

Migration Update

July 31, 2017

For those who were unable to attend Thursday's SASUG meeting, here is a summary of my report to the group:

The TLN Board approved the contract with TLC Carl on July 20 and it has now been signed by all parties. We have signed a seven year contract, and there will be no increase in annual maintenance for the life of the contract. We decided on seven years for several reasons. Cost savings was a major factor, and with a five year contract we would have had to begin the evaluation process again in three years and that seemed too soon. We were with Geac for 12 years, DRA for 9, and SirsiDynix for 12 so it seems unlikely that we would migrate again so soon. In case there are major problems or issues, there is a clause in the contract that allows TLN to leave at any time for any reason with 90 days notice without penalty.

The annual maintenance will be \$144,758, a savings of about \$160,000 over our current maintenance with SirsiDynix. The cost went down because we decided not to purchase Zepheira. Carl is completing work on search engine optimization for their online catalog which will make the catalog data available on the internet without the need for third party software. The savings must be considered in the context of the total shared system budget of \$1.7 million dollars, so while it may sound like a large sum of money it is less than 10% of the overall operating budget. Cost savings will be seen in the 2018-19 fiscal year since we will still be paying SirsiDynix for maintenance for at least seven months of the 2017-18 fiscal year and there will be some overlap with the payments to Carl.

We have been assigned an implementation project manager and are in the process of setting up an initial meeting. Our tentative live date is April 2, 2018, the Monday after Easter. The data migration will be done over a three day time period, so there will be no system available over the holiday weekend and libraries will not be able to use offline backup. Symphony will be available until 9:00 pm on Thursday March 29. There will be no system available March 30-April 1, and Carl will be live on Monday April 2. The entire data migration will be done during those three days, and you will be able to use Symphony normally until the close of business on Thursday. There will be no need to stop linking new books, placing holds, or adding/changing patron records in advance of the migration. We are very aware of the inconvenience to our libraries and our patrons, but we hope migrating over a holiday weekend will mitigate that inconvenience. About half of the shared system libraries are already scheduled to be closed on Friday and Saturday, and we strongly recommend that all of the libraries close for the holiday weekend. I know that many of you are not happy to hear this news and I was not pleased about it either, but in the context of seven years, three days of inconvenience isn't much. I've spoken with the Carl staff about my concerns, but they feel this is the most efficient way to manage the data migration and they are not going to change their established procedures for TLN.

We expect training to take place next winter. TLC will first train the TLN staff, and TLC will also present several training sessions for local library staff. Each library will be able to send one or two people to the TLC sessions and TLN staff will offer additional sessions but you will also have to plan to train staff locally. The system will have a test/training module available. Training sessions will be offered in different geographical regions, including northern Oakland County, Washtenaw County, and downriver.

Migration Update

July 31, 2017

Please contact me with any questions, but also remember that right now the TLN staff has a lot more questions than answers. I will do my best to get answers to your questions, but some will have to wait for an implementation timeline and a better understanding of the details of how the new system operates.

I am available to attend staff or board meetings to provide information about our new ILS and answer questions. Please let me know if you are interested.

Celia

Celia Morse
Automation Services Consultant
The Library Network
41365 Vincenti Ct.
Novi MI 48375
248-536-3100 ext. 104 fax 248-697-2920
<http://tln.lib.mi.us>