Web Hosting Update Meeting - 1/15/09

(Sarah, Harry, Charles, Jen, Jason, Everette (and Emily) in attendance)

- Everette -- Working on Hosting Companies
    - Everette has spoken to Bill Coker about licensing for hosting vendors and cPanel
        - Sarah will work with Bill to draft a letter to cPanel regarding licensing
        - May also need to do this with Fantastico (cPanel is 1st priority)
    - Questions about how the hosting services will work (dedicated server vs. shared servers); "Reseller account" pays for dedicated hosting
    - Back-up policies and support levels still unknown
    - Attempts made to compare apples to apples but questions about root access availability on dedicated vs. VM servers
    - Bill is purchasing HostGator, low-end "Aluminum" account for testing (which should be comperable to our internal VM hosting
        - We will probably want to chat with them about additional services available at the higher end accounts; would like to collect statistics if they'll allow us (they have several stat tools included with their services)
    - Other potential hosting companies:
        - The Planet (actually behind HostGator), E-Host Pros (Host Gator features, similar price)
        - Everette will be looking at still more hosts (Dreamhost) -- suggest others!
        - Need to look at all services (such as shared databases) from all vendors
  - Charles -- VM Provisioning
- Spoke with Eric and he thinks we should be able to do this pretty easily
- No cost barriers; still back-up considerations
- Shouldn't be too long, but Eric is unsure about timeline; Everette requests sooner rather than later since he believes cPanel negotiations will be quick
  - Jason/ Jen/ Sarah
      - Met breifly to set up project plan (in Google docs); will be shared with team so please review and add/update as needed
      - We will need to define our evaluation criteria. Please take a look and add or expand upon any evaluation pieces as needed
      - Check out ncsuwebdev! Our forum post regarding the project is getting a lot of comments, feedback and suggestions.
          - Engineering staff (Richard McLane, server admin) has volunteered to help out; may bring him into meetings
- Everette: we need a domain.
    - Harry and Everette will need to contact ComTech regarding this
    - Should go ahead and pay for it- keep DNS questions out of known issues to start
    - Trying to establish ability to use sub-domain; must ask hosting companies this early in the process
    - use ncsuweb1.info, ncsuweb1.org

Next steps:
- Jen, Jason and Sarah need to get together to flesh out project plan

- Everette working on getting cPanel
- Sarah and Bill will work on cPanel proposal
- Charles will work on provisioning machine with Eric