remote tools).
- We are checking into the options for an onsite LANDesk boot camp training for UM IT staff. We are also planning to begin a LANDesk users group. Our goal with LANDesk is to have many campus experts, both in Central IT and distributed IT, who can share expertise and collaborate closely. Joe Allred is spearheading both of these efforts.

Accessibility: VPAT, Janet Sedgley, Manager, Accessible Technology Services

- Janet provided an overview of the VPAT (Voluntary Product Accessibility Template). Vendors who wish to do business with UM must provide information about their product’s conformance to applicable accessibility standards via the Section 508 Evaluation Template, also known as the VPAT. The VPAT is one way for vendors to indicate accessibility compliance.
- Completion and submission of the VPAT is a requirement for UM contracts for products and services where electronic and information technology is involved. Proposals or bids without a completed VPAT may be disqualified from the competition.
- See the EITA (Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility) website for further information about EITA Policy and Procedures and Electronic Accessibility requirements.

Open Discussion

- VMware Academic Program. Kit Edington, CFC IT staff, uses VMware products (VMWare Fusion/Parallels/VirtualBox). VMware can be purchased at the department level for $250 or at a campus level for $1250.00. Is this something that could be centrally funded for cost-savings? Tom and Kathy will check further into this. We will also will query departmental usage of VMware products.
- Tom suggested that we solicit ideas for other software titles similar to VMware that would be more cost-effective when purchased as a campus-wide license.

The next SAM Roundtable is scheduled for: Tuesday, October 20, 10:00-11:00am, UC. Please direct software questions/comments to software@umontana.edu.