

Senate Computing Usage Committee - December 7, 2012

Members in attendance: Alexandros Labrinidis [AL], Jinx Walton [JW], Frank Beatrous [FB], Michael Lipschutz [ML], Michael Bolam [MB], John LaDue [JL], Luis Vargas [LV], Joe Constantino [JC], Alex Jones [AJ], Irene Freize [IF], Susan Sereika [SS], Vincent Arena [VA], Kenny Dotty [KD]

Excused: Arif Jamal [AAJ], Fran Yarger [FY]

Meeting started at 10:05am

1. Approval of minutes from previous meeting

Minutes approved by those present

2. CSSD Update - Jinx Walton

[JW] briefing on cloud storage later today

[JW] student photos for classes, is up and running (you can now download them). It is now in the faculty center as a zip file, with jpeg images with filenames of the name of the student.

[AL] add email addresses in the download roster option

[JW] read green update

3222 subscribers (about 1000 more from last year)

2386 staff

836 faculty

one of the things this committee recommended was to have it as opt-out, this was not adopted by administration. announce units that have high participation (over 50%), as a way to encourage more participation.

Senate Computing Usage Committee - December 7, 2012

one extension to improve functionality: add a sentence describing the content, this has already been suggested and CSSD is working on it.

[FB] for opt-out vs opt-in: could we make it opt-out for new employees only? This was also suggested, but not approved by administration.

[AL] can we make an introduction to read-green part of the default HR orientation?

[JW] yes, this is doable.

[JW] update on OMET

about 3K surveys

75% online surveys - overall response rate is approximately 50%.

25% in class

[JW] would be nice to have faculty volunteer to test new services (beyond just the cloud storage), e.g., cloud services / testing zip file.

[AL] we can also come up with a different way of communication to campus faculty, beyond minutes/faculty assembly/univ. times, EG twitter account

[JW] password changes - will happen in January

* students change passwords every 180 dates - was fixed window and now will be a rolling window. Problems with fixed window because of all forgotten passwords and reset requests overwhelming help desk.

* keepass being offered for free, available on multiple platforms

[VA] solution on various platforms, but degree of implementation on different platforms may be different (e.g., read vs write capability)

Senate Computing Usage Committee - December 7, 2012

[JW] when you change your password cannot just change it and change it back to old one
change password approximately twice a year

14-day reminder before due date -- next login will be forced to change your password.
one suggestion is to do this once a year for faculty, for staff it will be 180days, same as with students.

[AL] need to balance inconvenience with security, given that there is no 100% guaranteed security. See Wired Nov 2012 article:
<http://www.wired.com/gadgetlab/2012/11/ff-mat-honan-password-hacker/>

[JC] we should eventually have everybody be under the 180-day rule!

[FB] do not think password changes like that are necessary, but if we are doing this, we might as well have it the same for all

[LV] how come banks do not these?

[AJ] all sort of other mechanisms in place (e.g., trusted picture)

[AJ] how about other strategies that would be less onerous to constituents?

For example, can we make machines trusted vs untrusted?

[JW] have some of that in place, but could look at more things like that.

[LV] do we have a profile of the average hacker?

[JW] have 24h monitor at NOC, failed logins, access from unknown location, etc

[AL] one idea: blocking accounts after X failed attempts within a certain time-period.

[JW] there is monitoring, although blocking is not happening yet. You would be amazed at how many times this happens from legitimate users. Do not have it as an active block.

[AL] can we add open-ended password questions, as part of the password-reset feature?

[JW] yes, we can look into this.

[AJ] in favor of keeping window longer (1 year)

Senate Computing Usage Committee - December 7, 2012

[VA] might as well do it only once

[JC] inappropriate to treat staff and faculty differently

[VA] if passwords are shared, this mechanism will cut down on the practice.

[AL] seems to be agreement that all groups should have 180 days timeout

times should be staggered for different groups of people, so that not to overwhelm the help desk.

should make sure this announcement trickles down through the administration hierarchy in the form of a memo.

[JW] cloud storage

alternatives: dropbox, google drive, iCloud, box.com

want to provide guidance to users and an enterprise option

presentation by Dan Menicucci on Cloud Storage Options

box.com features:

- content management (tags + folders)
- collaboration features
- maintain revisions and history
- sync files to desktops
- flexibility to share anonymously and with a box.com account
- search files and content
- discussion and commenting
- assign tasks
- for office documents there is a box application to edit it directly (download, edit, and then upload)
- there are web documents that can be edited online (e.g., google spreadsheets) and support real-time editing
- very inclusive, support all major desktop and mobile operating systems (if no native app exists, then there is a custom web site)
- over 300 applications available to expand native box functionality
- box.com is an internet2 partner which means faster access to files from Pitt through Internet2 backbone

Senate Computing Usage Committee - December 7, 2012

- how it can be offered:
 - tied to university computing account
 - available to any university affiliate
 - planned initial quotas of 10GB
 - quota increases through help desk

[JW] contact if any committee member would be interested in testing it.

[AL] an email should be sent to the list for people who are interested to follow up

[AJ] how could we do shared code repositories?

[JW] something to consider in the future.

Meeting ended at 11:07 am
Scribe: Alexandros Labrinidis

Next meetings: January 18, 2013 / February 15, 2013 / March 22, 2013 / April 19, 2013