

**UWEX-UWC IT Subcommittee**  
**Updated Report to AISC**  
**2/27/2006**

1. The IT subcommittee continues to meet weekly. In addition to managing several current projects the subcommittee is beginning to explore possible IT organizational structure and approaches to IT organization in a new environment.

**2. Server Facility**

- The Server Consolidation Work Group continues to make progress in analyzing options for the Server Facility infrastructure; backup, universal power, etc. Two breakthrough recommendations from that group are that all servers should be included in the facility with exceptions only on a case-by-case basis and that a single IP space be created for all servers and perhaps for all of Extension and Colleges.
- The UW Madison Physical Plant engineers have completed a draft layout for the Pyle Center location. We are a couple of weeks away from having initial cost estimates.
- We have contracted with Wayne Utke (IT Director at ICS) to be the project manager for the construction of the Server Facility over the next 6 months. We are visiting two new server facilities at UW Madison to explore lessons learned.
- UW Learning Innovations will be moving their offices on June 1. We have agreed to move their servers either to the new server facility or temporary Pyle locations by July 31.
- We are examining the staffing needs for the Server Facility once it is operational. At this point we foresee a half-time higher-level manager and a full-time low-level IT staff person. We believe that these positions can probably be filled by re-tasking existing staff.

**3. Helpdesk Progress**

- We are funding the creation of a student Helpdesk in COOP under the management of the existing COOP Helpdesk manager.
- After a month or so of operation we will evaluate moving INFOSYS support onto that Helpdesk and the Helpdesk manager will become the UWEX Helpdesk manager.
- If this is successful it will free up INFOSYS staff for the Exchange migration and other integration projects

4. **LAN Unification** – The need to unify the separate UWEX LANs became clear from the initial Helpdesk Work Group meeting. The LAN Unification committee has met and the group includes all UWEX divisions running Novell including WGNHS. This group has agreed to analyze exactly what needs to be done to unify and/or standardize existing UWEX LANs so that other integration activities can proceed. This group agreed on a common base-level network id of firstname.lastname (other user-ids are possible through aliasing). The issue of whether the ‘costs’ of standardizing the existing Novell LANs is reasonable or whether we should ‘spend’ that money or effort on simply moving directly to Microsoft Active Directory for our LAN structure is on the table.

#### 5. **Registry Project**

- UWEX identified the need for a registry (electronic directory of all employees) 3 years ago but the project was stalled
- A registry is a critical component of a unified LAN, of an institutional Exchange environment, and many other IT operations
- The registry team was reconvened and identified bottlenecks and solutions including HR/Payroll business processes
- A functioning registry is now in sight with a go-live in late Spring

#### 6. **Outlook/Exchange Migration**

- Pilot phase – 25 users, mostly senior admin, have been cutover
- Bill Meyer is project manager for planning and implementing the mass migration of all UWEX staff, using Kevin Brinnehl (UWC) and Bruce LaBuda (UWEX) as technical staff.
- Lisa Linfield (COOP) and Pat Fellows (UWC) are planning and conducting the training. Three sessions are already scheduled (2/23, 3/1, 3/3).
- As a result of the pilot we have extended an invitation to all UWEX IT staff to migrate and train early, before the mass migration begins.
- Given our need to develop Exchange expertise at UWEX we are training two UWEX IT staff within the next month or two. We also need to identify a primary Exchange Administrator across both institutions.

7. **Security** The threat environment (and liability) in IT has increased so dramatically within the last several years that it is not surprising that both UW Extension and UW Colleges have designated an IT security officer within the last 18 months. However, both those security officers have had those functions essentially tacked on to existing position descriptions. We are examining the benefits of combining those positions so that we can increase our security expertise substantially.