

Group: Information Technology Council 2021-2022

Subject: Minutes for the ITC Monthly Meeting

Date: Monday, April 18th, 2022, 9:00-10:00 am

Location: Zoom

Recorder: Richard Sprecker

Attendees: Andy Fagg (Computer Science), Aaron Biggs (Provost Office), Nick Key (IT), Ross Mehl (Extended Campus), Richard Sprecker (Drama), Eric Zemke (Libraries), David Horton (CIO/IT), Rin Ferraro (Graduate Student Senate), Aaron Baillio (IT Security), Edward Reali (SGA), Jenel Cavazos (Psychology), Konstantinos Karathanasis (Music), Matt Brockwell (VP Admin) April Dickson (IT), Eddie Baron (Physics), Soumya Bhattacharya (Physics), Pierre Kirstetter (Meteorology), Randy Moore (IT)

- Meeting commenced at 9:00 AM
- Additions/comments to last month's notes
 - None
- How computing is being used in physics research side (being talked about the last few months)
 - Soumya Bhattacharya and Eddie Baron presented
 - 100TB data being used, about half being backed up every night
 - Main users of data are astrophysics, growing exponentially. Astronomers have unique and large-scale computing needs
 - Need remote access globally, to allow real-time collaboration. This access is needed for individuals who do not have an OU 4x4 or VPN.
 - How accounts are managed? Yearly audit, email submitted to check for login history and file access for account users. Each faculty member manages remote accounts.
 - Access via ssh (no MFA support)
 - Resources accessed through DoE and other applications: both NASA and DoE have multi-factor authorization features.
 - DoE has standard Google authenticator, and NASA has a similar system (8 digit code, authenticator)
 - Interacting (starting process) with OU IT Security on design
- Introduction of Matt Brockwell to group (OU CFO)
 - Works closely with David Horton regarding IT issues, supports the importance of evolving IT issues and functions
- Latest phishing tests
 - Randy Moore presented

- 2021, 85% of data breached caused by human error/social engineering
- June to December 2021: IT quarantined 151,290 phishing threats from Norman campus email system
- Goal is to have human firewalls with phish-prone percentage below 4.3% (educational industry baseline)
 - Trend is going that way: dropped from 9.5% to 7.2% from June 2021 to January 2022 for OU faculty. Over same time, staff dropped from 13.2% to 4.7%.
- Ransomware issue as well, locks accounts from being used
- To address issue, Norman faculty began receiving monthly simulated phishing emails to test them for identification. If the content in these emails are accessed (URLs or PDFs), then the faculty member will have to complete course to identify threats for future usage
- Students are receiving these email messages, but are not being submitted for training
- If phishing tests are failed, then they are required every 2 weeks opposed to each month



- Utilizing the Phish Alert button (shown on slide) will allow system to monitor and search for potential phishing threats, malware, spam, etc.
- Progress can be tracked at All OU Campus Phish-Prone Percentage Dashboard.
- When IT is notified about malicious emails, IT can remove them from users email boxes (quarantined from mailbox, per se).
- Training is particularly designed to keep threats from escalating, updated yearly to keep up with current threats and world events (Ukraine, for example).
- Phish Alert button solely works in Outlook, however in any web browser.
- Direct questions regarding cybersecurity issues/human firewall and training to Randy Moore, or IT service desk.
- Suspicious emails should be reported using the Phish Alert button
- Forwarding spam with attachment to itspam@ou.edu: these are searched through by IT, not going to receive automatic response that Phish Alert button provides (due to volume). Thus, button is preferred.

- Layers of security needed: at least 3 in place. If spam/phishing attempt is set to report to OU IT, it will be. Option additionally in place to report to Microsoft
 - Students will be the last group to have phishing training implemented
 - IT meets with distributed IT weekly, who support their respective colleges regarding issues in this realm. Report is received weekly, Randy will check on this.
- Meteorology
 - o Pierre Kirstetter presented
 - Research around manipulating radar
 - Institutional data exchanges with NASA and NOAA.
 - Group server: 1 TB Ram, 48 cores
 - Data storage: 140 TB. Data exchange on daily basis around 1 GB
 - Exchange done through SSH and NSSL, along with National Weather Center. Also interfaced with Schooner (supercomputer)
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- Leadership for committee next year
 - o Down to 4 faculty members on committee
 - o Richard Sprecker volunteered to head committee. Placed up for a vote (passed)
- April Dickson (HSC)
 - o Email transmission and use policy up for comments
 - OU IT is responsible for enforcing the email policy
 - o Remote Access standard up for comments, as well
 - o Expanded current policy to include Norman campus, already in place at HSC.
 - o Another policy at Norman campus regarding email retention, David Horton requested April to look into more. Has been in place for 5 or 6 years
 - o Faculty have functions that they are involved in outside of University sphere, need email access. Pockets of faculty leveraging Gmail or other “outside of OU” emails. Conversations of this nature are to bring up information, will be solution based in the future
- Meeting adjournment at 10:00 AM