

Last update: 2011-02-14

Security items -

- a) Andy has changed all of the individual user passwords.
- b) Andy has changed all of the local administrator passwords on servers and desktops.
- c) Andy will lock any accounts he does not recognize. If somebody needs that account, we will hear soon enough.
- d) Andy has turned off all of the wireless access points except the one that runs the COWS.
- e) Door locks have been changed throughout the parish campus.

Infrastructure overhaul items -

- f) Decision was made to remove the Itec proxy/firewall appliance and replace it with the Sonic appliance (via CDW).

Cost on this new appliance is \$1700 which includes the hardware, software and 2 years of maintenance,. Investigations into solutions that remove this function from our control and our maintenance proved to be more costly, and in some cases required all parish/school users to navigate differently to the internet. This new Sonic appliance also contains a VPN solution, allowing us to remove the Cisco PIX machine from the parish campus.

The Sonic appliance is in stock at CDW. Expected delivery time would be a couple days.

Update 2011-02-11: Craig A. reports that his networking associate is willing to do the Sonic installation for us. Craig is getting time estimates and costs. As of this date, estimate is 5 hours of work to do the following:

- a) open ports for email (we will not be off of our email host at this time)
- b) install the hardware
- c) install and configure the filter license/package
- d) install the VPN license/package and configure it to Active Directory
- e) swap out the Cisco PIX/proxy
- f) provide documentation of this work

There is a concern from Craig's associate that the filtering option may overburden the hardware that we are currently leaning towards (#240). Hopefully more information is coming on this.

Update 2011-02-15: The price on the other Sonic unit (#2400; larger capacity): \$2950 for hardware, software and 2 years maintenance.

The vendor suggests that the smaller (#240) unit should have enough capacity for our needs.

- g) Decision was made to get rid of the MS-exchange email host and stop performing that function in-house. A project will need to be undertaken to transfer all in-house email content to a hosted/cloud solution.

Right now, the Microsoft solution known as "Live@edu" is the likely candidate. The benefit to the Microsoft solution is that it allows all parish users to continue to use the MS-outlook software to access their mail.

Craig A. has agreed to participate in this data transfer effort.

Craig would work on the data transfer; parish staff/volunteers would need to make modifications to all machines.

There is an interruption of service involved in this effort.

Depending on the data transfer effort, it might be possible to do this project over a weekend.

There is no fee/charge for using this service (Live@edu).

Update 2011-02-10: Craig A. has reviewed the process to migrate our email to the solution hosted by Microsoft. He is recommending a solution known as "Small Business flat", which allows email, calendars and contacts to be migrated.

Craig is also reporting that he estimates we have about 9gig of exchange data that will need to be moved.

- h) There is a concern that necessary backups of parish data/software are not happening.  
Andy S. has agreed to start doing backups to an external hard drive on a (about) weekly basis.  
Update 2011-02-15: Andy S. reports that this is working and not a burden on his schedule.
- i) More discussion needs to be held on what to do about backup processing in the future.  
There are multiple options right now: continuing with the current tape system, pushing the data to the cloud, doing simple backups to external devices or other parish hosts.  
We hope to continue this discussion on 2011-02-15 (next meeting).  
Update 2011-02-15: More discussion on this topic.  
Agreed that this is not a pressing matter; that the current process of Andy doing backups to an external hard drive will get us by for some time.  
There are arguments in favor of using the existing tape drive and arguments for other techniques.
- j) Decision was made that the best way to acquire the necessary MS-Office software was via the Tech soup/education route.  
This comes to \$30 per computer.  
The idea of acquiring the "software assurance" option via CDW was discussed and deemed to be too costly.
- k) There is a security hole in the VPN that needs to be cleared up.  
The VPN client that is currently in use contains a hard-coded password/key.  
Anybody who has the client can get into the parish network, unchallenged.  
That is not a good situation. It is currently being remedied by the fact that we have changed passwords on all the parish machines, so anybody that does get into the network cannot go any farther.  
But, we want to close this hole as soon as possible.  
We need to discuss this at the next meeting and determine if we are ready to go forward (with Sonic).  
We will hopefully learn if Craig Adams network specialist will be available to execute this project.
- l) There are 2 dates currently available for projects that would require service outages.
  - 1) Friday, April 1st is an in-service day.

- 2) Easter break would be another time.  
Thursday April 21 thru Sunday April 30.
- 3) Wednesday February 23 thru Sunday February 27 (conferences?)

m) We need to discuss the idea of going to a 64-bit architecture with any replacement servers.

Update 2011-02-10: Craig A. is recommending that we run Win-2008-64-bit on 2 of the 3 servers that will remain on campus when the infrastructure migration project is complete.

n) The idea of consolidation of the 5 parish servers down to 2-3 machines is still in play.  
(This is the Craig Adams project)  
The original proposal will need to be modified to accommodate the removal of the email host and the replacement of the Itec appliance for the Sonic.

o) Dan H. has installed the VPN client on his home computer and is able to get into all 5 of the parish servers. He has started a hardware/software inventory.

p) Chris S. will be installing the VPN client on his home computer and will begin looking around for whatever MS-SQL databases he can find.  
These are important because they will have to be moved from server-to-server as part of any infrastructure changes, and Craig A. has asked that we (SJV) take responsibility for these databases.  
Update 2011-02-15: Chris S. is struggling to get the VPN to work from his home computers.  
A couple of ideas were discussed.  
If the VPN is not made to work, Chris and Andy will hook up at the parish to allow Chris to get into servers and investigate.  
This is important: We are counting on Chris S. to move some MS-SQL databases as part of the Craig Adam project.

q) One of the ideas that came forward was that of.....If we are going to do this hardware infrastructure project, wouldn't this be the time to do any other software upgrades that might be beneficial or necessary? Examples would be: OS upgrade to Win-2008; Great Plains upgrade; MS-SQL upgrade.

Update 2011-02-15: This idea is taking a back seat now.  
This latest idea from Craig Adams (but not yet formally proposed) is to put all application software on a single server, and leave that server at Win-2003-SE-SP2.  
This means that we do NOT have to do any upgrades as a part of Craig's project and these upgrades can take place in a more controlled pace.

r) Mike Post was going to investigate what releases and platforms are available for the Great Plains accounting software, in case we decide to do other software upgrades.  
Update 2011-02-15: Andy S. is pretty confident that the maintenance fees for MS-Great Plans has been paid. This means we are good to upgrade this software at any time.  
Mike Post determined that we are 2-3 version of this software behind.  
The current reseller of this maintenance is Revere Group.  
Andy is going to try to get a firm answer on the maintenance fees question.

s) Mike Post is going to investigate the effort required to start using the Microsoft cloud-based email,

C:\Users\kathyu.STJOHNV\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet  
Files\Content.Outlook\D98ERNT1\SJV\_discussion\_points.doc

from and end-user prospective.

bids-4-kids items -

- t) The idea of acquiring 5 new laptops to add to the COWS has been added to the bids-4-kids wish list.
- u) After reviewing the first quotes for machines, some discussion was held about buying warranty packages for the new machines.  
It was agreed that this is a good idea.  
This changed the per unit estimate for the new machines to about \$800.00  
Pam P. was going to communicate this information to the bid-4-kids folks.
- v) There is a concern that the "Home" version of the Win-7 operating system will not work for us.  
Mike Post was going to research this.  
Update: Mike did this research and based on his findings we need to order Win-7 Professional for all of these machines.  
Update 2011-02-10: Craig A. reporting: "You must have at least Windows7 Professional for the new PCs to be able to be joined to an Active Directory domain.  
Windows7 Home will not work."