FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

December 14, 2011 – FLITE Technology Meeting

Present: Ann Bretenwischer, Scott Claerhout, Mike Johnson, Kristy Motz, Emily Mitchell, Rick Bearden, Leah Monger, Josie VanAvery, Brent Kundinger

Topics

News on equipment requests to the Provost's Office

No new information is available at this time.

Upgrading equipment and software in the Assistive Technology Lab

Rick stated that he and Brent realize that upgrades are needed within room 114 and the Adaptive Technologies Lab. All room 114 computers would be replaced. The computers currently in room 114 will be used in room 119, the Adaptive Technologies Lab. Currently there are seven computers in room 119.

Brent noted that the Jaws software should also be upgraded. The Duxbury Systems software may need to be upgraded. Ann inquired as to how long it will take to replace the computers that will be repositioned within room 119. Rick noted it will be less than five years but he was planning on 2 or 3 years. Ann expressed concern on the retention of the students who use the computers supporting braille software. It was noted that Kurzweil software is also available in the Adaptive Technologies Lab.

Rick presented a written proposal and would like approval to move ahead on the updates proposed on his handout which is attached to this meeting report. There was consensus to move forward with Rick's proposal.

Scott noted there is a delivery delay with Dell and he thought FLITE should submit an order as soon as possible.

Planning for deluge of new tablet devices in January

Rick noted that Emily and he are acquiring notes on the Wiki software as they learn about it from users.
Discussion continued on the various new devices that might appear in FLITE after the holidays.

Scott mentioned the possibility of the TAC exploring and purchasing some of the various tablets to measure how well they work at FLITE. He noted that the tablets that use Windows 7 would not be an issue.

Other business/roundtable

Kristy discussed her SPARC meeting about the new student center plans, noting that the members of the student government expressed a desire for more computers with course-specific software packages. An option could be a way to deliver specialized software directly to students' personal computers, accessible by login. Scott noted that Virtual Desktop might be an option for this request.
Emily noted she is still waiting for her new office computer.
Leah inquired about the webcam for the check-out computer that was discussed at the last meeting. It was noted that none have been purchased yet.

Next FLITE Technology Meeting

January 18, 2011, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Submitted by Josie VanAvery

Update Plan for Adaptive Technologies Lab (FLT-119)

Current Status
- All computers and most software is out of date
- There are basically five profiles in the room
    - Image match with FLT-100B
    - Image match with FLT-100B plus braille reader
    - Image match with FLT-200A
    - Image match with FLT-200C
    - Image match with FLT-374
- All of the images have JAWS software added (or should)
- The room has a total of seven computers

Challenges
- The images of software for 200A, 200C, and 374 are very time consuming to build so the computer hardware needs to match that already in use for these images. This hardware is Dell OptiPlex 755.
- Dell OptiPlex 755 is no longer in production nor are there "extras" around campus
- Optimally the other four computers should be Dell OptiPlex 760 but Dell OptiPlex 755 can be used without creating more work.
- Dell OptiPlex 760 is no longer in production.

Proposal
- FLT-114 is populated with Dell OptiPlex 755 computers which is out of sync with the other instructional studios
- The other studios use Dell OptiPlex 780 computers which are still in production
- Replace the Dell OptiPlex 755 computers in FLT-114 with new Dell OptiPlex 780 computers
- Use six of the Dell OptiPlex 755 computers to update Adaptive Technologies Lab
- Use five of the Dell OptiPlex 755 computers to replace the outdated (Dell OptiPlex 620) computers in the podiums in rooms 133, 135, 214, 304, and 438.
- There are around 8-10 more computers used in FLITE which are as old as or older than the Dell OptiPlex 620 models. Replace all of them with the remaining Dell OptiPlex 755s.
- Purchase upgrade to JAWS software.

Benefits
- The Adaptive Technologies Lab gets upgraded so up-to-date versions of software will run.
- No additional image creation is added to TAC workload.
- The instructional studios are brought into sync reducing support complexity.
- Troublesome computers at podiums in seminar rooms are replaced.
- Other computers which are seriously out-of-date get replaced with much newer models.
- This proposal is compatible with the ongoing upgrade cycle for FLITE computers

Future
- The computer replacement cycle needs to include replacements for the Adaptive Technologies Lab which maintain correspondence with the respective base software load (FLT-200A, FLT-200C, etc.)

Budget
      The cost for this project is estimated at a bit under $31,000. Funding can come from the Timme account.