

Tech Advisory Meeting  
Dec 13, 2006

Presence: Rawdon Cheng (UHLS, notes), Jonathan Koppel (UHLS), Rob Carle (UHLS), John Love (BETH), Michael Whitney (EGRN), Judy Harren (VOOR), Laurie Louis (APLM), Geoff Kirkpatrick (BETH)

**Open source applications for used on public computers**

Software cost is expensive. Even if the library is eligible for TechSoup, with number of licenses required to install on public computers, the amount is high. This has bigger impact to large libraries. Some libraries have turned to open source applications like OpenOffice. Rawdon asked if any libraries have installed OpenOffice on the public computers. BETH will stay with MS Office. Some small libraries are using OpenOffice.

This current version of OpenOffice does not have desktop publishing function.

GIMPshop is a free image editor which is nearly as powerful as Photoshop which satisfy most of patrons' needs.

John Love mentioned portableapps.com – a freeware that user can put Thunderbird, Mozilla application on a USB flash drive/thumb drive. Thunderbird and Mozilla will run from the thumb drive, not requiring any installation to the hard drive. For users who is mobile and does not have a dedicated workstation, it is a great application. They will always carry the application and their personal data with them and used it as needed. It also features backup so it can be backup to a hard drive.

It is recommended to install on a 512MB or larger thumb drive.

Geoff expressed that Google Docs and Spreadsheet may pose a challenge to traditional installed applications. Since it is running from a web browser, installation is not needed. It is too early to say what impact this trend has to Microsoft dominance of Office suite market.

**Email SPAM filter**

Judy complained that she got a lot of religious related spams and asked if it can be filtered. Jonathan responded that it could be done but it might cause many false positive. If there is any word pattern of those spams, he can add a filter to it.

Geoff asked the status of replacing the current email application. Jonathan responded that it is more a financial decision.

Geoff said BETH used calendar feature heavily and he hoped the replacement email software would have that feature.

**Frontpage support**

Frontpage has reached its end of life cycle. Some libraries are using Frontpage to publish their website. The group discussed how UHLS would support this. John

suggested that since the extension was already installed, UHLS should continue to support it until IIS no longer supported Frontpage. Rawdon expressed that currently there were some support issues. UHLS would not stop support it in any near future but libraries should consider moving away from Frontpage.

It was asked if UHLS supported Dreamweaver and how much training UHLS would provide. UHLS has been using Dreamweaver so support is always there. Rawdon does not know how complicated it is to use it. John took online Dreamweaver course with Binghamton University (<http://www.binghamton.edu/>) and the price was very reasonable - \$79 for a 8-week session. HVCC (<https://www.hvcc.edu/>) also provides the online training. Local training facilities such as New Horizon also provide training but they are very expensive.

Judy asked if CDLC coupons from MicroKnowledge would be available again. Since it was a grant from CDLC, UHLS did not know if it would be available again.

Rob expressed that Joomla was a very easy to use application which required no HTML experience. Small libraries could consider this alternative, and Rob is willing to do training.

MVLA webmaster uses blogs and RSS feeds to help its members to update some basic information on their website.

### **Other items**

The trend of the web is more towards content oriented than display. Libraries should consider that in designing their websites. If website is more dynamic, it may not need traditional web authoring tool such as Dreamweaver or Frontpage.

BETH has a CSS to detect if the browser is running on a hand-held device and adjust display accordingly

BETH suggests adding new hot requested items to be display on the web or put it as RSS feeds

**Next meeting:** Feb 14, 2007 at UHLS