

April 1, 2013
Connectivity Committee Meeting
MINUTES

Network Services – Ed Anderson (SCS)

LV SA Office Move – Cox Dark Fiber Service – Ed Anderson (SCS)

The Cox Dark Fiber Service is installed and working well.

LV SA Office Move – Microwave Data Service Backup – Ed Anderson (SCS)

The Microwave Data Service backup is also up and running and performing as expected.

LV SA Office Move – LV SA Office Wireless Network – Ed Anderson (SCS)

All of the wireless access points are up and running. Approximately 40 stations were moved on March 14. Ed thanked all the individuals involved.

LV SA Office Move – LV SA Office Video Conferencing – Ed Anderson (SCS)

Video-conferencing in some of the smaller conference rooms has been completed and tested and is operational. The Board Room is largely completed and training on the equipment will be conducted. There are plans for Board of Regents meetings in the next few weeks.

LV SA Office Move – EPSCoR Voice Service– Ed Anderson (SCS)

Telephone and data service has been provisioned for EPSCoR with the help of Cox Communications at the Flamingo Road location.

Another project associated with the fiber project, the Via West initiative which will provide another node on the Southern Ring, was provisioned by Cox Communications in the Via West Carson Street facility. SCS is now working with Level(3) to relocate it's the southern termination point from the current PoP location on E. Sahara to the Via West location on Carson Street.

Once that connection is made, The exposure to a potential single point of failure at the existing Level(3) PoP will be eliminated.

SCS/SA Building Re-wiring – Kirk Fitzgerald (SCS)

The recabling of System Administration North and SCS North has been completed.

Project Queue – Ed Anderson (SCS)

There have been 19 new projects initiated this year with 16 completed to date. Two projects have been canceled, leaving a balance of 36. Of those 36, five are on hold.

Systems Support Services – Pam Burns (SCS)

Systems Support Services has completed updating all software packages on AIX systems to address security vulnerabilities. In order to bring curl, the secure FTP product, to a current code base, syntax changes had to be made for all file transfers between iNtegrate and the mainframe. The campus departments made their changes and curl was updated last week. No problems have been reported.

Also for security purposes, SSS is working on eliminating direct logins to shared accounts, like Oracle, on the iNtegrate systems. Analysts and developers will need to login with their personal account first and then switch to the shared account. SSS has been working with analysts in the Shared Instance and are almost done. They will be contacting UNLV and UNR to start working on these changes with them.

Preventive maintenance and current microcode have been applied to the disk in the Reno and Las Vegas Data Centers and is up to code.

On Friday, April 11, during the 5:30 p.m. maintenance window, SSS will transition to new domain controllers. They will provide domain services and DNS roles. No impact or outages are expected.

As of May 1, Host On-Demand will no longer be an option for accessing the mainframe. NSHE owns a state-wide license for QWS3270 Secure and we have found it to be faster and more reliable. SCS recommends that anyone still using Host On-Demand contact their campus IT organization to request the QWS 3270 Secure client. Brian Anzalone confirmed that SCS Client Services has contacted all service desks with this information.

Data Center Operations – Richard Ayala (SCS)

The fire marshal's recent inspection found one additional discrepancy. The relocation of a sprinkler system valve will be completed this week and should meet all requirements.

One bid was received on March 6 for the heat pump project which is not sufficient to award the contract. The scope of work is under review and will probably be revised with the bid submitted again in two to three weeks.

Richard received a quote from the vendor for the second phase of the upgrade to the Las Vegas Data Center building lighting. SCS will work with NV energy again on rebate opportunities.

SCS is planning on installing a fourth CRAC unit in the Las Vegas computer room at the end of this fiscal year or beginning of the next depending on funding. There are some concerns that CRAC units need to be replaced in the Reno computer room.

Client Services – Brian Anzalone (SCS)

The Las Vegas System Administration move required the majority of Client Services resources in March, along with the early March Board of Regents meetings. Anticipating possible problems, SCS kept staff out at the new building. Brian noted the good communication between Client Services and Network Services.

Enterprise Licensing and Contracting – Chris Gaub (SCS)

NSHE software licensing Fiscal Year 15 efforts will begin in a month or so.

Adobe and Autodesk are both making changes to their licensing offerings to NSHE. Adobe will brief NSHE institutions on Wednesday, April 2. Autodesk may grant software to educational

entities on three-year grants, with the implication that we will not have to pay software maintenance any longer. It may include a broader suite of tools. The downside of such an agreement may include what happens after three years of not paying maintenance. It also tends to negate all the Autodesk resellers who have been working with higher education. Autodesk will be focusing their efforts on service, not selling software and maintenance going forward.

SHI has processed the 2014 Microsoft EES renewal. All institutions have submitted their orders.

VMware continues to work on its proposal for an NSHE-wide agreement for VMware software. They have moved from something that is transactional or seat-based to FTE-based. Chris expects that the contract will be in excess of one million dollars.

Chris is also working with Hyland software to restructure the OnBase contract that is used WNC, GBC and TMCC.

System Security – Paul Mudgett (SCS)

Referring to last month's discussion of the University of Maryland security breach, SCS has changed some its security logging.

Windows XP support will end on April 8 and Microsoft will cease security updates. Paul recommended either upgrading to a new operating system or keeping the machine well protected if there is an essential reason to keep XP. End of support will ensure plenty of opportunity to steal data.

New Technologies – All

WNC – Douglas Fiber Project – Susan Schoeffler (WNC)

It has taken a year or longer to complete the project on WNC's part. It took a little longer than originally anticipated due to equipment breakdown but, after repairs, the fiber was pulled and locked down in the WNC server rooms. Susan thanked Greg Ebner for his assistance. They now have to wait for completion of the NDOT Ring so SCS can connect to it, then hook WNC on to SCS. It should all be finished by the start of fall semester 2014.

Ed Anderson reminded the group of the inception of the Digital 395 Project running from southern California through along the 395 corridor, through Minden and Gardnerville, Carson City and continuing north. The project allows access to some of the State's fiber and conduit in the Carson City area in exchange for fiber service to WNC's Douglas County campus and to the State entities in the Carson City area. The fiber is now connected to WNC but "dangling" on the other end until such time it is connected to the Carson City fiber ring.

Susan noted the fortuitous timing of the project coinciding with WNC's MOUs with the Douglas County School District. The new fiber and faster connection will allow greater utilization of the existing building.

Operational Issues/Events – All

Pahrump/Tonopah Upgrades – Ed Anderson (SCS)

An agreement has been signed with Cox to run a new 100 Mbps video/data service for SCS and a separate, independent service for Nye County School District for 100 MB Ethernet service.

Currently undergoing installation, the new connections will result in a significant increase in service in the Pahrump area.

Similarly, SCS is working on increased service to the Tonopah area. There are currently six T1's providing expensive and marginal services to the Tonopah area. As part of the federally funded New Era rural broadband projects, Arizona Nevada Tower and its subsidiary WestNet will bring a 20 Mbps wireless solution to Tonopah for the same price that is currently being paid for the existing 6 Mbps connection NSHE and the Nye County School District will subsequently establish totally autonomous connections rather than share a joint connection.

Other

iNtegrate 2 - Jim McKinney (SCS)

Five bids were received. The three vendors are Oracle, Workday and SAP, although Oracle and SAP offer two different implementers to make a total of five. All are hosted or software as a service applications. The initial review will be completed by April 11 with meetings following that to evaluate sections of the bid. The final evaluation is scheduled for May 1. Two to three onsite demonstrations are planned north and south with a final decision by the August Board of Regents meeting.