

Tech Advisory Council
Jan 11, 2006

Attendees: Rawdon Cheng (UHLS, notes), Rob Carle (UHLS), Mike Sweeney (GUIL), Laurie Louis (APLM), Marcia Middleton (APLM), Jonathan Koppel (UHLS), John Love (BETH), Mike Whitney (EGRN)

APL Cybermobile

APL cybermobile is using cell technology to connect its laptop to Internet. The connection speed is very slow from 5kbps to 30kbps. It is impossible to use Horizon client to access our database but it is manageable using Terminal Services.

Disaster Recovery

APL has recently experienced a crashed hard drive on one of its staff PCs. They managed to read the content of the drive and copied the files to another hard drive. It brought a question how to deal with recovery should this situation happens again.

UHLS uses roaming profile on all its staff workstations. During logoff, the profile will be copied back to the domain controller (DC); the DC will backup all files every day. It is noted that although users settings are stored in profile, Local Settings folder is not copied back to the server. Outlook Express stores its email and address book inside Local Settings folder. Should the local workstation crashes, those email will be lost.

BETH has a domain controller but it does not use roaming profile. The staff profile will be copied back to the file server and is backup from there.

A question was raised about how small libraries handle PC crashes. There are many methods to do backup but it requires users intervention. It is not known how many libraries (users) do regular backup.

There are USB enclosures for external hard drives which can be used for file copying. There are also enclosures for floppy drive for new computers that does not come with floppy drive.

DVD-RW is another method to backup. Mike S asked if others have experienced problems with making data DVD. It cannot be read by other DVD drives except the one that burns it. Some suggests reducing the burning speed.

Public Email address book

Marcia asked if it is possible to maintain a public address book that can be shared for her staff. It is not a mailing list but address entries that a staff can browse and insert to the mail recipients. Imail supports LDAP but the service is not running reliably. Exchange server has that feature but APL is not interested having an Exchange server.

Web

John Love asked if Tech AC is the appropriate committee to discuss web technology. Some public libraries use their website as an extended branch. Website is a good place to promote library services. Some topics that can be discussed are:

- Outreach service
- Blog
- Special events
- Fundraising

There is a web interest group that has not met for a long time. Rawdon will bring it back to Automation Dept monthly meeting.

Wrap up

Since disaster recovery is critical to our operation, the group will continue to discuss it at the next meeting. Rawdon will also publicize it to libraries hoping more libraries will come to join the discussion.

Next meeting: Feb 8 at UHLS, 9:30
Topic: Disaster Recovery.