

Regents Information Technology Council (RITC) November, 2008, Meeting Notes

Date: November, 18, 2008

Attendees:

Gary Ott (WSU), Jim Bingham (KU Med.), Lynn Carlin (KSU), Denise Stephens (KU), Ravi Pendse (WSU), Michael Gunter (Washburn), Jerry Smith (PSU), Dilawar Grewal (KU), Denise Moore (KITO), David Schmidt (FHSU), Brad Williams, Cort Buffington (KanREN)

Note taker:

David Schmidt (FHSU)

Guests:

Gary Schneider
Mike Purcell

Discussion Items:

- I. Review October meeting minutes
 - a. Bingham moved and Schmidt seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The motion carried.
- II. State FMS Update *Gary Schneider*
 - a. Gary Schneider introduced Mike Purcell, the Project Controls Officer.
 - b. Gary noted that the Regents' institutions just interface to this system which reduces involvement in training and use of the system. After the interfaces are built and operational the Regents should see the same service as before.
 - c. Those using SHARP and SOKI are affected.
 - d. The interface standards should be completed by mid-March. Then the institutions can begin programming to those standards. The earlier transmittal letter documented some of the schedule highlights.
 - e. There will be some training for creating the interfaces, and some of this training will probably be done remotely (using something like Webex).
 - f. The project will revise the IT Object Codes to make them more accurate and descriptive. Note that the object code field will move from a 4 character field to a 6 character field.
 - g. They are working out a number of issues relating to configuring general ledger business units and issues involving the object codes. There are tradeoffs in making changes.
 - h. Responding to a question of whether the state budget shortfalls would affect the project, Denise Williams said the project will move forward as scheduled.
- III. Virtual Labs – *David Schmidt*
 - a. North Carolina State University and IBM have developed a Virtual Lab.
 - i. Faculty and students can access many different applications that are typically used on PCs from the web.
 - ii. The software developed by IBM and NCSU uses web browsers as thin clients and makes it possible to run the software remotely. Macs and PCs can run the software. At NCSU the desktop emulates a Windows XP desktop. The software appears to be fairly responsive when delivered over the web.
 - iii. Besides the thin client capabilities, the software they developed has the functions of a software license manager and application scheduler.

Students can choose to schedule when they wish to access the software and how long they wish to use it. Faculty too can reserve it for classroom use.

- iv. Since it is accessed via a web browser on and off-campus students (Virtual College students) can use it too. This can level the playing field a bit for Virtual College students and on-campus students.
- v. Students and faculty at NCSU save their data to flash drives after their session has finished.
- vi. IBM will be working on an appliance to assist with session management and scheduling.
- vii. The software is available through apache.org.

IV. CITO Report *Denise Moore*

- a. Work continues on the Wichita Data Center. Currently work is continuing on an electrical upgrade.
 - i. The Wichita Data Center will use the KDOT fiber, and KDOT is negotiating with the City of Wichita to connect to their point of presence. This is not yet done, but it should be completed relatively soon.
 - ii. The network bandwidth is a 10 gig connection between Wichita and Topeka using DWDM (Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexing).
 - iii. There is a SONET ring through Oklahoma that has 330 Mb bandwidth for redundancy.
 - iv. The cost structure for using the Wichita Data Center is still being determined. Some seed money has come from KDOT, SRS, and DISC.
- b. JCIT will meet on Thursday and Friday with the following agenda items:
 - i. GIS issues, including using maps for appraisals.
 - ii. Review of state document imaging projects (Bill Roth will address architectural issues).
 - iii. Wireless, a review of the state wireless system.
 - iv. Call Centers – Labor uses a call center to automatically distribute calls. The SRS uses this to route calls to the appropriate region.
- c. The training schedule for project management classes is available.
- d. There is no ITAB meeting in December. The next meeting is scheduled for January 20.

V. Network updates

- a. Kan-ed – *Williams*
 - i. Kan-ed 2.0 is up and running.
 - ii. They have been testing the video capabilities and so far so good.
 - iii. The pricing model has been published.
 - iv. Brad will address some budget issues with JCIT and other legislators.
 - v. Responding to a question about grants Brad said that this all depends on E-rate reimbursement and more will be known in the Spring.
- b. KanWIN – *Moore*
 - i. Currently undergoing an infrastructure modernization project. The Docking State Office Building is completed. The speed has been greatly increased.
 - ii. The peering point for KanWin and KanREN has a bandwidth of 20 mg. This could be a bottleneck for using the Wichita Data Center if Regents

want to use it. Cort will look into the possibility of increasing this bandwidth.

c. KanREN – *Buffington*

- i. The Kan-Ed backbone grant for the next three years has been received.
- ii. Kan-Ed 2.0 has taken a lot of work, but it appears to function well.
- iii. Cort is working on the rate proposal.
- iv. The dataflow on the backbone is currently up to 1.4 Gb. This is up 300 Mb from last year, so this should be monitored and they have monitoring software to watch the growth.
- v. KanREN is working with KSU and KUMed to increase redundancy.
- vi. The GPN will become a layer 2 network instead of a layer 3 network, and this should help KanREN because there is less overhead for KanREN to work through.
- vii. Cort is working on the GPN Genie project in which KU is taking a lead role.
- viii. Because of KanREN's work with ipV6, Cort has been asked to give a class on implementing ipV6.

VI. Institutional Updates

a. KU – *Stephens*

- i. The GPN is rethinking its goals and focus. The focus may be narrowed somewhat to be similar to other consortia. It may engage with members more at the institutional level and do less at the one to one level with individual researchers. It may become more technically oriented and have much less emphasis on grant writing.
- ii. KU is looking at cost savings across campus by leveraging the investments already made. For example, there will be a shared services model so that central IT will work with departmental support. There will probably offer more software as a service. Also, by centralizing some purchasing, there should be additional money saved. Since more and more purchases are commodities, this should result in savings.
- iii. IT has taken some preemptive action by eliminating some positions in order to spend money in other ways. This may help IT when budget cuts are made across the campus.

b. WSU – *Ott*

- i. All SungardHE Banner modules are now current with the 7.5 release.
- ii. Gary asked what databases were being used with ImageNow at other campuses. The native database that comes with the system is CTree. PSU and FHSU said that they use SQL-Server.
- iii. The MS Exchange project is moving forward. Approximately 2,000 employees are now on the Exchange platform.
- iv. WSU is planning to replace their access control system for the data center.

c. PSU –

- i. Because of the budget situation the Library project is now on hold.
- ii. PSU has migrated their ERP systems to new servers.
- iii. Kuali – rSmart now has created a packaged solution with Sun that will bring out Kuali open systems Financials like an ERP turnkey package. rSmart would be available for consulting, but at least there would be no

licensing costs with Kualii. PSU may move forward with this at some point.

- iv. PSU will offer Google e-mail accounts to students at Thanksgiving. Jerry likes the storage capacity and the nice applications available to students. Currently there are no plans to move faculty and staff to Google, and they are watching the KSU Zimbra project. Jerry noted that the contract available to PSU was fairly cut and dried. The campus attorney approved the contract. PSU is generating the identifiers for students.
- v. PSU is using dotCMS, an open source product. A third party was used for web design. This is in process.

d. KSU – *Lynn*

- i. Zimbra is moving forward. It should be complete in January.
- ii. The consolidation planning that brings more and more services under the CIO position is progressing.

e. KUMC – *Bingham*

- i. Prepared a contingency plan for a 7% budget cut.
- ii. KUMC is looking at a Live@EDU implementation from Microsoft. In this scenario the hosted cost for each mailbox is \$2.60 per month. One thing driving this is the desire to keep compatibility with MS Exchange. Note that there is full client interoperability. It is not just the web-based version because it supports the full Outlook client.
- iii. The PeopleSoft Financial Module upgrade was successful.

f. FHSU – *Schmidt*

- i. FHSU is working with EMG (Educational Marketing Group) out of Denver on a rebranding initiative.
- ii. Part of the rebranding effort involves purchasing a web content management system. FHSU is purchasing Ektron because it supports a native .NET environment. FHSU hopes to reuse .NET code already developed and the existing expertise in .NET to make the FHSU website more interactive and attractive.
- iii. Work is progressing at the Kansas Wetlands Center. FHSU plans to use a VOIP system there (maintained by Barton County Community College) and a wireless (Motorola Canopy) connection between a BCCC tower and the Kansas Wetlands Center.

VII. The next meeting will be December 16, 2008 from 10 a.m. to noon.