

Tech Advisory Meeting
Oct 11, 2006

Presence: Rawdon Cheng (UHLS, notes), Jonathan Koppel (UHLS), John Love(BETH), Michael Whitney (EGRN)

Using Firefox search plug-in to search HIP

John Love demonstrated using Firefox to search our HIP by keyword (K), author(A), title(T), ISBN(I) and hence he called it KATI. He will provide instructions how to get it to work. It can be implemented as a reference tool to use Amazon title search ability and seamlessly paste it to our HIP search. When we have it, UHLS will post it on our ftp server.

Questions from last meeting:

1. SSL and My account

The current version of HIP is not compatible with SSL. When a patron is checking its account information, the transmission will be in clear text. There were discussion Horizon 8 will have that feature build-in but there is no confirmation on it.

2. Third party software (Library Elf) interacting with Horizon

Library Elf uses XML to communicate with our server to query information provided to patrons. Other than My account information, Library Elf does not receive more than what we see in My Account. See appendix for answer from Dynix.

Intranet Security

At last meeting, intranet security was discussed. Some group member felt uncomfortable with a single username/password can access all intranet related resources. And in resource such as wiki, that username has write access. It was suggested that to create different username/password for those resources. Other member commented that it is too much to remember what username can access what.

Rawdon thought the difference of opinion was not how many usernames was used for intranet access. He suggested that different username would be used for sites that had write access while the current intranet username had read only access. Most information on intranet is not sensitive, indeed, public can attend most meetings.

This topic will be revisited when there are more attendees.

Horizon Server Hardware upgrade

More memory and CPUs were installed in the Horizon server. Since then, the server was running well. We still had occasional slow down but it seemed that it was not related to cpu performance.

Mail server update

Imail 9.1 was installed on Oct 6 which includes the Norton antivirus scanning engine. There were some tweaks to the configuration not to send virus notification to recipients if server detected a virus in the message.

The current service contract will expire in May 2007 while the NAV engine will expire on Nov 2007. It would give him more time to prepare for the transfer to Mdaemon. He ran into some problems of moving messages from the current mailbag to Mdaemon.

Open source software

The group discussed about the interface difference between OpenOffice and MS Office. The icons looked alike. Indeed, it is similar enough for average users to use.

Jonathan has tried OpenOffice Writer and it is totally compatible with Word doc. It also has a PDF writer built in. He had problem using OpenOffice database module to open Access file. He was not sure it was due to the large size of the file.

Mike expressed that most patrons use Word, Excel, and Powerpoint. As long as OpenOffice is fully compatible, it should be okay with patrons.

Other open source products are StarOffice, Office402.

Automated System Recovery (ASR)

ASR is a Windows backup. It does a back up on system partition to a media and writes the partition and device information to two SIF files and stored onto a floppy disk. It is an one-time backup and cannot be done automatically. Regular backup should be run in conjunction with ASR to ensure successful disaster recovery.

ASR requires floppy drive to do restore, and there is no substitute (USB floppy drive may work). The backup set must be at the exact location what the SIF files describe. UHLS writes the backup set to an external USB hard drive. The two SIF files and the backup set will be burnt to a DVD for off-site storage.

Next meeting, TBD

APPENDIX

“Does LibraryElf know more about our patrons than what is displayed in My Account? We are concerned that they may have access to more of the borrower’s record. We also want to know if a future version of Horizon will offer a service similar to LibraryElf.”

Rob,

As you know LibraryElf is not a SirsiDynix product.

As I understand it, LibraryElf ‘knows’ the patron’s name, email address, and PIN as well as all items checked out, overdue, on hold, etc. – whatever the patron has requested/provided. It also knows this for a group of people if the patron has requested this information, for example, if the patron asks to be notified for all members of their family by including all of their barcodes and PINs in the setup. This is voluntary on the part of the patron: they determine what information to give LibraryElf and what information they want back.

Does LibraryElf ‘know’ more about the patron? That is something you need to check with LibraryElf.

Many of its functions are already in our ILS product and many more will be included in Horizon 8.0, such as pre-overdue notices, linking patrons into a group (family), etc. We address including these functions as librarians express a requirement for them.

But we have no plans to incorporate LibraryElf itself.

One of our concerns is privacy (http://blog.librarylaw.com/librarylaw/2005/12/breaking_discov.html) so whatever path we follow will include a strong commitment to protecting patron privacy.

If you have questions or need a follow-up call on this log, please let me know.

Thank you.

Sandy Schlueter
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