

VIFA TECH COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes - January 12, 2008 (approved April 19, 2008)

1. Introductions

Present: Ian White, Felix Gianellia, Peter Rooney, MoniQ DuBord, Garth Graham, Mae Shearman, Gareth Shearman

Regrets: Campbell Good, Kevin Battersby

2. Current status report and work in progress - (Ian and Felix)

3. Server consolidation and upgrades - recommendations

Several services are hosted on legacy machines. These are now old and beyond the recommended life of a server. Those on Web 8 will be ported to our hosting server. The services on approximately 6 of the other legacy machines will be consolidated on a new server which will be purchased shortly. The aim is to use RAID arrays for all of our servers.

4. VTN SCSI controller

Two drives will be purchased to go in the existing case. When this is ready, some down time will be scheduled and the new SCSI controller will be installed in order to improve the performance of the VTN server.

5. Asterisk server - maintenance

No local outstanding issues were identified, except that we need to designate someone to become familiar with Asterisk as a back up to Ian.

6. The future of the text only (CSuite) service

While we would like to begin phasing this out, the problem is complex and will have to be addressed over time. During the meeting the number of text users online in the last 10 days was checked. There were 130, indicating that significant use still exists.

7. Opportunities for new services and revenue sources

- a. VOIP: The only potential new revenue source identified at present is the possibility of serving other tenants in our building. Gary to ask again about a solution for the 911 problem.
- b. Wireless: The radios serving the existing experimental link are not reliable. We need to discuss upgrading them. We could also possibly offer services to people in line of site of the experimental link. Gary to discuss this with Kevin.
- c. Other: There are a number of small Web design companies in Victoria. They should be contacted and informed of our hosting services for their clients.

8. Other issues:

Garth Graham spoke to a cooperative approach to addressing certain Tech Networking needs. These were first identified in the SICAN CAP workshop, Saanich, February 20, 2004, in a SESSION: WHERE ARE WE GOING? – OUR CAP FUTURE. Specific tech needs identified under the general heading of "Rely more on each other" included:

- Share training program info
- ID the “somebodies” who know how to put things back together when they break
- Organizational capacity (to, for example, coordinate the geeks).
- Cooperative buying

He asked if follow-up on addressing these still outstanding needs was an appropriate responsibility of the Tech Committee? And, if so, would it be useful to invite the IT people working in SICAN partner organizations to the Tech Committee meetings on a regular basis? The consensus response was, "What benefit would occur for the volunteers supporting system core tech operation? The Tech Committee is those who have to operate the equipment."

It was decided that, under the current resource circumstances, the resulting new issues and demands would only add burdens to tech support volunteers and to their ability to keep the core system operating. While such a "web" of cooperative relationship would obviously strengthen VIFA's ability to respond to the tech problems of its core partners in Greater Victoria's social services sector, additional means to address additional needs will have to be found.

8. Meeting frequency/next meeting

It was agreed that, at least for now, we need to meet monthly.