

Technology Board Report

Desktop Systems

The Graphics RIP, the system used to create the negatives for the offset press was no longer able to communicate with the network after we made certain necessary system changes to our servers, as we migrate toward virtualization. The root cause of the issue, is that the RIP is still running Windows NT (circ. 1994); which is no longer supported by the advances being made in the primary network authentication systems we use (Active Directory on Server 2012). We have found a work around; but the solution renders this system in an increased security risk. The graphics instructor and I intend to work with the budgeting process to implement a solution, hopefully in the 15-16 school year.

We needed to identify a new application for maintaining our website content, which up until now we had been using FrontPage 2003. Advances in Microsoft Office technologies, and other incompatibilities FrontPage 2003 had with our environment, escalated a need to identify a new application to do this; that was at least just as simple and easy as FrontPage, which was discontinued by Microsoft after the 2003 release. We found Expressions Web 4, which has been available for several years to be an adequate replacement, until we can update our website to a more current content management solution (CMS) that does not require external editing software.

Help Desk *(last 30 days)*

Closed	New	Carryover
30	40	23

Applications and Database

Our Student Database and Faculty Remote Access Server crashed on January 7, 2012, which happened to be a snow day as it turns out, after an extended power outage related to a fault in the Emergency Power Circuits. The age of the server is why it failed, the power outage just illuminated it's issues. While it was likely repairable; the more economical solution was to move these services into our Virtualization environment; which we were able to do successfully prior to students returning to the building Wednesday. However, due to the age of the Student Database software most of Wednesday was spent working through issues running this software on the new Server 2012 virtualized server. By Thursday the issues were resolved.

The RCTC Database was also on the aforementioned server, and the age of this software rendered it completely incompatible with the Server 2012 environment we used for the Student Database. An alternate solution was completed on Tuesday January 14th, approximately a week after the event.

Prosoft, our Financial and Budgeting database, is accessed by our Faculty and Staff through this Remote Access Server, and it has encountered some problems as well in the Server 2012 environment. We are working with Harris Software to resolve these issues.

Network and Server Systems

Tabitha Frawley, our Technology Technician, has been working to migrate our print services to a virtualized server. She continues this project; and it should be completed by the end of February. This is a learning assignment for her that she has taken on with great pride, and responsibility. This is an advanced task for her qualifications; but I am confident it will be a significant educational opportunity for her; that ultimate will largely benefit the School, with her increased abilities in the end.