

Group: Information Technology Council 2020-2021
Subject: Minutes for the ITC Monthly Meeting
Date: Monday, September 20th, 2021, 9:00am-10:00am
Location: Zoom

Recorder: April Dickson

Attendees: Andy Fagg (Computer Science), Aaron Biggs (Provost Office), Nick Key (OU IT), Aaron Baillio (IT), Konstantinos Karathanasis (Music), Jenel Cavazos (Psychology), Char Eby (Computer Science), Richard Sprecker (Drama), Edward Realí (SGA), Daniel Deering (VPR)

Review of August Minutes – Andy Fagg

MyMedia Privacy Issue – Andy Fagg

- Faculty received a message indicating training is required for posting videos to MyMedia Channels.

Discussion:

Nick Key: This message was sent out due to a Privacy complaint. OU IT worked with the Office of Legal Counsel and the Data Privacy Officer to identify what prompted the concerns and how to respond to the concerns. The privacy issue stems from a common practice of publishing recorded sessions where students are identified. Once the recorded sessions are published and made available to all OU users, a student's first name, last name, course enrollment, and participation activities are made available to anyone with a 4x4. The message included a KB article with steps for the recommended method to share videos:

KB Article: <https://itsupport.ou.edu/TDClient/35/Norman/KB/ArticleDet?ID=357&SIDs=496>

Andy Fagg: A classroom is a public square, is there an expectation of privacy?

Aaron Baillio:

- There are some things that obscure your presence in the classroom.
- In a digital classroom, class memberships were exposed when Published.

Nick Key:

- In a recorded session, comments are published and a user is not given the opportunity to decide if they want to share or not.
- The driver behind these changes was a Privacy complaint.

Jenel Cavazos:

- This is specifically about videos that show or have students in the recorded session.

Nick Key:

- Impact resulted in shut down some of the channels because they were made up of 80+/- who did have students involved. We had to make a permissions change. It is fine to republish if you have a video that not meet the same criteria.

- Email message communicating change was sent to only those impacted.

Aaron Biggs:

- Future Communication of Change?
- Is there a technical control where we can display a banner when media is published?

Andy:

- There are times when outside of that particular context and a student is asking questions about a particular topic. I would like to be able to share existing content with that student.
- The terminology for permissions for MyMedia is inconsistent depending on which interface you are in. You can flag something as private and then add to a Channel
- 3 different ways to make available: 1) Playlists, 2) Channels, 3) Canvas Integration.
- There are playlists within channels, but different than MyMedia playlists. Time to revisit all of those options.
- Can I obtain an Authorization form from Students in my class to permit posting publicly to channels?

Nick:

- We typically do this at the beginning of the year.
- Because it is a public system, I don't believe so. Will go back and check notes, and ask Jeremy if need to.
- This only cuts out the public sharing of the recorded content, but that is probably something we need to ask outside of this group. It is permissible if sharing with named people, but broad access to any OU user should be restricted.
- If you add it to a Channel, it's available to anyone with a 4x4.
- Will take this feedback to AT, the channels are confusing anyway. It is just a different model, when you are publishing to channels, it becomes available to all. We've just turned off publishing to channels for now.
- 3rd option is the recommended method, that way only students within your course will get to see that content. Playlists are used for group multiple content together, but does not change the Private/Public permission settings.
- Maybe we need to come back to some training, maybe In Day of Development, and more traditional Academic Tech Expos, will do more of this.
- The Office of Legal Counsel, at a minimum, would need to approve an Authorization from Students.

Transcription Services Vendor Change

Andy:

- I heard our vendor changed.
- Believe this is coming from OU Online.

Nick: This is news to OU. We are still approving POs for these services. There could be a change in the ADA office, but no change on OU IT side. Will follow-up.

Authentication

Andy:

- About to start changing passwords.

Nick:

- Yes, everyone will get notifications when it is time to change their password.
- 12 characters is the only new requirement

April:

- 12 characters is the only truly new requirement,
- We have experienced a small number of issues during the New Account Creation process when Students, Staff, and Faculty are on-boarding, related to using first name or last name in password.
- Using any part of a first or last name in the password is not permitted by the policy.

Aaron:

- The use of passphrases is going away.
- Passphrases were 16 characters in length with no additional complexity requirements

Computer Purchases

Andy: Supply chain still seems really stressed.

Nick: Seems to be getting better in some cases. There was an initial improvement and we've gotten a lot of deliveries, but as the summer has gone on as COVID numbers peak, we have supply chain issues with not only chips, but also plastics and other components. It is likely to be frustrating for the remainder of this year and early next year until we get past COVID. We are working on a potential warehousing strategy to build a collection of standardized machines so that it can be ordered and delivered from a warehouse to deliver more effectively. That's a planning phase initiative right now.

Andy: That might have limited utility and might not be able to build it up.

Nick: If we can order enough to get ahead of the game and trickle in the numbers. There will be models that we don't get a quickly, but we can use volume to drive this. There was also a question about updated standardization specs. Talked to IT BO and Chris Kobza. In planning stages for new standards. Adding "mid-range" specs for PC and Mac. Trying to find models that will be available, and affordable. Looking at 24" iMac and 13" Macbook Pro, possibly the 14" Macbook Pro later this year. Because of the M1 chip issue, not in a huge hurry, because it adds an exception layer added to the purchase.

Konstantinos: When will new specs be available?

Nick: Mid-October, roughly.

Konstantinos: Is it possible for certain schools who have already approved lower models, but not yet received them, is it possible to upgrade to mid-range models?

Nick: Believe so. If it has been shipped, it's probably too late, but anytime before that, we can cancel those order. Reach out to IT BO or connect with Nick.

Andy: Orders from July, only Dell monitor has arrived. Pre-pandemic model we looked at these every 6 months?

Nick: We usually review Spring and Fall, but with supply chain issues, we held off on the Spring review. We are going to go ahead and update for Fall.

Research Data

Andy: Spring survey that went out to Faculty. Looks like next month we get updates on this survey. Also having conversations with a variety of people. Libraries and VPR office. Really want to start thinking about a vision for Research Data on campus. The question is where should we be as far as research data. Archiving raw data and research results.

- a) Being able to share data easily either on-campus or to individuals at other institutions. That data could be regulated or not, but we need mechanisms on campus that make it easy to do. If protected, must go through approval process to make sure sharing is appropriate. Right now, it is a hard process just to find what the common mechanisms are. Some more mechanisms coming along with Microsoft.

April: We have been working with the OSCER team on a couple of projects for research. First, the OSCER team is working to implement a Secure SuperComputer that will be OSCER's regulated counterpart. The Secure SuperComputer will include tools for active storage, archival storage, and compute resources.

- Estimated Timeline for Release: Spring 2022
- Globus for both Secure SuperComputer and SuperComputer coming soon.
- Have not figured out Globus data governance processes, yet, but is on the roadmap.
- IAM for Globus and Secure SuperComputer are still being defined, but will largely mimic the existing OSCER governance practices, where possible.

Andy:

- What I like is that OU Faculty provides hardware, but OU IT provides support and maintenance. This is in line with our grant funding model.

Andy: Issue of when we write grant proposals, we have a data sharing plan, part of this is to build more open science types approaches that allow others to pick up data and extend results. It's not clear right now that OU has the mechanisms in place to meet these obligations. Some faculty are publishing these things to their websites. What happens when that faculty member

moves on to someplace else? What happens when the promised data are not published? Potentially falling down on these obligations to make the data available. Suggest that OU start to catalog datasets and place them in locations to ensure these data will be available for a very long time period. The number that the Open Science Foundation is using is at least a 50 year retention period.

April:

- OU IT, through existing processes, only reviews a small percentage of research grants, proposals, or agreements.
- Next policy on the roadmap is the Data Retention and Backup policy, so the timing is good to have a more detailed conversation about strategy.
- Will schedule a follow-up meeting with Andy and other SMEs in the next week or following week.

Andy:

- One copy of data is not sufficient.

Future Meetings

October 18th. On a month-to-month basis now.

Research Computing Survey Results

Meeting End