6/25/2012 LTAG Meeting Notes

Library Technology Advisory Group (LTAG)
Monday, June 25, 2012
Conference Call – 1:00-2:30 PM

Attending: Adrian Petrisor (UCI), Dale Snapp (UCD), Declan Fleming (UCSD), Gary Thompson (UCLA), Lynne Grigsby (UCB), Terry Toy (UCR)
Absent: Emily Lin (SOPAG), John Ajao (UCSB), Richard Trott (UCSF), Tom Bustos (UCM)
Note taker: Dale Snapp

1. POT 1 update (Declan)

Declan: POT 1 has the main task of identifying a system wide Digital Assets Management System (DAMS). Finished task one –gathering requirements from all different campuses focusing on the" have nots", those that do not have a dams initiative already on their campus. Gathered all the requirements and gave them back to the main group.

There has been discussion as to where Merritt fits into all of this. In the near future, the architecture group will need to decide whether it should be hosted in one place, versus being hosted on each campus. LTAG members will have a lot to say about that.

2. Announcements and updates

Adrian: attended latest UC Trust conference call – discussions this month not particularly relevant for the Libraries. Received email from UCI's UC Trust rep about library walk in affiliation discussion. Declan mentioned that one possible use of library walk-in affiliation: if there is a resource that only does Shibboleth (e.g., EBL), the open access computers should be able to do some type of generic log-on. In a situation where an IP range isn't an option, the machine will need to have its own certificate that has a certain level of access that is Shibboleth identifiable.

ACTION: Adrian will contact SOPAG to get some support for appointing a formal LTAG representative on UC Trust.

ACTION: For all: Make sure to forward any Shibboleth related emails to Terry to distribute it to the Shibboleth subgroup.

Dale: New UC Davis UL, Mackenzie Smith. Asked if number of public machines for each library is recorded anywhere. Adrian pointed to
https://wiki.library.ucsf.edu/display/LTAG/UC+Libraries+IT+Infrastructure (towards the end of table). Public machines are defined as any machine a student can walk up and use, not behind a locked door, such as a lab. Interest in software to measure activity on public computers. UCSD is using a Drupal database with a widget made in house, comparing idle vs. not idle. If interested, contact Declan at Dfleming@ucsd.edu

ACTION: For all: update UC libraries IT infrastructure spreadsheet.

Lynne C: John Ober will be replaced by Kurt Ewoldsen , who is starting on July 9th.

Gary: A head of operations management position has just been filled. Started some project management which is about ready to make it public. The link will be provided as soon as it is accessible. No scaffolding plugin is used, but a lot of labels, metadata reports and the blog feature for status reports on each project are used.

Declan: Luke Declerk is retiring at the end of June, and there is no replacement. Declan now reports to University Librarian as Chief Technology Strategist for 20% of his position.

Adrian: Update regarding VDI. Looking into implementing virtual desktops at UCI. Pilot project with an Orange County company called Quest Software, which was recently acquired by Dell. Visited San Diego State University to see their VDI implementation. Dell has helped implemented VDI on 100 machines in the Library/Heath center, and they plan to expand to 200. With their current VDI technology they were able to run YouTube in 1080p at a reasonable frame rate. The main challenge of virtual desktop technology is USB performance, slower than USB1. The usb can only be used for small amounts of data. 3D doesn't work with virtual desktop technology either, such as 3d modeling, Google earth, etc.
Because of this, we probably won't use, as it is a major investment in the initial infrastructure. It is only worth it at 500-1000 virtual machines. The thin clients cost $600 to $700, and the storage and servers are very expensive. UCI will not be upgrading at this time.

Other virtual desktop tests:

- Lynne G: Berkeley tried virtual desktops: looked into it for public machines, but there were problems with PDF's in older machines; they might revisit it at a later time.
- Dale: UC Davis did something similar as Berkeley. Low framerate and upgrades would be extremely expensive.
- Gary: UCLA had 2 different pilot projects for public workstations in the research library. Will report back next month.

Adrian: Question about disk array storage. Dell sells their certified hard drives at double the price of normal ones. Are there any other vendors that are cheaper? Dale: UC Davis switched to Coraid - good performance and better price. Gary: Looking at Isolan, good prices and decent performance.