NDSU Technology Action Plan

Request for Extension

TITLE OF PROJECT
Pilot Project for the Use of Virtual Desktops and Applications

Requested Ending Date: December 31, 2013
From: February 1, 2013
To: December 31, 2013

Total Technology Fee Award: $66,847
Remaining Balance in Award Fund: $28,239.18

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RECEIVED

Office of the Vice President
for Information Technology

JAN. 29, 2013

Name (Type or Print) | Signature | Date
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Project Director
Robert Foertsch | [Signature] | 1-29-2013

Unit Head
Brian Slator | [Signature] | 1/29/2013

Explanation:
In spring of 2011, then VP of IT Bonnie Neas merged two related desktop virtualization projects between Computer Science and ITS. Some progress has been made, including hiring NDSU students to advance the project, along with some necessary hardware purchases. Actual expenses related to the original proposal have changed, as the merged nature of the project changed many logistical aspects, while the original $66,842 was still allocated to Computer Science, and $100,000 was allocated to the ITS group. These changes can be seen in the Technology Fee Award Budget Report Summary.

Due to time constraints and the departure of Adam Heisene in summer of 2012, the project has made little progress since. Eventually, in December of 2012, Galen Mayfield and Brian Slator agreed to split the project back into its two parts, with Computer Science using the remaining funds to continue the pilot project, conduct experiments and determine the feasibility of using desktop virtualization here at NDSU. These results would then be useful should ITS decide to deploy desktop virtualization in the future.

The department certainly has an interest in utilizing virtual desktops. We currently use this technology (through departmental funds and other grants) to provide environments for departmental teaching assistants and tutors, and provide a general Windows environment should any students require it. However, the internal departmental system does not provide a good experimental environment, as it is a shared resource between our desktop and server infrastructure, which is already reaching maximum capacity. In addition, deploying a system that students could use this spring was not practical, as the project split occurred in December, and hardware is still being transferred between ITS and Computer Science.

Through the extension of this project, Computer Science will be to use the remaining funds to hire a student technician to initialize and deploy a virtual desktop system, which could then be used in a teaching environment (some small additional hardware purchases may need to be made, also). We would target sections of CSCI 122 and CSCI 125 that will occur in the summer semester. These classes are typical test cases for a virtualized environment; they require specialized software that many students may not have on their home systems (CSCI 122 requires Visual Studio, CSCI 125 will be using a MicroFocus COBOL IDE). Utilizing the systems, we should be able to collect usage statistics to determine the hardware requirements to expand the system on a wider scale, along with user feedback about opinions toward using the virtualized systems.

Approved | Denied
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[Signature]

Marc Wallman
Interim VP IT

Date 1/29/17

By

Name & title

Signature