

Emergent Technology Committee Minutes
November 16, 2007

The Emergent Technology Committee met on Friday, November 16th at 10:00 am at the Fond du Lac Public Library.

Open source software was discussed as an option for libraries to use with staff and the public. It was decided that FDL and Menasha would test the Open Office software for viability. Please, if you are interested in testing any open source software let us know! If you have old computers, you may want to consider running Linux with open source software at no cost.

Community Wireless was brought up but didn't get anywhere. It has been decided that there simply isn't the technology available to make this feasible right now.

Options to speed up the network were discussed. These included purchasing more bandwidth from BadgerNet, asking Charter about alternative pricing, and looking for opportunities for fiber. Two libraries in particular have fiber options: FDL and Green Lake. Each library must look at this on their own, though WAL's staff is there to answer any questions.

Keetra reported on the success of Project Play.

Velti (www.velt.com) was discussed as something to be aware of. They offer a service where patrons could opt-in to receive text messages rather than emails. I am investigating price points at this time.

There was also a discussion of Office 2007 and Vista and what libraries are starting to use these for patrons and staff.

Respectfully submitted,

Tasha Saecker