

February 17, 2011

Desktop Systems

We deployed Windows 7 in the Networking lab at the request of RCTC in support of their computer basics class on Windows 7. The Networking program was happy to receive the upgrade as well.

We also deployed Virtual PC to the in networking to provide a functional virtual computer environment for their lab work; instead of using physical machines that draw more power from the wall, take up more real estate, and have a material cost to keep up to date.

Network and Server Systems

We experienced a power outage in January that depleted our backup batteries, and took our systems offline for about an hour. Fortunately it was an in service day. This event has encouraged us to look deeper to reduce our power consumption in the server room; and determine the needs of our battery backup solution that is over 4 years old. Any improvements we can make, will certainly lessen the burden on the generator during extended outages.

Application Development

We have begun working with our freelance consultant, whom we identified to you last month, to help us automate the use of our student data across all systems.

We have created a new Attendance Monitor at the request of Joe Tarasovitch in eDESX our web-based SiS interface. It has streamlined our ability to keep tabs on our daily attendance and provide drill down information much more quickly.

We have created a Prosoft Vendor Access monitor to automatically notify us when Prosoft is accessing our systems. Prosoft is almost an outsourced technology partner more so than they are a software vendor. Prosoft requires frequent access to the actual server and database instead of providing onsite technology staff with installable update files as a software vendor normally would. When Vendor Access became a focus in a previous external audit two years ago one of their concerns was the ability for Vendors to access school data remotely. The Prosoft Vendor Access monitor only permits access M-F 8AM-4PM and sends an email to the Business Manager, the Technology Manager, and Micheal Zurenski, the support manager for Prosoft when a connection has been made. We believe this is a reasonable measure to ensure data security given that many software vendors use online updates where the software itself automatically updates it's files from the internet.