

IT Board Report June 2017

An overhaul of the website is in the works, we're even changing providers/hosts. A demo is available but feedback is required by the 12th (when the trial ends). A slight increase in annual payment, this will add a lot of features to our website and make it much more modern (and secure). Any board/friends webpage release would coincide with this.

- Our old contract with ES11 had us pay for the year, it was done through RCLS so we have no formal contract with them, so we won't renew it next year.

We have to decide if we want to keep the current address or transfer to a new one (something like ebcpl.org is a lot easier to remember/type in)

- If we're OK with changing addresses we just have to launch the new website with the new address and have ES11 set up a "301 redirect" that automatically relays traffic to the new address if patrons go to the old one.
 - We would then have to ask anyone that links to us, like RCLS to change the links on their end.
- If we want to keep our current address ES11 can just transfer hosting, and the change propagates across the internet over a week or two. I'll have to set them up with the new host but it should be fairly straight-forward.

I want to mention something important here, SEO or Search Engine Optimization. I would glaze over it but it's a real concern with a process like this, even with people that know our full address they might still get to us through a Google search. Changing hosts/domains can negatively impact our rankings in search results. Over time this can be mended, but ideally we start the transfer and process it slowly, monitoring it throughout. We want to make this as seamless to patrons as possible, but this would mean we're technically paying for 2 hosts at the same time.

I'm also looking to start a robotics club, as you may have seen in the newsletter. The response has been light (only a few are interested) but Robin Harrington suggested I reach out to the Monticello School District and ask about their robotics program and find out if there's any way I could augment that. I wanted to get into the meatier parts of robotics like the circuitry and programming of them, but I can pivot as interest dictates.

Submitted by:
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6/5/17