

Jan 9, 2009

Web Hosting Meeting

Jason Austin
Everette Allen
Jen Riehle
Charles Brabec
Harry Nicholas
Sarah Noell

Congrats of the proposal being approved by Dr. Hoit!

Steps will be made to make the entire process as transparent as possible. All meeting notes, project plans, matrices, etc. will be posted to further collaboration across NCSU and the university system.

First Steps

- Setup internal environment
 - **Harry and Charles are going to get with Eric S. to go over what UNCC has done and see if it makes sense and works for us**
 - How much will it cost for that deployment
 - Is it feasible?
 - How much filespace/db space are we going to offer
 - How hard is it to increase it later? Unknown at this point.
 - 2 gig per pilot server
 - Need to keep track of costs, even though it doesn't impact the pilot budget
 - UNCC appears to have DB and Webservers separated. Do we want to do this? Is this what ISP's are doing?
 - Suggested for pilot put everything on one VM
 - **UNCC will be sharing their software-type deployment soon. Jason will distribute this when available.**
- Purchase an external environment
 - Everette has been looking into it
 - Do we have to bid it? No, just get 3 quotes
 - **1 quote in hand, Everette will get the other 2 quotes then move forward with purchasing**
 - possibly purchase top 3 (if in budget) to do performance testing
- Identify a set of goals, then what software packages would meet that
- Hardware wise, we have to figure out what we need. Space, speed, transfer, etc.
- **Harry and Charles are going to compare popular outsourced hardware needs with our internal needs. Create a matrix for what outsource is v/s what our capabilities and costs are.**
- Spec out software should be step 0
 - Cpanel and alternatives
 - **Licensing handled through Bill C. (Sarah and Everette will handle this)**
- Domain questions?
 - **ComTech needs to be contacted. (Everette and Harry will work with them)**
 - Does it need to live in the web VN or not?

- High availability scheduling related
- Can we turn off CPanel features that we offer elsewhere?
- Load testing for internal and external services
- **Charles is going to talk to Chris K. in the help desk to let them know we are working on this project.**

Project Plan (Jen, Sarah, Jason)

- Timeline
- Project Goals
- Need info from Harry, Charles and Everette to estimate time for hardware requirements
- Meeting next Tuesday, Jan 13

Volunteers to help in testing

- Goals for testing
- Plan for what to ask, how to test, etc.
- Contact ENGR, CHASS, Web Comm, DELTA, CNR, Textiles, MGMT

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Provisioning is on board with our plans. They will setup a vm for us and about 25gb of storage.

Hosting service: how much bandwidth and how many cycles do we get for our \$'s?
Coker is investigating the contract with hosting service and dedicated server vs shared service. Still no clarity on backup policies. Dedicated server gives us root access and shell accounts creation.

we should start with shared accounts with vendors...coker to buy a low-end reseller account hostgator and we can compare that with a vm. with is more of an apples/apples comparison.

charles to go ahead and ask to get machine provisioned.

TODO: contact comtech.

1/28 - will, harry, charles

We can have ncsu.edu hosts at non-152.1 addresses. or would they give us a block of addresses, we could add that into qip to manage. If they could do the reverse part of their ipaddress space to us, that would be good. If they don't, we'd have to work with the vendor's dns service.

If they don't give us a block, We can add manual resource records into qip, add A records directly into the domain. QIP does have command line interfaces to do this as well. We'll keep access to this very limited, we'd rather script this so that we won't make mistakes. Comtech would be willing to setup a userid that will only let us manage that domain.

QIP 7.1 will have a SOAP interface so that we don't have to use the CLI.

If the vendor only gives us a single ipaddress and they expect us to virtual host, we'll have SSL problems.

