

Server Migrations

Over the last several months the tech department had seen a significant degradation of functionality in our SCALE cluster. That cluster was used to house a significant portion of our servers. Over the last several weeks, with the help of K12 technicians, we were able to migrate all of our mission critical servers to more stable server blades. As of today, March 20th, all of our servers now reside on stable hardware and are working properly and efficiently.

Barracuda Filter and Firewall

Browning Public Schools firewall and filter (4 and 7 years old respectively) had begun degrading with their performance. So, over a period of three days, with the help of Barracuda support technicians, both of these “appliances” have been upgraded. Because of the upgraded hardware *and* software on these new appliances, we have had some “growing pains” but have most of those ironed out and both new blades are humming along just fine.

Verkada Cameras

So far, the administration building, Browning Middle School, Browning High School/Sports Complex, Babb, maintenance and bus garage have been upgraded to new Verkada cameras. Almost all other school buildings have at least one camera that was upgraded with stage one. Stage 3 of the upgrades includes KW-Vina, BES, Napi and William Buffalo Hide buildings. I am currently in the process of receiving bids to perform the upgrades on those buildings. The winning bid should appear on the school board meeting on the 11th of April agenda for approval. Should those upgrades be approved, I am hoping their installation will happen the last two weeks of April into the first week of May. With the existing licensing for all of our Verkda cameras, after all the new ones are added, we should not have to talk about upgrading these cameras again until 2030 or 2031.

Internet Connectivity

Since November of 2022 we have had monitoring software installed for the purpose of gathering data about our internal network as well as our connections to our ISP. That data gathered is showing that our network is now working efficiently and stable. The issues we continue to experience are due to factors out of our control. Corrina and I will be working with our ISP to remedy the issues asap

Monitoring emails

In the past we'd had a filter set up with our Google Admin account to monitor all emails going in and out of our domains email boxes. Those filters were designed to "watch" for and "catch" key phrases from anyone using our email system, especially in regards to suicide and bullying. The filters were also supposed to email us, the tech department, when these filters picked up these phrases in emails. BPS Tech Department personnel edited these filters with the help of Google Support techs to expand the key words because the filters were no longer reporting anything. Even with the expanded key words, these filters are not reporting these emails so that we can then forward on to building administrators.

Over the last 6 months the tech department has been in contact with companies who provide these types of services, to monitor these keywords and report them as needed, but none have fit our needs (they've only developed their software to work with chromebooks at this time). We will continue to look for an alternative to the filters used by Google. In the meantime, we will contact Google Support to see what can be done so that the existing filters will begin reporting emails the match the criteria set in them.