

Technology Department Report

Software

The IT Department continues to build images for our computer labs. A base image for Culinary, Health Assistant, Auto Tech and Auto Body has been created. We have currently replaced the computers in both Graphics and Computer programming. With the arrival of Autodesk Design Academy 5, we can finish building an image for Drafting.

As the beginning of the 05-06 school moves closer we continue our conversion to the new student management system. We reviewed the data from our trial conversion and found a few items that needed more attention. SchoolDESX is currently making modifications to accommodate our requests. Once the trial data conversion has been complete and approved, we will start the formal data conversion process.

The IT Department has begun researching a new solution for deploying security patches. We are currently using Microsoft Software Update Service. Microsoft has implemented new technology, Windows Server Update Service, WSUS. The new technology offers better reporting and deploying of system updates. We are considering this service as an update to our current patch deployment service.

Network

As we replace computers labs, we have been assessing the network connectivity of each lab. It has come to our attention that a portion of the labs are running older networking devices. We have been replacing these devices with new Dell 2700 series switches. These devices will connect to our network at speeds of 10/100/1000 resulting in greater network access speeds and lower bandwidth utilization. We will also be replacing 3 switches in the server room with the Dell 2700 series model.

The FPSERVER has been turned off. With the help of our co-op student we have removed all running services from the server and retrieved one final backup. The server has been taken out of production but will remain in the server room until it has been verified all data was successfully converted.

We have installed the Sawmill application for log formatting and reporting. The service is currently running but we are working out a few bugs in the system. As a department, we are hoping to have this service fully functional in the coming weeks. Using Sawmill, we will be tracking proxy server logs and firewall logs. This software gives us the functionality to add additional services for monitoring.

Training

Over the course of this year, the IT Department's goal is to provide regular based training sessions to our users. At this time, we are looking for vendors to provide training packages. We have been in contract with Element K, a web based training service, to provide Microsoft Office 2003 training and other basic computer operation. We are continuing to search for other providers.