

Technology Partners Meeting – Minutes
December 20, 2005, UC 326, 10:30A

In attendance: Ryan Alter, Nick Baker, Shawn Clouse, Gary Decker, Lorrie DeYott, Ray Ford, Kathy Garramone, John Greer, Shelly Hayler, Steve Henry, Adrienne Herren, Becky Hofstad, Judy Holbrook, Roger Holtom, Adrian Irish, Kerry Kienberger, Loey Knapp, Jace Laakso, Robert Logan, Jason MacLeod, Barbara McCann, Sherri McWilliams, Becky Maier, Erik Nugent, Diane Oman, Gordy Pace, John Parkey, Jan Pruyne, Jason Rocheleau, Wes Samson, Janet Sedgley, John Seekins, Bill Singletary, John Tesdal, Travis Tolzien, Tom Travis, Karen Tremper, Rick Waldorf

Announcements

Kathy Garramone, IT Communications Coordinator

- Bob Wachtel, Director of IT Presentation & Technology Services, retires on December 30, 2005 after serving at UM for 32 years and 4 months. Bob has served as P&TS Director for the past four years. We wish him well in his retirement. The recruitment process for a replacement has begun. The position announcement is available on the IT website at: <http://www.umt.edu/it/openings/>
- Currently TPP meetings are held every 3 months (December, March, June, September) on the third Tuesday of the month from 10:30am-12:00noon. To better accommodate the academic year calendar, we are changing our TPP meeting schedule. Beginning in 2006, TPP meetings will be held every 3 months (February, May, August, November) on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 1:30-3:00pm in UC 326-327. Following is the 2006 meeting schedule:
 - Tuesday, February 28, 2006; 1:30-3:00pm; UC 326-327
 - Tuesday, May 23, 2006; 1:30-3:00pm; UC 326-327
 - Tuesday, August 22, 2006; 1:30-3:00pm; UC 326-327
 - Tuesday, November 28, 2006; 1:30-3:00pm; UC 326-327

IT Update

Ray Ford, Associate Vice President for Information Technology

- Ray provided a report on the following activities which are briefly summarized below. For more complete information, a PowerPoint presentation is available for viewing at the following Technology Partners web page: <http://www.umt.edu/it/cis/support/techpart/meetings.htm>. (A PDF document of the presentation is also available at the same web page.)
 - Server Hosting Facilities – PowerPoint, page 2
 - Progress continues on the central hosting project involving the Liberal Arts and Social Science Buildings. Major A/C renovations are now complete in LA 004 (NOTE: See the Air Conditioner Replacement Process Update on page 4 for new information about this project.) LA 034 is now available for hosting and is filling up fast. In addition, LA 006 is targeted for conversion into additional hosting during Spring 2006 and LA 033 is also targeted for conversion some time in the future (possibly 2007). If your department is interested in utilizing central server space, please contact Ray Ford (Ray.Ford@umontana.edu) as soon as possible.
 - On-Line Directory Plan
 - Current Status (December 2005) – PowerPoint, page 3
 - Legacy login to Banner, SCAUID-like login to the Library system and the Portal. Users of iPlanet e-mail, Blackboard, wireless, and the public access Macintosh lab now authenticate through the LDAP using the SCAUID (Standard Computer Access User ID). Legacy accounts are also used for AD systems (central web systems and access, desktop PC's, Microsoft Exchange)
 - There is no commonality/synchronization between the OID, AD, and the LDAP.
 - Currently the security framework is spotty with lots of holes and is not applied to on-line directories.
 - In April the state IT auditors will be on campus to review how our systems are accessed and managed. A directory management plan needs to be in place by that time that includes a master plan with security accurately documented.
 - January/February 2006 Target – PowerPoint, page 4
 - No change with Banner or the Library system.

- The SCAUID will be common and synchronized across all three directories (OID, AD, LDAP)
- Students will be able to authenticate via the SCAUID in the IT public access PC labs.
- The Student Computer Fee Committee (SCFC) allocated money to purchase on-line storage space for students. Students will be allocated 500MB of space, as file space visible via login in public PC labs. However, this option does not replace students' needs for flash drives and other portable storage devices.
- Expanded capability to handle special cases (e.g., wireless access for visitors) will be available through a special 4th directory.
- The security framework will be tightened and extended to include on-line directories.
- Directory Plan – Long Term – PowerPoint, page 5
 - Banner 7 will go live in February/March 2006, Banner 8 probably in February/March 2008.
 - With the implementation of Banner 8 in 2008, normal Banner access will be via the SCAUID. The Library system will also be accessed via the SCAUID.
 - Whether there is also a separate secure Banner access mechanism is unknown at this point.
 - Unix-specific applications authenticate through the LDAP; Windows-specific applications authenticate through the AD; other systems authenticate through the OID.
 - The security framework will include federated trust and federated access to external resources and environments.
- Wireless
 - Currently wireless access is restricted for use only by University employees and active students.
 - Starting in January 2006 campus units (department or equivalent) will be given the opportunity to request “sponsorship” for wireless access to the campus network for designated campus visitors. An ad hoc access mechanism will enable the functioning of this new process.
 - A “Sponsored Visitor” Wireless Access Request Form must be completed by a sponsor (a University department or unit) to request visiting user access. Contact IT Central at 243-HELP (x4357) for information about how to obtain this form.

Web Update

Adrian Irish, IT Web Development Services Manager

- Wireless access is available to all UM students and employees without prior registration. To assure security, users must also install and run a free "virtual private network" (VPN) software package. Access to the most current versions of the VPN (Virtual Private Networking) downloads and profiles for Windows and Macintosh is now available on the IT website at: <http://www.umt.edu/it/vpn>. For Linux and Solaris downloads, contact IT Central at 243-HELP (x4357).
- Under appropriate conditions and as mentioned above, visitors can set-up the VPN download process and download the VPN client for wireless access before they actually arrive on campus. A “Sponsored Visitor” Wireless Access Request Form must be completed by a sponsor (a University department or equivalent) to request visiting user access. Contact IT Central at 243-HELP (x4357) for information about how to obtain this form.
- Web Certification Database. A mechanism is now available that allows you to log in and see who in your organization has web certification. Anyone with a UM domain name and password can log in. The system is set up such that when you log in to the database, asterisks (*) will display next to the departments you can view. If you are interested in viewing a particular group or groups within your organization, do the following:
 - Go to the system at the following web address: <https://www.umt.edu/it/webcert/admin>;
 - Log in using your domain name and password and look through the listing;
 - To obtain access to view particular groups, send an e-mail message to Adrienne Herren (Adrienne.Herren@umontana.edu) with the specific group names and she will give you access.

Portal Update

Gordy Pace, Director, IT Applications and Media Group

- The beta version of the portal is now up and running.
- There has been a delay with student access to the portal while user access issues are being resolved.

- The beta version of the portal will use the SCAUID for the user ID, but the initial password will be the last six-digits of the user's UM ID. A password reset portlet will be available to allow users to look-up and/or change their portal password.
- The release of the beta version will be announced during Spring Semester.
- Several groups will be testing the portal including: students from the Davidson Honors College as well as applied and accepted students identified by Enrollment Services.
- Among current portal development projects, Gordy is working with John Greer of the Mansfield Library on a library portlet and with Dining Services on a menu and nutritional portlet.
- The CampusEAI consortium has grown to about 100 members. CampusEAI is looking to UM to be a leader in community source portal development. An expansion of UM's current grant is underway to send more resources to Missoula to manage consortium-wide development. That includes a software development manager position and additional programmers from India, who will likely spend 3-6 months working with UM's portal team.
- The target date for implementing a full production portal is Spring 2006.
- For further information about the portal project, contact Gordy at 243-2371 or via e-mail at: Gordy.Pace@umontana.edu.

Telecommunication Services Update

Judy Holbrook, Director, IT Telecommunication Services

- A telephone work order request form is now available on-line at the IT website: <http://www.umt.edu/it/cis/telecomm/repair.htm> . Use this form to place orders for telephone additions, changes, and deletions.
- Two significant updates will occur over the next six months:
 - Meridian Mail, the campus voice mail system, will upgrade to Nortel Call Pilot. Mailbox commands will remain the same and all mailboxes will convert to the new version. This upgrade will occur on February 16, 2006. Deb Wiederspan, Telecommunications Services voice mail technician, is in charge of this upgrade process. If you have questions about this activity, please contact Deb at 243-4696 or via e-mail at: Debora.Wiederspan@umontana.edu. More information regarding this upgrade will be sent out to campus after classes have started.
 - Over the past five years, we have been preparing the campus telephone switch for a full upgrade. The last phase of the project is cutting over the phone ports in the dormitories. The earliest time frame for the actual upgrade is during Spring Break. However, we are remaining flexible as preparations are still in progress.

Banner Update

Jan Pruyne, Assistant CIO, IT Enterprise Information Systems

- Internet Native Banner (INB)
 - INB for current Banner 6 users is now available. Contact Diane Norem, Banner Coordinator at 243-2624, or via e-mail at Diane.Norem@umontana.edu.
- Banner 7 Implementation.
 - Banner 7 is totally internet deployed and so there will be no client server access. Implementation is scheduled to begin the Friday before Spring Break (March 24, 2006) with completion by the following Wednesday of Spring Break (March 29, 2006).
 - Banner 7 training will be available to campus users during early spring. An announcement will be posted to the Banner listserv once a schedule is established.

Barracuda Spam Filter

Steve Henry, Senior Associate CIO, IT Systems Operations & Security

- Barracuda, the anti-SPAM and virus protection appliance, filters out incoming e-mail messages that may be spam or virus-related. In place since September 2004, over 45 million inbound messages have gone through the appliance. 68% of those were blocked as spam, 3% were viruses, 4% were tagged as spam, and 25% were allowed as normal mail.
- In addition to filtering e-mail messages, the Barracuda also blocks certain file attachments as they may contain viruses. These extensions include: .bat, .com, .dll, .emf, .exe, .pif, .scr, .vb, .vbe, .vbs, .wmf, and .zip. There have been discussions recently over the sysgroup e-mail listserv about the blocking of attachments, in particular .zip file attachments. Many campus personnel do not want .zip file attachments blocked.

- Since the Barracuda has been in place, it has been running with preset program defaults, and no custom configurations have been established. We are currently investigating the capabilities of the appliance in relation to unblocking or blocking certain file type extensions. Steve will initiate an e-mail discussion on this topic.
- We plan to purchase a companion anti-spyware machine and will let you know when to anticipate the implementation of this new feature.

Air Conditioner Replacement Process Update—LA 004 and SS 002; and Selway Server Update

Tom Travis, Director, IT Central Computing Services

- The process of replacing the old air conditioners in LA 004 and SS 002, locations that house many of the IT servers, continues. During the process, we had some heat problems that required shutting down all non-critical equipment including the Selway server. This equipment has been returned to service except for the Selway server. It will not be returned to service.
- **(Update-1/5/06)** The current situation is that the new units that were installed in both LA 004 and SS 002 do not perform to expectations, and will now be remodeled to meet requirements. Identical units were supposed to have been ordered for each environment, but the units that arrived were not the units we ordered. Engineers are currently taking a close look at the challenges involved in getting these units up to specification, and they are estimating that it may take four to six weeks before the new units can be revamped and placed into full service. The new air conditioner in LA 004 is running at temperatures above ideal. However, we do not anticipate the need to turn off any currently active servers, at least for now. We will update you as additional information becomes available.

ADDITIONAL NOTE: If you have not yet moved your Selway account to one of the University's newer e-mail systems, you may find that you will no longer be able to send or receive e-mail. Please visit the following IT web page for additional information for current Selway account holders: <http://www.umt.edu/it/email>.

Wireless Update

Rick Waldorf, Enterprise Network Specialist, IT Network Services

- Wireless on campus
 - Wireless access on campus continues to grow. New wireless access points will be added to the Lommasson Center at: Career Services, Country Store, and LaPeak; and an access point will be added to the Geography Department (3rd floor Social Science Building). Currently 46 access points have been installed, three access points are on order, and two access points will be installed soon.
- Campus Building Upgrade Project
 - The process of upgrading the Math Building is tentatively scheduled to begin on March 27. Currently electricians are designating wiring in preparation for the upgrade.
- Other
 - Recently, network personnel installed wiring in the press box of the Washington-Grizzly Stadium where departmental staff members located on the 4th floor of the Science Complex (mostly Forestry personnel) will temporarily relocate during the asbestos abatement in the Science Complex.
- Scheduled Power Outage: December 23, 2005
 - A Facilities Services scheduled power outage occurred on Friday, December 23, from 8:00am until 6:00pm that affected the Social Science, Rankin Hall, Natural Science and the Natural Science Annex buildings. The purpose of the outage was to allow electricians to modify the Social Science power service and connect the new Journalism Building to the campus electrical grid. Disruptions to any central IT services during this outage were not anticipated. An electrical generator was provided to power IT facilities located in Social Science, so all IT services including telephone services, internal (i.e., UM-Missoula) and external (i.e., Internet / Internet2) network connectivity, and central computer systems remained available during the outage. Other electrical services in any of the affected buildings were unavailable.
ADDITIONAL NOTE: (12/27/05) Banner systems were briefly affected by the disruption. However, all systems were returned to service shortly after noon on December 23, 2005.
- Scheduled Network Outage: Jan. 14, 15, 16, 2006 (SS core move)
 - On January 14, 15, and 16, 2006 (Saturday, Sunday, and Monday which is Martin Luther King Day and a UM holiday) all IT core data services will be unavailable. The primary purpose of this outage is to relocate IT core equipment and the fiber plant within the Social Science Building. All network access on the UM-Missoula campus will be affected, including access to the Internet and Internet2 for ALL UM campuses (i.e., MT Tech, UM-Western, UM-Helena, and UM-Missoula), all Banner databases (ADMN, TEST6,

TEST7, REPORT, HCADMN, HCTST6, HCTST7, FINDW, AUADMN, AUTST6), CyberBear, and the UM Home Page. Also, access to UM data resources from off campus will not be available during this time.

COMMENT: Eric Nugent was asked by his department to pass on the following comment regarding the January scheduled network outage. His department (Computer Science) is unhappy with the January 14-16, 2005 scheduled network outage. They are concerned that e-mail may be lost and the UM website will be unavailable. This comment was not addressed during the meeting.

Staff Senate Computer Recycling Effort

Nick Baker, Disability Services for Students

- The Staff Senate Computer Recycling Committee is studying the feasibility of recycling usable discarded University-owned computers to UM staff needing computer upgrades.
- Currently, UM sends many computers to the landfill, and while there is currently no surcharge for dumping this equipment, there will likely be charges for dumping computer gear in the near future, as it contains many toxic pollutants. If UM can recycle computers internally, we will avoid these fees and reduce the amount of toxins in the environment.
- A question was raised about whether we are considering adjunct faculty members and instructors as possible recipients, too. Currently, this committee is looking at staff members as recipients.
- Regarding faculty computers, which are replaced every three years, Ray Ford said that the faculty computer program is facilitated through the Provost's Office. Once the computers are distributed, decisions about distribution of the replaced faculty computers are made by the respective department.
- Lorrie DeYott, IT Lab Manager, mentioned that some older computers used in the IT public access labs will be available next summer (between 20-30).
- The committee is evaluating the need and support for this kind of program on campus.
- Please e-mail Nick Baker your comments, information on computers your department could make available, or your desire to participate in this effort (Nick.Baker@umontana.edu).

Other:

SPSS

The original TPP agenda included SPSS site licensing as a discussion topic. (SPSS is a statistical and data management software package used by researchers in many UM campus departments.) A question was raised about why this item was removed from the final agenda. Gary Decker from the College of Forestry and Conservation was going to facilitate this discussion but due to some recent developments regarding SPSS site licensing, Gary decided to withdraw the agenda item until a later date. IT will reschedule SPSS as an agenda item at a future TPP meeting if additional information becomes available regarding licensing issues.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon

Minutes submitted by Kathy Garramone, 1/5/06.

Next Technology Partners Meeting scheduled for February 28, 2006, 1:30pm, UC 326.