File Sharing Investigation

Shawn Winnington-Ball,

Portfolio Management, IST

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Agenda

- What triggered this all

- IST's investigative process to-date

- Observations, highlights, concerns

- Timeline

- What we need from you

The Trigger

- Complaints about Sendit from academics
  - General usability
  - Java requirement
  - Password complexity rules

- Google Drive was their new stated approach for sharing files

- Small IST working group assembled at the end of 2015

- Goal: Investigate file sharing tools in the marketplace and recommend one

- Owncloud was the natural front-runner, but we didn't want to jump to conclusions

Info gathering

- We wanted to find out our clients' file sharing needs, so we put out for some feedback in Nov /15

- Responses from individuals from 11 academic support units, some faculty

- Highlights
    - Need for lots of storage space
    - Dislike/frustration with Sharepoint
    - Use of Dropbox, Google Drive, etc.
    - Need to access working files from home
    - Granular access control
    - Off-campus file sharing
    - Temporary workspaces

State of Owncloud, Dropbox

- Engineering runs the most well-used installation, with 50 users

- CS has an older installation with few users

- Dropbox is anecdotally the most frequently used 3rd party file sharing service on-campus

- Is a local Owncloud installation enough to entice people away from 3rd party tools?

IST file sharing service

- IST offers a variety of file sharing service offerings
  - Sharepoint, MySharepoint (OneDrive for Business)
  - Sendit
  - Network drives
  - Email, WCMS, Git, etc.

- Gap analysis: need to better understand what we have before adding something new

Information Mgmt Approach

- We offer all these services, and should provide some guidance for which to use in certain situations

- Started creating a decision tree (work in progress) that asks questions like
    - Type of info
    - Who should have access?
    - For how long will the files be relevant?
    - How large are the files?
    - Is any info restricted or highly-restricted?
    - Are you trying to collaborate or disseminate?
        - For how long?

Observations highlights concerns

- Whether we choose OwnCloud, there are still matters to address with existing offerings
    - User education
    - Investigating/following-up on reported issues (e.g. Sendit usability)
    - Service governance and strategy

- If we can use OneDrive for Business with local storage, is Owncloud a duplication of effort?

- USask deployed Owncloud to their campus in 2015; one of their goals was preventing use of Dropbox; do we have similar privacy concerns?

- How this effort fits with existing priorities, and determining support obligations within IST

Timeline

Actions	Expected completion
Gathering more info from faculty and staff clients	Early April
Verifying requirements against our demo Owncloud instance	Mid April
Determine privacy considerations	Late April
Determine how this fits with Microsoft 365	Early-Mid May
Go/no-go point, and planning of future steps (pilot or full launch, free or enterprise software, technical architecture, budget, RFP, etc.)	Late May/Early June

What we need from you

- Feedback from your constituencies

- How would you like to be involved in this effort?

- What are your plans with respect to Owncloud/Dropbox/Google Drive/etc ?

Questions?