

**Wisconsin Public Library Consortium
Technology Backup Workgroup Notes
March 4, 2024, at 10:00 am
via zoom***

ATTENDEES: Kerri Hilbelink (SCLS), Andrew Hoks (SCLS), Joshua Klingbeil (WVLS), Tony Kriskovich (NWLS), Kris Schwartz (IFLS), Katelyn Noack (IFLS)

PROJECT MANAGER: Jennifer Chamberlain (WiLS), Melody Clark (WiLS)

The meeting started: 10:00 am

1. Review Agenda – Changes or additions

There were no additions to the agenda

2. Discussion Items

a. WPLC Technology Governance Update

The WPLC Board has reviewed and approved the Technology Collaborative Steering Committee's governance restructuring [recommendation](#) that made this body no longer a formal steering committee but a workgroup allowing for more flexibility.

The group reviewed the approved WPLC governance proposal and the new [Tech Backup workgroup](#) purpose.

b. Recruiting New Membership

The group discussed the need and avenues to recruit new members. It was suggested that Pete Hodge (Winnefox) and Carl Demmin (Monarch) be invited as their systems are current participants. The group agreed to focus on the current members and the project to make this meaningful for existing users. A potential procedure will be to offer participants a seat on the workgroup as new members are onboarded.

K. Hilbelink noted and shared a survey of folks interested in either the backup or digital archives backup initially.

c. Next Generation Backup Solution Evaluation Process

The group discussed an evaluation process for the next generation solution. It was noted that this process is hard to determine and evaluate, and discussed the evaluation as a part of the next steps of identifying the next generation solution.

d. Extension of the Dell Maintenance Contract

The group discussed a possible extension of the Dell maintenance contract through May 2026. It was noted that a possible recommendation could go to the Technology Steering Committee for their next meeting on May 14, 2024.

The maintenance ends with Dell on May 15, 2025. However, Dell would likely support one more year renewal (until May 2026). This may be needed in order to determine the next steps of the process.

K. Hilbelink asked whether we should replace it and go forward with the project.

K. Schwartz noted that unless all systems participate as was originally intended, the current participating systems may not be able to afford it.

J. Klingbeil noted that the high coupling of the two services, the backup and digital archival, makes this unwieldy and noted that the archiving aspect may be the thing that drives participants and funding support.

There was a general consensus to start the process of evaluating a new product with the assumption that the systems using the backup currently will continue to do so.

Staff at SCLS have expressed interest in cloud solutions. K. Schwartz noted that is where most of the solutions are moving toward despite security issues.

It was noted that moving forward, it may be beneficial to identify the barriers that systems have had that have backed out and the group can look to alleviate those barriers with a next generation solution.

If it's determined that this is no longer a feasible project, then it could be pulled out of the WPLC governance and back to the hosts (SCLS and LEAN). J. Klingbeil shared that he felt the project is at a threshold where if it moves into the next generation and they get something that is more feasible for those to join, then the governance under WPLC is beneficial. If they are not going to get beyond the participation of the current systems, the governance/ownership may need to go back to the hosts.

It was asked if there are any dependencies between the archiving and the backup. It was noted that not at the moment and that it was originally intended to be coupled but never got to that point, so a replacement or a renewal could be done for one without the other.

A quote for the maintenance renewal with Dell was shared but it was noted that it is an older quote and the group would need to get an updated version if they decide to move forward with that. It was also shared that there is a possibility that renewing will not be necessary if a new solution can be identified and implemented before May 2025. A renewal quote can be done separately for the backup and the archives.

The group agreed that the first next step is to identify technical needs and then will move to a research phase.

A. Hoks will draft a document and share it with the group to add their system's personal requirements.

It was also suggested that the group reach out to non-participating systems to see what their requirements are for backups. If those needs are included with the new solution, it could then be meaningful and accessible to the rest of the state.

3. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is June 4, 2024, at 9:00 am.

Meeting ended at: 10:56 am