Thin Clients for Library Systems

Neil Jefferies

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Thin Clients for Libraries

- Background
- Options
- The Sun Ray Solution
- Practicalities

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Background

- Current LMS installed 1995
  - Heavily telnet-based
- Web OPAC developed gradually
- PC-based Oxlip Resources
- Distributed Libraries organisation

Changing Environment

- New LMS is Web-based
- Multiplicity of clients
- OxLIP in the Web
- OULS
- Technology

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Libraries Target Environment

- A modern Web browser
- A Citrix client

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The Problems

- Urgent – What do we do about telnet OPAC's in libraries
- Transitional Support
- Non-OULS libraries
- Long term – What do we do about reader PC's

Options

- All Reader Workstations
- Dedicated PC configuration
  - Windows
  - Linux
- Thin Client
  - Windows
  - Linux
  - Sun-Ray

Why Sun Rays?

- Cost
- Maintenance
- Deployment
- Control
- Robustness
- Power consumption

OPAC Sun Rays

- Web Browser
  - Restricted via Proxy
- Windows-like interface
- Screensaver vs blanking
- Keyboards!
- Trials successful

Reader Sun Rays

- OPAC plus...
- Open Web access
  - Browser plug-ins
- ICA Client
- USB keys
- Printing
- In testing

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Not for Everyone

- Additional reader services
- Specialist software
- Local printers
- Non-OULS libraries

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Developing the Platform

- Support expanded functionality
  - Some libraries already use Citrix
- Smart cards
- More dedicated configurations
- Increased use of personal mobile devices

Non-OULS Libraries

- OULS will maintain server farm
- OULS will supply hardware
- Cost of hardware plus slice of server
- Negotiations with Sun
- Support/maintenance absorbed into OLIS/OxLIP charge

Technicalities

- DHCP Server
- DNS entries
  - Sunray-servers.<domain>.ox.ac.uk
  - Sunray-config-servers.<domain>.ox...
- Firewall
  - Inbound from UDP 7000-7030 (!)
  - Servers 163.1.62.20-24,151,152...

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