

**Wisconsin Public Library Consortium
Technology Backup Workgroup Notes
June 4, 2024, at 9:00 am
via zoom**

ATTENDEES: Will Allington (SCLS), Kerri Hilbelink (SCLS), Pete Hodge (WLS), Andrew Hoks (SCLS), Joshua Klingbeil (WVLS), Tony Kriskovich (NWLS), Kris Schwartz (IFLS), Clairellyn Sommersmith (WLS), Vicki Teal Lovely (SCLS)

ABSENT: Carl Demmin (MLS), Walter Leifeld (WRLS), Katelyn Noack (IFLS)

PROJECT MANAGER: Melody Clark (WILS)

The meeting started: 9:00 am

1. Review Agenda – Changes or additions

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

2. Discussion Items

a. Update: Digital Archive Backup Workgroup Next Gen Backup Solution Discussion

The Digital Archive Backup Workgroup met and discussed next generation backup solutions. It was shared that the group agreed the Technology Backup workgroup should do the bulk of exploring the options since the archive backup group has been more focused on the archive process. It was noted that J. Klingbeil, A. Hoks, and V. Teal Lovely can be the bridge for sharing the digital archive workgroup's needs with the backup workgroup during the exploration process since they participate on both workgroups. In addition, Scott Prater volunteered to provide any archival expertise throughout the process as necessary.

It was asked what the difference is between the two backups and their software. It was shared that they are not the same. The Digital Archives has separate requirements.

The [Five Year Plan for Backup & Digital Storage](#) and the [Digital Archival Storage Needs](#) were shared with the group for background. The Digital Archives group was originally more involved in the technology aspect, but in practicality, the workgroup oversees the digital archival process, and A. Hoks at SCLS does the technology management. The Technology Backup workgroup does more of the IT backup and support for the project.

In addition, it was shared that there are two different service levels, the backup data section which focuses on storage and duplication, and the digital archival section which has one point of entry, behind S3. It was noted that these can be separated, and the exploration of any next generation should keep that in mind. The archival information could be migrated to any product that has S3. It was also noted that ECS (elastic cloud storage) was Dell's solution to integrate the two backups.

It was shared that the Digital Archival group's need is for the most storage for the least amount of cost but doesn't need the deduplication that the ECS does which is valuable for the regular backups.

b. Update: Explore Alternatives to Dell

It was shared that the Technology Steering Committee met in May and reviewed the request to extend the current Dell maintenance contract another year through May of 2026. At the meeting, it was suggested to first explore alternatives to Dell to look at competitive pricing. Park Place and Service Express were two vendors suggested.

The group discussed exploring other options as suggested by the Technology Steering Committee. The system administrators of the backup hardware were asked to weigh in on this request. A. Hoks noted that he was concerned that vendors may be able to support the software but concerns if the data domain breaks, will they be able to support that? It was noted it is a niche product and they might not have expertise.

K. Schwartz noted that he is open to looking at these but shared he thinks it is best to stay with Dell.

J. Klingbeil shared that if we are in a continuation of services with Dell, then we are in a position to continue working with Dell on hardware replacement. There is value to Dell for the systems, and the group could potentially leverage some exchange with them. If the group moves away from Dell, the likelihood of leveraging the old equipment is less. There is no guarantee with this though.

C. Sommersmith felt the group should stick with Dell so that they can focus on the next-generation solutions instead of switching support.

It was asked when will the group be ready to move forward with the renewal of maintenance.

J. Klingbeil noted he is willing to ask for some quotes from potential vendors in parallel with A. Hoks requesting a quote renewal from Dell.

K. Schwartz noted that Service Express will not take on hardware maintenance older than four years. So, the hardware maintenance contract would need to be renewed with Dell anyway and the software maintenance would be/could be supported by an additional vendor. Because of this and the work that would need to go into looking at alternative vendors, the group agreed to pursue a renewal with Dell.

3. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is September 9, 2024, 10:00 am

At the next meeting, the group will have updated the [requirements list for a 2nd generation server backup solution](#). The group will then review the list and discuss how they are going to handle the exploration.

The meeting ended at: 9:56 am