Information Management Committe February-March report

As the committee still does not have approved terms of reference or members, this report is mainly informational. Some guidance on whether putting non-interactive computer equipment in one corner of the new parts room at EBC North is a good idea would be appreciated, but seems to be a more management-level decision.

Type of report

Information, optional discussion.

Statement of issue and/or area of report

The chair of the committee is concerned he may be letting some of his duties related to committee work slide.

I also think leaving provision for (but not istallation of) a server rack in one corner of the new parts room at EBC North is a good idea. Nobody else seems convinced, with the most common question being: "Why would a bike shop need a server rack?" If roughing in a server rack is of dubious benefit, I need to know before doing things like routing all communication cabling to that corner. Neil seemed to think that upstairs on the west wall was a good place for the router. That has the benefit of being close to where the "office" is expected to be.

Background information

Committee duties

For February, I typed out a quick "non-report" that I sent out to the board. I failed to send it out to EBC employees.

I still not have talked to Chris Chan (the previous committee chair) about how he arrived at such low-ball numbers for spending on equipment and supplies. With the new technologically-neutral focus I have for the committee, things like standard office supplies may be included; even if we may want to keep that seperate in practice.

I have not been doing much in terms of volunteer recruitment for the committee. When Steve Anderson dropped off network cable at EBC north, I failed to take the opportunity to ask if he would be interested in committee work. I have also failed to ask Chris Chan about people I don't know who previously expressed interest in the Information Management Committee.

Server Rack

I think the new parts room at EBC North would be a good place to keep non-interactive compter equipment. It is out of the way, and any fan noise will be muffled by the room. Depending if we lock the upstairs, there may be security benefits as well.

The good news is that there appears to be space for standard-size rack-mount epuipment (up to 30 inches deep). The drain pipe in the room is not likely to become a problem for two reasons:

1. The drain pipe does not overhang the corner I want to use
2. The floor drain sould keep any flooding to a minimum

I have further investigated the cooling problem, and have determined it is a problem that can likely be mitigated. After getting such low-ball number for the heat dissipation (218 Watts) of the room using naive assumptions, I did some empirical testing. Assuming the room behaves according to the Stefan-Boltzman law (which explains how fast heat is radiated away), it should be able to dissipate 1138 Watts while staying below 40C (maximum operating temperature of a lot of equipment, including the compressor). That number is subject to change, but corresponds to a radiant area of about 9m^2. Mitigation may include installing a thermometer in the room and openning the door if the temperature rises above 35C. Future mitigation may include hooking the vent fan (hidden above the main floor toilet) back up using a thermostat to automatically vent hot air went the temperature rises above 35C. I have determined that the 0.100 HP vent fan should draw about 82 Watts.

Bad news: because wiring is shared with other building users, and the compressor draws enough current to warrant a nearly dedicated ciruit, the "server rack" will not get plugs on a dedicated circuit. This is against Section 26-1000 of the Canadian Electrical Code, Part I for "Permanently connected data processing units." If anybody asks, any computers in there are hooked up on a temporary basis. For example: the duration of our lease.