Technology Report

10/2021

Content Filtering

Our current iBoss appliance solution is nearing its end-of-life and requires extensive custom scripting. We have begun the process of finding a modern replacement product that will be easier to maintain and support. We hope to maintain the functionality of the current system. We have participated in product demos for WebTitan, iBoss cloud-hosted platform, and Cisco Umbrella. We are in the process of getting pricing for Web Titan and Cisco Umbrella.

Lumin PDF Editing Software

Adobe Acrobat Reader was chosen over Lumin by the Technology Committee. A shortcut has been added to the Windows Desktop for Acrobat Reader.

Backup Collaboration

Dell technicians updated and configured the backup and archive equipment at the Eau Claire head end. We also met with TEACH and AT&T engineers to discuss connecting the SCLS and Eau Claire head ends. TEACH has a design ready for linking the head ends. This has been implemented. The head ends are connected. We are in the process of configuring the data replication from the SCLS head end to the Eau Claire head end.

Grants Update

All funds for the 2019 E-rate cycle have been retrieved and final checks to libraries will go out mid-October. Fund requests for the 2020 E-rate cycle have been requested. We are gearing up to begin the process for the 2022 E-rate cycle. One library applied for mobile hotspots and data through the ECF program and we have not received confirmation of the grant yet. We are now preparing to work on the ARPA grant. We gathered input from libraries and we issued a survey to garner general interest. We will pick items based on the level of interest and the ease of purchasing and implementation

Cost Formula Work Group

We are convening a Cost Formula Work group to meet in 2021/2022 to review the cost formula in preparation for the 2023 budget. Primary areas of focus include the network fees and support fees for RFID tagging stations.

Server Maintenance

On Sept 12, SCLS staff worked with consultants to perform upgrades on servers delivering these services:

- SCLS authentication authentication for locally subscribed databases, OverDrive access for non-LINKcat libraries
- Filtering (iBoss) bypass capability for blocked pages
- LINKcat shortcut on SCLS-supported public PCs

Marshfield joins LINKcat

Marshfield went live on LINKcat on September 13. SCLS staff worked to transition their OverDrive and other database authentication to do patron lookups against LINKcat.