



## **TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE REPORT Met August 6, 2018 @ 2pm**

On August 6, the Technology Committee met to discuss a number of things: introducing new Trustee and tech committee member, Kim Langworthy, to BDL's tech operations; current and future technology plans; and a funding request to purchase computer lab time management software.

In December 2015 / January 2016, we did a trial run of a time management product for our computer labs from a company called Envisionware. It was not a good fit for our organization, so we got a refund and went back to our previous PC time-management solution. Our software, which I wrote, does manage the sessions and waiting lists, but cannot currently interface with our library system for us to require library cards to control access to the labs more effectively. I could add this ability, given enough time to devote to the task, but in recent years I haven't had the luxury of extended periods of uninterrupted time that it takes to be engaged in software development tasks like this.

We like the option of having the ability to require a library card. Doing so would help to control the rambunctiousness of the teen/tween crowd at times because if we ban people for bad behavior, we could ensure they don't get on the computers if staff are occupied and don't notice. Tying the time management system to our library catalog also lets us make sure that, for example, a juvenile's card wouldn't grant them access to the teen lab, and a teen couldn't use the young children's computers. We would still easily be able to accommodate travelers and those without cards with temporary guest passes.

I have been researching other time management options, some based in Michigan, some not. At the last Evergreen conference, I learned of a company in Chicago, TBS, which sells library services, including PC time management. Their software looked promising, so we invited their sales rep to visit BDL. She demonstrated the software, then we visited Elkhart Public Library to see the product in use at a busy multi-branch system. We talked to their staff and saw the system in use. We came away impressed and feel we have a solid understanding of how it would work for us. We would like to get it for BDL.

Here's more information about TBS's time management product, MyPC:  
<http://singlecard.com/computer-booking-access-management/>

The Technology Committee recommends we purchase MyPC. We are requesting a one-time cost of \$7,053, to be paid from the Major District Projects fund. As of June, this fund had more than \$180,000. MyPC has a \$693 annual maintenance cost, which will be factored into future budgets.

Submitted by John Rucker