2016-2017 Student Technology Fee Proposals
Florida State University Libraries
Virtual Desktop Zero Clients

I. Project Description:

In the Spring semester this year (2016) the Libraries began implementing a new approach to providing individual computing (i.e. PC workstations) in the Strozier and Dirac buildings. The goal of this new approach is improve student's access to different software, update the aging equipment PC desktops that are currently available for student use and reduce the long term costs of supporting these desktops. When we started we had over 300 aging PCs. This new approach uses a mixture of servers and "zero clients" to replace the PCs. We haved installed and configured the server hardware and software and we began installing new "zero clients". This proposal is asking for funds to complete the conversion of the old desktops to zero clients for student use.

Traditional desktop computers run the operating system and all software on the local computer. Virtual desktop technology runs the operating system and all software on a central server. The virtual desktops are then accessed through a terminal or client. This client can be another computer or what is called a "zero client".

Looking just like a traditional computer with a monitor, keyboard and mouse a "zero client" has no hard drive, operating system or software. Instead it connects over the network to the server to allow you to access a virtual desktop for that user. For the user there is no difference in the experience and most people are not aware that they are working on a virtual desktop. However, the zero client costs less than a quarter of what a full desktop would cost.

FSU Libraries have already purchased the servers and software for the virtual desktops. We have also purchased 175 zero clients for student use. We are now seeking funding for the remaining 125 zero clients to complete the conversion in both Strozier and Dirac libraries. This will allow us to replace the remaining PC desktops, these range in age from 5 to more than 8 years old.

II. Impact of Project on Institution:

If we are awarded this grant we will replace 125 aged PCs with zero clients. These workstations will then enjoy faster computing, access to more speciality software like SPSS, R, and Photoshop and The Libraries will save money to be spent in other areas of student technology support. Some of the equipment we have already replaced has been transferred to other Departments on campus who find them useful.

III. Project Plan:

Once funding is received FSU Libraries will purchase 125 Panasonic Zero Clients from GovConnection. These will then be used to replace the remaining PCs in Dirac and Strozier for student use.

IV. Relationship of This Project to Other University Activities:

Enhancing the technology available to students for use in research and academic studies has a direct impact on their experience at FSU. Students come to the library buildings and use our workstations for both classwork and for research.

V. Plan for Ongoing Support:

The FSU Libraries will provide the people to implement the system and support it after implementation. We have 7.5 FTE devoted to technical support in the Dirac and Strozier Libraries. We are asking for funding for the initial purchase and support for three years. Beyond that time the Libraries will reevaluate and assume future costs for the infrastructure.

VI. Project Team:

Project Implementation Leads: Jean Phillips, Associate Dean for Technology
Project Technical Lead: Louis Brooks, Head of Systems
Technical Staff: Kelly Simon, Jim Snowden, Robert Evans

VII. Budget & Justification:

Item	Number	Description	Individual Cost	Total Cost
LG 23" 23CAV42K-BL PCOIP Terra 2321 Zero Client LED monitor	125	Zero Client for Virtual Desktops	$370.00	$46,250
ITS Software Fee	125	Fee to cover campus Microsoft and Adobe licensing agreement.	$235	$29,375
Total:				**$75,625**