

October Technology Board Report

October 16, 2008

Network Systems

The result of our continued investment in our network over the last three years has resulted in significant performance improvements. The evidence is in student file transfers, application performance, and the rate at which our storage grows every day. The new challenges are the ambition and rate at which faculty is adopting and interested in newer available technology. This is a great success.

I continue to take pride in our security architecture and access controls. Last month during the auditor general's audit Steve Pettyjohn acknowledged and commented on the quality of our technology processes and systems.

During Advanced Training Day, we were commended by two post-secondary vendor participants on our wireless network, and the associated access controls. And most recently two of our software vendors took particular interest in our disaster recovery strategies, and inquired on the details to implement.

Desktop Systems

AutoDesk Academy 2009 was deployed in the Drafting and Design Lab using Microsoft Windows Deployment Server. This year we performed the recommended single station activation; however this process was extremely timely, and cumbersome. I respect software validity, and understand the necessary measures to limit piracy; however AutoDesk could offer better installation routines for large educational deployments, especially if installations are going to be necessary every year.

Server Systems

An archival procedure has been implemented in the disaster recovery system to streamline student, staff, and business data storage management.

Vendor

Our phone system suffered another outage on Friday Oct 10, 2008. Treese Communications assures that there are no further software updates available, and that the next step is entire hardware replacement. We expect to complete this in October.

SchoolDesX updated our student information system to their latest release late in September, and we are working with them to iron out program issues that have resulted.

Kubinski finally repaired the Graphics Color Copier that was losing it's printing connection. The issue turned out to be very similar to the Skills Center Copier in that it's internal hard drive was failing. The gracefully apologized for the length of time it took to resolve.

Staff

Andy Hough, our technician, has been doing a fantastic job responding to our desktop needs in a timely manner. He is a valuable asset to my team, and I remain grateful to have the help. Sentiments which I am sure is shared by our faculty as well.