

November 5, 2013
Connectivity Committee Meeting
MINUTES

Network Services – Ed Anderson (SCS)

LV SA Office Move

SCS has been working with UNLV to facilitate the move of the old System Administration building from its old location to its new location. UNLV is still working on the fiber bore piece going across Maryland Parkway. It looks like that won't be in service until about June. We do have assurances that the System Office will not be utilizing the large conference room for special meetings and those kinds of things until the fiber is in place. That will reduce the bandwidth requirement at least initially.

For the microwave backup circuit, which will be the primary circuit for this interim period, we are waiting for the engineer to reexamine the mast that will hold the microwave antenna and make sure it is structurally sound to do what we expect it to do. As soon as we get that back, the antenna and the radio will be ordered, but it is still under engineering review at this time.

The third thing, that I reported on previously and that has now been completed, is some work we did with UNLV to bolster the path between the SCB building and the SCS building.

SCS/SA Building Re-wiring

We mentioned last time that SCS was in the process of hiring a contractor to rewire the System Administration office in Reno and the SCS office in Reno to get them off old Cat3 wiring and up to more modern standards of Cat6E. The contract has been awarded to PowerComm, an outfit that has done work before for the university. They are now working to finalize the project schedule and get it underway.

Project Queue

We carried over 58 projects from 2012. As of the end of October, we had 68 new projects, completed 72, and canceled 11. We have a balance in the queue of 43, and of those 43, approximately 12 are on hold for various reasons.

Systems Support Services – Pam Burns (SCS)

We finished migrating all the data off the old disk and everything is running on the Hitachi disk now. The disk subsystems and the tape systems, which had already been

completed, are being decommissioned. We're scheduling those to be picked up and moved out of here.

There's a DR machine, a P770 in Las Vegas, that is completed and the LPARS that are supposed to be over there for disaster recovery for Shared and UNR have been moved and are functional.

We've also been upgrading all the operating systems on the AIX machines. All of non-production, all of development, and all of test have been completed. For UNR, production has been completed. For UNLV, production is scheduled for November 23 and for Shared, production is scheduled for November 16. In addition to the November 16 operating system upgrades, we are going to upgrade the firmware on those boxes as well. So there will be outages for UNLV on November 23, and outages for Shared on November 16.

Data Center Operations – Rich Ayala (SCS)

We had scheduled the installation of the replacement CRAC unit on October 11 & 12, and that was completed successfully, and the equipment is running well. Every indication is that we will be saving electricity because it's a newer model and has newer, better technology.

We had an alarm panel, which was a sub-project of the heat pump project, which was in the process of getting started last time we were together. Now, it's been installed and all the systems in the building are now all according to current code, and the only thing left is for the fire marshal to look at the work and approve it.

The heat pump project itself got a bit of a delay. UNLV Planning and Construction was planning to get an advertised bid out by the middle of October. We ended up having an issue with permitting. The drawings we have that would have been handled through a permit on the campus are going to be a separate permit that goes to the state Public Works Board. It will probably be three or four weeks before that is processed.

We are completing the final few items on the lighting upgrade in the building in Las Vegas. We are partnering with NVEnergy to install some new high efficiency lighting and lesser wattage bulbs in the building. That is turning out to be a good deal. The SA office in Reno has done the same. I'm excited to see how that upgrade will impact our electrical bill.

Client Services – Brian Anzalone (SCS)

Brian was not available to give an update today.

Enterprise Licensing and Contracting – Chris Gaub (SCS)

Chris was not available to give an update today.

System Security – Paul Mudgett (SCS)

SCS provided some additional information to Grant Thornton as part of the audit related to segregation of duties. A couple of the findings that the auditors had applied across the board for all instances. They did downgrade issues from a finding to what they called a “verbal internal control observation”. As a result, the issue is no longer a finding on the list based on the information we provided them, but it is an issue that will remain on the radar screen for future audits.

The PCI Security Council is releasing version 3.0 of the data security standard this month. It will go into effect in January. People will have a year to implement all the new changes. There are rumors about what the changes are, but there’s nothing set in stone until the standard is released. For those who have PCI requirements, there will be some changes I’m sure.

Lastly, we are evaluating some new vulnerability scanning software to replace some older software.

New Technologies – All

Renovo Implementation – Ed Anderson (SCS)

The Renovo implementation, which is the change out of the video scheduling software application, is moving ahead. This month is training month. Between November 25 and December 25 all the training of the schedulers and users will be carried out. We are trying to target this for implementation and go live prior to registration at the start of the semester.

Ring Central Roll Out – Robert Prior (SCS)

At our last meeting, SCS Las Vegas, Reno, and Elko were all using their RingCentral phones. Now System Administration North and South, including EPSCoR in the south are all using their Ring Central phones as well.

SCS in Las Vegas is using new phone numbers, but SCS Reno was able to have their numbers ported over to Ring Central. The paperwork has been submitted to start the porting process for SA LV.

The phone installation for SA Reno was just completed last week. We will continue to make adjustments as needed but suspect that we will start the porting process for their phone numbers next week.

Operational Issues/Events – All

Brocade Issues – Ed Anderson (SCS)

SCS has been wrestling over the last several months with some issues with Brocade RX and MLX routers. The result was that we had to replace virtually every card in three routers with current version, current rev, direct from the factory, known good parts. Right now, we have completed most of that work. It may be a little early to tell, but things seem to be working fine. Historically, it can take up to several months before we start seeing issues again. So we will be keeping an eye on the equipment and its performance. There are likely a number of root causes that contributed to the overall issues.

Halon System at SCS Reno – Jim McKinney (SCS)

SCS is going to remove the old halon system that is in this building. It's been inoperable for several years, but the halon is still sitting in the tank and is wired into the fire protection shunt trip circuit. There are old switches next to the halon that complicate the situation. UNR Facilities is looking at how to unwire it from the shunt, which is the same shunt that took down the datacenter a year and a half ago. Once they know what they are going to do, we will send something out to this group and schedule it for an off hour.

Getchell Outage – Jeff Wolff (UNR)

For all practical purposes, any services coming out of Getchell Library will go off line a week from today. I have a request in to schedule relocating University Press. It needs to happen Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday of this week, but I still don't have a commitment on a time I can do it. I need two fiber pairs identified out of ARF that link back into the SCS datacenter – one for your secondary path for the link that used to come from Getchell over to the Cain Hall/SCS video switch. And I need a second pair coming off the ARF fiber that can connect down to University Press for their network.

Other

Nothing offered.