

University of Waterloo

COMPUTING TECHNOLOGY AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held February 11, 2010

PRESENT: Alan George (Chair), Melissa Conrad (Secretary), Bill Baer, Jim Bell, Bruce Campbell, Andrea Chappell, Erick Engelke, Bob Hicks, Bill Ince, Paul Miskovsky, Victor Neglia, Terry Stewart, Jason Testart, Martin Timmerman, Roy Wagler

Dave Kibble

REGRETS: Allan Bell, Marko Dumancic

1. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Web Content Management. It is now definite that Drupal will be implemented as UW's web content management system.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 28, 2010

Subject to a change, the minutes of the meeting of January 28, 2010 were approved.

3. DISCUSSION OF WATIAM FEATURES AND POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS, Erick Engelke and Dave Kibble

In a document distributed prior to the meeting, Erick Engelke raised some important issues around WatIAM and Dave Kibble, who is responsible for WatIAM, provided some responses.

CTSC members discussed WatIAM concerns and it was observed that some of this will be driven by the Active Directory Project. Dave Kibble, Erick Engelke, and Bruce Campbell, will stay in close touch and coordinate appropriately.

4. EXCHANGE CALENDAR PROJECT UPDATE, Bob Hicks

Project members met February 4th and agreed that the 2010 web client is much better than Exchange 2007, but people will need to keep this in mind that this product is quite different from Bookit.

In terms of timing, the project report should be complete by March 19th and Exchange Calendar will be the subject of an IST seminar on March 26th. It is still a little early to be concerned about the logistics of a move from Bookit.

[Secretary's note: Members of the project team are Nevil Bromley (Arts), Mike Hurst (Engineering), Tom Serviss (MFCE), Carrie Howells (MFCE), Stephen Nickerson (CSCF), Steph Sempson (Science), Brent Clerk (AHS), Carl Nagel (Library), Joe Sanders (Housing), Mike Tennant (CECS), Donald Duff-McCracken (Environment), and a few staff from IST].

5. STUDENT TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE, Bob Hicks

A meeting of the Student Technology Advisory Committee (STAC) was held on February 10, 2010. Andrea Chappell spoke about the LMS and Martin Timmerman provided information on student email. Timmerman shared that it is the understanding that students will be expected to use uwatwaterloo accounts for UW business. The only flexibility is that from within their mailservices account, they can redirect their mail to gmail or another account.

Student portals were also discussed at STAC. Four students volunteered to see what other University's are doing and will report at the next meeting. Science and Housing are both looking at portals so Paul Miskovsky and Bill Baer will be invited to attend the next meeting. Anyone else from CTSC who is interested in portals is also welcome.

6. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Email addresses (Bob Hicks). Users will be warned that if they create a friendly email account name, there are a few things to be aware of. For instance, when you interact with mailman it will not recognize you. Also, greylisting and whitelists will have to be redone and RT has email issues.

Student Email (Martin Timmerman). Students accept offers from UW through OUAC and then OUAC informs UW. The list of students who have accepted is placed in a pile and the Registrar's Office begins the matriculation process in June.

Changes need to be made so that accepted students are recognized earlier and can be offered an email account earlier. There have been exploratory meetings with WatIAM and Quest people to determine where in these processes we can get this "hook" and what level of programming is required. If we wait until they login to WatIAM, they have already made the decision to come here. If we can welcome them earlier, it may influence their final decision; the more expeditious we are in communicating, the more chance we have of keeping them.

Printing. The subcommittee had its kick off meeting and finalized a scope of work. At their next meeting, the group will look to creating an outline for a report to be fleshed out through further discussions.

Active Directory. There may be some major decisions that will have to be made before we can deliver a single architecture and some issues may need to come back to CTSC, for example, passwords and multiple levels of authority. That is the sort of thing that may or may not lead to two domains. The subcommittee is not ready to discuss this yet, but this may be a major decision to be made collectively.

Microsoft Software Licensing. It is expected that this subcommittee will have information to share at (or before) the next meeting.

Laptop Encryption. The pros and cons of a commercial solution versus an in-house solution were discussed. The in-house solution is open source with key escrow (for Windows) added so there is no monetary costs, but user support will be an issue. The Chair stated that he would not want cost to be an inhibitor of us adopting encryption.

More time will need to be spent thinking about this. Laptop encryption will be an item on the agenda for the next meeting.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next CTSC meeting will be held Thursday, February 25, 2010, at 1:30pm, in MC 2015.

/mlc
February 23, 2010

Melissa Conrad
Secretary to the Committee