

Attendees:

William Cochrane, Robert de Boer, Peter D Esser, Lokke A Highstein, Hristo Mihovski, Charlotte Nichols, Robert Sideli, Max Ulitskiy, Hui Zhang, Yonghui Zhang

Opening Remarks and Discussions

- The opening remarks and discussions in this roundtable centered on infrastructure issues in CUMC.
 - Robert Sideli, Chief Information Officer, CUMC IT, spoke about his recent visit to a computer room in the Radiology department. He said the computer room was right next to oxygen tanks set against the wall and said it presented a hazard. Peter D Esser, Professor of Clinical Radiology, cited another example of damage to electronics due to an issue with pipes and the cooling system in one of their centers. He said the damage ran up to about \$150,000 dollars. Dr Sideli quoted another instance way back in time in late eighties how two mainframes were jammed in the Neurology server room when it was flooded.
 - Yonghui Zhang, Associate Research Scientist, Irving Cancer Research Center described how they are waiting for a new transformer from the utility company ConEdison to fire up their servers and a large number of racks in their new data center. Dr Sideli added to Yonghui's remarks the fact that this is a state-of-the-art data center set up after investing about seven million dollars with about two and a half million dollar equipment in a 3000 sq. ft. facility.

Backups Hardware and Software: Isilon, Zmanda, and BlueArc

- Hristo Mihovski, Systems Manager, CUMC IT, Yonghui Zhang and Max Ulitskiy, Systems Engineer-Infrastructure, CUMC IT discussed at length the pros and cons of various back up hardware solutions like Isilon and Blue Arc and software like Zmanda in detail after Yonghui Zhang stated that they are having issues in backing up and restoring individual mail box level data stores on Exchange 2007 and Windows 2008 using Zmanda on Isilon.
 - Per Hristo Mihovski the latest version of Zmanda 6.5.3.1 released late March supports backing up data from Exchange Server 2007 on Windows 2008 to the individual mail box level.
 - Per Yonghui Zhang while the performance of Isilon is the best, they were yet to overcome issues in backing up to Isilon using Zmanda.
 - Hristo Mihovski stated that they were using BlueArc for storage and did not face any major issues using Zmanda for their backups.
 - Yonghui Zhang stated that Isilon supports redundancy up to seven levels and said it was more efficient than systems that used Serial ATA (SATA). He also felt that Blue Arc was more expensive than Isilon.
 - Hristo Mihovski suggested Yonghui Zhang to get in touch with Zmanda to get details on the individual mail box level back up functionality in their version 6.5.3.1.

Encryption Software on Laptops

- Charlotte Nichols, Asst. Vice-President CUMC IT, wanted to know from the group if any of their departments were using encryption software on their laptops. She described to the group that the new leased Dell laptops now come with Everdream data encryption software. This ensures that if the hard disk is tampered the data is lost forever. She said that Dell now is bundling up data encryption and data backup as one solution in its leased laptops. She stated that it is the Columbia policy now that laptops should have data encryption built in.

- Peter D Esser, Professor of Clinical Radiology, was curious to know if this software could be purchased from Dell for existing laptops. Charlotte Nichols said it may be possible for a price and needs to be verified with Dell.

Temporary UNIs

- Yonghui Zhang and Peter D Esser were interested to know more about temporary UNIs that are granted to vendors.
 - Dr Sideli explained that while UNIs were created before by 5-Help, it is now an exclusive permission granted to DIAs. He said that vendors are usually granted these temporary UNIs that expire in six months will have basic access like using VPN or access to their applications; however, they will not have access to other resources on the CUMC network. Charlotte Nichols added that those DIAs who have access to self service access to the UNI creation tool only can create these UNIs. She also said the tool sends out e-mails on expiration when the end date approaches to the person sponsoring the temporary UNI.

Closing Remarks:

- Dr Sideli asked the group to submit topics for the next meeting, and said there may be a presentation on malware and phishing attacks from Dean de Beer, Information Security Manager, CUMC IT.