

IT Board Report March 2018

Our last reserve PC was used to replace the printing kiosk downstairs. Upon further inspection the older kiosk's heat sink was corroded and oxidized causing it to routinely fail. We have 2 more even older desktops in the basement, but I don't think they should be used. I moved the hard drive from the old kiosk to the new kiosk which can sometimes cause problems, but so far not in this case. This only concerns machines that are no longer serviced by RCLS.

Per recommendations made during the privacy policy meeting, I changed chrome on the machines so that incognito mode would be its default, so that all session information is deleted when it closes. It was a minor setting in chrome's shortcut, and I thought this a preferable solution. Within the past week 4 of these machines have presented with symptoms of corruption, 2 were recoverable, but 2 were not. We scheduled with RCLS to re-image them Tuesday(3/13) but because of snow they had closed. So as of today this remains an unresolved issue.

We've signed up for a month-long trial of the video streaming service Kanopy. It uses a pay-per-use payment model, so we only pay for what we use. There is no minimum cost, so even if we don't have the right demographic for it we wouldn't need to pay much. If you'd like access to the trial account reach out to me at connorscott@rcls.org.

Valve (comparable to Netflix but for video games) recently released a steamworks kit to set up a local licensing service for Steam (the platform for Valve). This would let us install Steam on patron machines, and offer them a curated selection of video games and content. If they wanted they could log into their own Steam account and access their library as usual (we could disable this). Unfortunately it's a new program with little documentation, and I haven't been able to get it to work in our environment, but this is something I will be looking at continuously. Steam is the most popular online game distributor and has a very large collection of free and inexpensive games.

Andy from OfficeDynamics is investigating how to include our AAM (putting money on the library card for printing) with their payment model. In the end we may have to discontinue it, which we thought we had to do from the beginning. We were pleasantly surprised to see it working, but it does make the accounting a little more difficult so we'll see.

Submitted by Connor Scott: March 13, 2018.