

University of Waterloo

COMPUTING TECHNOLOGY AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held March 11, 2010

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

Giles Malet

1. *RESETTING USERIDS TO EIGHT CHARACTERS, Giles Malet*

In order to allow for the addition of a friendly email name, the email addresses in Connect were synchronized with all valid email addresses the user had listed in WatIAM/UWldap. For the 263 people on campus with UWldap userids longer than eight characters, their email address was changed from eight-character-userid@uwaterloo.ca to their longer uwuserid@uwaterloo.ca. The affected people were given the option of keeping the long email id, reverting to the shorter email id, or creating a friendly email address name.

Malet's presentation included the following topics:

- Terminology and Background (uwuserid vs userid)
- History
- Problems and Resolutions
- Should we use the long form? Where are we going with userids?
 - Use long userids (userid becomes uwuserid, no distinction)
 - Use assigned userid (e.g. a2r3) with a friendly e-mail address
- Next Steps

The groups discussed the pros and cons of longer userids and assigned userids combined with a friendly email address. Some things to consider regarding longer userids is that some systems may not accept long userids and users may not appreciate having to authenticate using a long userid. Regarding an assigned userid, it is possible to mix initials with a set of numbers which would help users remember their id.

This is a work in progress and this topic will be revisited.

To view Malet's entire presentation, please see:

<http://ist.uwaterloo.ca/~gdmalet/Presentations/20100311-CTSC.pdf>

2. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Next Meeting. The March 25th meeting will be cancelled. The Secretary will explore the possibility of meeting on 2nd and 4th week of the month, as opposed to biweekly.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 25, 2010 AND BUSINESS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting of February 25, 2010 were approved as distributed.

Cellular improvements. Prior to the meeting, Bill Baer distributed the vendor presentation schedule and Bruce Campbell distributed his interpretation of the first presentation.

Prices of the systems vary significantly based on which frequencies are covered and if the system is passive or powered. Committee members will be kept up to date regarding progress.

4. MICROSOFT LICENSING PROPOSAL, Bill Baer

Prior to the meeting, the subcommittee distributed a proposal to move forward with a University of Waterloo Campus Agreement. Reasoning included:

- Ensuring compliance
- Simplification of licensing process
- Software standardization
- Costs comparable to what UW pays currently

The subcommittee recommended that the annual licensing fees be funded centrally.

The Chair noted that the advantages of a Campus Agreement are compelling. He will speak to the Provost regarding the possibility of central funding.

The Secretary will determine the percentage of purchases currently made with research funding. [Secretary's note: Using Math as an example, the split between research and operating accounts is approximately 50/50].

5. STUDENT TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC) UPDATE, Bob Hicks

At the most recent STAC meeting, students provided demonstrations of various student portals.

Features of a Student Portal:

- Aggregate data from many sources (e.g., Quest, CECS system, student email, Watcard, campus maps, etc.)
- Single sign on for all services
- Personalized (e.g., sports, student clubs, course alerts, etc.)
- Customizable (e.g., external links)

Portals have been around for a decade, but there are many new ideas and layouts (e.g., mobile device integration, dashboards, etc).

The portal examples ranged from just a collection of common links to a homegrown product written for mobile devices which can provide information such as the amount of dollars remaining on your meal plan or directions to a classroom.

It is estimated that it would take 2 FTE staff 1-2 years to create a student portal, 1 FTE the following year to continue work, and then .5 FTE to maintain.

Hicks stated that there was a lot of enthusiasm for this and that next steps will be discussed at the STAC meeting on April 8th.

6. GREEN IT, Andrea Chappell

In advance of the meeting, Chappell circulated the most recent draft of the Statement on Green IT and also a Terms of Reference for a proposed Green IT Advisory Group. Regarding group membership, it was proposed that a CTSC member serve as Chair, with members from each Faculty or 1 for each at CTSC, and also some members from IST and someone from Procurement.

Bill Baer agreed to serve as Chair and will establish the committee. The committee will review the proposed Terms of Reference.

7. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Student Email (Martin Timmerman). The subcommittee is currently investigating coding changes required within WatIAM. The plan is to have these changes in place by April.

Printing (Allan Bell). The subcommittee has begun a research project to determine why people print. WatCard has made contact with Bell to explore XAS opportunities.

Active Directory (Bruce Campbell and Erick Engelke). Campbell and Engelke have finished meeting with the various groups and plan to have a draft document prepared in advance of the next meeting.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Recycling Userids. Committee members discussed whether or not userids should be recycled, ever. It was agreed that we definitely should not be recycling identities; therefore, if the userid is considered an identity, it should not be reused.

The WatIAM project team is currently in the process of completing a life cycle review and this is

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one of the issues that will be addressed. Upon completion of the review, the WatIAM team will forward recommendations to CTSC.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next CTSC meeting will be held Thursday, April 7, 2010, at 2:30pm, in MC 2015.

/mlc
April 1, 2010

Melissa Conrad
Secretary to the Committee