

Tech Advisory Council
Sept 23, 2002
Meeting Notes

Attendees: Rawdon Cheng (UHLS), Jonathan Koppel (UHLS), Peter Kowalski (UHLS), Michael Farley (BETH), Mary Trev Thomas (BETH), Lorraine Smi (VOOR), Gordon Noble (BETH), Marcia Middleton (APL), John Love (BETH), Michele Guiffre (BETH), Laurie Louis (APL)

John discussed the use of Public Web Browser (PWB) in BETH. It is a shell running on top of IE5. He enabled timeout (inactivity) on the OPACs but not on the public Internet workstations. Multiple shortcuts to the browser are placed on the desktop, one for each online database. By having multiple shortcuts, he can configure each site differently. PWB uses INI file to store the configuration and it is highly configurable. There is an add-on editor to allow users to launch a simple word processor for quick notes. It is compatible with Fortres; however, it takes longer to launch a website with Fortres enable. PWB can maintain its own access list to website. Staff can lock down what sites to allow or disallow patrons to visit.

Laurie stated that the PCs are much more stable after using PWB. She received fewer complaints about PC crashes after using PWB.

Since PWB runs on top of IE, users still can find a way to launch IE. If Acrobat Reader is open, users can click on Adobe icon on the toolbar to launch IE. The group would look at possible ways to deter IE from launching.

Other business:

Web Messaging will not work in AOL browser. There is no workaround.

Meeting Room/Staff Scheduling - Marcia is looking for an application to schedule staff workweeks or room reservation. John has a free asp codes to do room reservation on BETH private web page. It only works with a webpage.

LDAP - LDAP is used for users to obtain published information of users such as name, library name or email address. UHLS uses this for two purposes - usernames list sorted by library and ability to search other email. Computer on the Imail server cannot generate UHLAN username list. If UHLS wants to maintain the list, it can only be done manually. Users can retrieve other user's info based on partial information such as first name, last name or library name. Rawdon reported there is no way to protect UHLAN user database on the mail server from non-UHLAN users. It is a potential threat from spammers since they can obtain all users email address by querying the server. To protect this information from outside, UHLS can 1) turn off this feature; 2) change the port number to prevent outsiders to query this database. Rawdon will bring this subject to ASC to be discussed.

Wireless network - BETH is using wireless network with WEP enable.

Next meeting: 2pm Nov 20, 2002 at UHLS