MONTHLY REPORT

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Subject: Monthly Activity Report - November 2014

- On November 11th, I received a notification from our internet service provider that one of our servers may have been compromised or appeared to be the source of malicious activity. The server in question was our calendar server and it was found to be generating an enormous amount of spam messages in the form of event reminders that also contained links to other websites. In all other respects, the server was performing normally. On our outbound mail server, I examined the message log and determined that the recipients of those spam messages did not appear to be our patrons, but random email addresses. I blocked all such messages, performed a malware scan on the calendar server and found no trace of malware infection on the server itself. This being the case, the malicious activity was no doubt due to what is known as an "SQL injection attack," a common attack in which malicious data is inserted into an SQL database. Such a database is a major component of the calendar server. I contacted Evanced, the publisher of the calendar server software, and was advised that the software was in need of an upgrade which they would perform remotely. They also suggested that we have the calendar server migrated to their cloud-based hosted solution. Based on our service population, the hosted service is at no additional cost over our annual maintenance cost.

- Precipitated by the aforementioned attack, on Tuesday, November 25th, the calendar server was migrated to Evanced's cloud-based system and at the same time was upgraded to the latest, more secure version. It will no longer be necessary to maintain, upgrade and back up the server here at the Library. Because the server address has changed from calendar.whiteplainslibrary.org to whiteplainslibrary.evanced.info, I modified our original calendar server to automatically redirect patrons to the new address, should they be accessing it through a saved bookmark. Our website has also been updated to reflect the new calendar address.

- In preparation for the December 15th launch of hoopla, the media streaming service, we have been installing the browser plugin, Widevine, that is required to use the service on Windows-based PCs. The installation has been completed on all staff computers, and we are in the midst of installing it on the public access computers. It is a tedious task due to the fact that it has to be installed three times–once for each of the three browsers available on those systems. Due to time constraints, for now the staff computers only have the plugin installed for the Firefox web browser; however, it is currently being installed for all three browsers on the public access computers.

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