Software Asset Management Roundtable: March 15, 2016

Attendees: Joe Allred, Kit Edington, Mary Ann Flockerzi, Kathy Garramone, Quinton Greenhagen, Su Gregerson, Robert Logan, Becky Maier, Sherri McWilliams, Jay Michalik, Jonathan Neff, Jeramy Parker, Marvin Paulson, Suzanne Purdum, Wesley Samson, Eric Tangedahl, Mika Watanabe

Microsoft Home Use Program update (Kathy)

• The Microsoft Home Use Program (HUP) is now available for purchase to current UM employees. Current UM employees are eligible to purchase one copy of Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2016 (PC) or Office for Home and Business 2016 for Mac to be installed on one personally owned device. This offering is for a perpetual license (i.e. one time only purchase as opposed to subscription-based yearly software licensing purchases). Further information is available on the IT website at: http://www.umt.edu/it/services/software/products/ms_hup.php

Microsoft Work at Home – new information (Kathy)

• We’ve learned that our Microsoft EES agreement (through the WAH program) allows us to provide Windows upgrade licenses for current employees for home computers (work at home) through our software web store. This program was managed up to this point through the UM Bookstore. The program is sun-setting, but there are still some offerings available, including Windows. The cost is $9.95 and the licenses are “upgrade only” licenses” for Windows 7, 8.1 and 10. We are reviewing this availability to determine if it will be a beneficial offering. As soon as we are comfortable with a decision, we will communicate with you through Tech Partners.

Qualtrics update (Kathy)

• UM’s Qualtrics campus-wide agreement is in the process of being renewed for a 3-year term. UM and our affiliate campuses are participating in the renewal.
• Qualtrics offers Academic Add-ons, such as an Offline app. Departments will be responsible for funding Add-on purchases. If you would like to learn more about these options, contact Kathy.

Campus Windows and Office upgrade discussion (Joe Allred, IT-CSS)

Joe asked for input on academic campus unit plans to upgrade to Windows 10 and Office 2016 for curriculum purposes. Here are comments from that discussion:

• (Eric Tangedahl) SOBA. Sean Clouse was bolder about upgrading sooner than Eric feels comfortable doing. SOBA’s plan is to upgrade employees to Office 2016 and Windows 10 this upcoming summer. It’s the best time because of busy schedules during the academic year. He doesn’t do full upgrades. Regarding the faculty roll out, each year they upgrade one third of faculty. Then they get labs to match. Currently SOBA has Windows 8.1 installed and it is giving issues. Feedback is indicating that Windows 10 is better. He plans to upgrade both at same time; as well as for people who ask.
• Joe mentioned that Tom Gallagher, Missoula College, is hesitant to upgrade because MC was burned on releasing 2013 too soon and vendors weren’t ready causing compatibility issues for students.
• Many units have the viewpoint that whatever SOBA does, we should follow suit.
• Eric commented that they don’t teach certification classes in Office. There are no Office 2016 certifications. Reasons for upgrade: consistency for help desk and across the board.
• Joe asked the group to share any Office 2016 issues. Kit Edington (CFC) said he had some difficulty with the email auto discover process working correctly and worked with Reda Haddouch (Central IT) to resolve it.
• Jeramy Parker (Media Arts): Office 2016 for Mac is better than 2011.
• Jonathan Neff (CHPBS): His campus unit is still on Windows 7. He’s not planning to upgrade this summer, but his staff is burning Office 2016 on their images.
• LANDesk/Office 2016 and El Capitan: Joe will check again with LANDesk. Plan is to have a patch or service pack. Server name is UM-LDMS. To use it you have to upgrade your console.
• Joe asked the group about installation preferences – upgrade from current version, or uninstall current version and then install new version. Feedback indicated most prefer uninstall/then install – issues occur less often this way. For Macs, Jeramy Parker installs the new version and then uninstalls the old version.

Funding for SPSS, Adobe CC and ArcGIS. Has there been any more discussion about centralizing the funding for these prominent campus applications?

• Kathy and Tom are meeting with VP Reid and Provost Brown to finalize prior conversations about this centralization effort.

Becky Maier (FSSS) asked for input about campus solutions for a paperless office.

• Su Gregerson (Central IT) said that IT has been using Alfresco, but are moving to UMBox. Issues with Box include managing groups, permissions issues and sharing files. Su is following up with our internal Box technical support to see if any solutions are available.
• Alfresco is freeware and offers cloud storage and document management and archiving. It is also collaborative. Preview, editing and downloading options are included as well as group. E-signatures is a purchasable add-on.
• ABBYY, a document conversion for OCR with search capabilities, is another potential solution. UM has a site license with ABBYY. Documents can be scanned through ABBYY and then moved into Box. Joe is the contact for this resource. Joe will check and see if ABBYYs out file can be moved to Box.
• Service accounts are now available in Box and could provide document organization. Contact IT Central to be routed to our internal Box contact.

Jonathan Neff has set up a Tech Partners and other meeting Slack space. Kit Edington set up a Software Asset Management channel, also located in the Tech Partners Slack space. Please check with Kathy if you would like to be added to the SAM slack. Many thanks to Jonathan Neff for recording notes from recent SAM meetings.

Robert Logan and Central IT both have instructions on how to use FTP with UMBox.

The next SAM Roundtable is scheduled for: Tuesday, April 19, 10:00-11:00am, UC. Please direct software questions/comments to software@umontana.edu.