

Senate Computing Usage Committee – April 9, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Members in attendance: Alex Labrinidis, Jinx Walton, Joe Costantino, Irene Frieze, PJ Dillon, Xiuying Zou, Bob Daley, Arif Jamal, Frank Beatrous, Michael Pinsky, Susan Sereika.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION TO BE TAKEN
Call to order	Alex called the meeting in order at 10:05am. Minutes from previous meeting were approved as first order of business	
CSSD's Report – Jinx Walton	<p><u>Announcements/new initiatives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Network ports in classrooms will soon be authenticated, and the process will be automated instead of involving CIDDE• Major my.pitt.edu portal upgrade happening in the summer. Will include role-based views (e.g., for freshmen class).• This week is “love-your-computer” week. Next year, this event will be early in the fall term.• Working toward role-based account provisioning, in order to provided limited accounts with access to specific resources only. There are currently over 7,000 sponsored accounts. The account sponsor and the University is currently liable for any problem with a sponsored account (e.g., copyright violations).• Disaster recovery site is going to be completed in August. This would be a “warm” recovery site, expected to bring up critical enterprise services within 48 hours of a catastrophic event in the current main site.• Email attachments best practices and tips has been posted at front page of web portal	

<p>CSSD's Report – Jinx Walton (cont.)</p>	<p><u>Discussion items:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Prorating software package purchases</i> whose licenses are due annually on July 1st. Current pricing does not allow prorating, but is fairly low and perhaps would go up (because of software vendors) if licensing terms were changed. Current pricing includes a grace period: if you buy a software package between April 1st and June 31st, you get the next year for free. • <i>Broadcast messages</i> Currently, there are messages that are being broadcast to all voicemail accounts regularly (typically once a week). There is no way to opt-out. It seems that many people are not happy. Propose to survey usefulness and consider discontinuing, if survey data suggest so. Committee agrees unanimously. 	<p>[Jinx] Conduct survey whether to continue broadcast message service</p> <p>[Alex] Bring issue to Faculty Assembly and get feedback.</p>
<p>Issue with VPN home page</p>	<p>Because of a CERT security advisory the address bar in the VPN landing page (http://sremote.pitt.edu) has been removed. This could have been exploited for a cross-site scripting attack and affects all VPN manufacturers.</p> <p>This creates some inconvenience to students who are using the VPN to access digital libraries outside campus (and have direct links to the resources they want to access).</p> <p>To alleviate the problem, additional links could be added to the VPN home page (e.g., scholar.google.com, PubMed, and O'Reilly's Safari bookshelf) and anything accessible through the my.pitt.edu portal will also be accessible through the VPN soon.</p>	

<p>Green initiative for conversion of mass mailings to email</p>	<p>Ideally there should be electronic displays (flat screens) throughout campus to provide public awareness of events. Given that email kiosks are being decommissioned, perhaps they could be repurposed.</p> <p>As an immediate first step, we can explore an opt-in method of electronic delivery of mass-mailings (currently in paper). This would lead to a lot of cost savings (paper, printing, and delivery), plus would be a good move for the environment. It would be “backwards-compatible” to current system (i.e., people who prefer paper will still get such mass mailings in paper). It seems to be easy to implement because mass-mailings are prepared centrally and directory services are provided by CSSD. An option in a user’s profile can be used to denote preferences with regards to electronic delivery. Electronic delivery would mean mass mailings will be available in PDF form and whoever has signed up will get a notice via email. An archive of such notices will also be available through my.pitt.edu.</p>	<p>[Alex] Get feedback from Faculty Assembly</p>
--	--	--