

Research Computing Advisory Committee

Minutes Mar 2, 2020 (taken by Erik Deumens)

Present: Paul Avery, Nikolay Bliznyuk, Erik Deumens, Jorge Frias, Bill Hogan, Damon Lamb, Melissa Rethlefsen, Erik Schmidt, Plato Smith, Laurie Taylor, Bruce Vogel

Guests: Rob Adams (CISO), Saira Hasnain (Assoc. CIO for infrastructure), Perry Collins (Scholarly Communications Librarian)

Control of email from predatory publishers

- **Rob Adams** summarized what UF does to prevent malicious attacks, including those through email. Vendor tools, in particular ProofPoint, scan incoming email and block, quarantine, and mark them. Intrusion Prevention Systems analyze traffic and block hosts engaged in nefarious activities.
- **Saira Hasnain** explains that tools like ProofPoint automatically categorize email as they learn from spam reports. However, these tools require worldwide statistics and then will respond quickly. The very specialized email from predatory publishers only affect a small community and even in that community there is no perfect consensus on which are bad.
- **Perry Collins** related activities by the libraries to raise awareness and train faculty and researchers to recognize and be cautious, see "thinkchecksubmit.org".

Discussion

- It is possible in Microsoft Outlook and ProofPoint to set up personal rules that will block or redirect to special mailboxes mail you consider bad.
- The process to deal with predatory publishers using "thinkchecksubmit.org" is a manual process.
- **Related warning:** UF General Counsel and UFIT Security are investigating the site "**sci-hub**" not only for bad practices in publishing but also for stealing credentials.

Update on OneIT initiative

(Provided by Erik Deumens)Plans have been defined for several projects that were started a year ago to implement the objective of allowing computers in the 6 health related colleges (PHHP, Nursing, Pharmacy, Medicine, Dentistry, VetMed) to be on the academic network, outside the UFHealth firewall as appropriate so that less restrictive policies and practices apply to them:

1. Enable migration of data from inside the UFHealth firewall to the Academic network
2. Plan migration of all email to Office362
3. Unify the helpdesk to a single phone number and a single URL to avoid the problem of users being bounced around. This will also include a single place to find policies and procedures.

These projects are expected to complete in the coming year.

Discussion

Damon Lamb and Jorge Frias both pointed out that risk assessments are still being used to block progress in installing software.

A request for installing software should note take months, as they report; it is reasonable to expect such a request to be completed with 1 to 3 business days, maybe 7 days in case of very complex software.

Update on AI cluster

(Provided by Erik Deumens) The AI cluster will be built together with HiPerGator 3.0 CPU upgrade in the last quarter of 2020, with production expected sometime in Jan 2021.

Research Computing is defining the number and job descriptions of additional staff that will be needed to properly support the new equipment and the UF community in using the new capability in a domain (artificial intelligence) that is new for most.

Organization

Prof. Jorge Frias-Lopez is a new member of the committee, taking over from Ann Progulske-Fox. Welcome Jorge! Thank you for your service, Ann!

Next meeting will be in Apr 6, 2020 from 1:30 – 2:30 pm. The meeting will be in NPB 2165 and will be Zoom enabled for virtual attendance.