

Legislative Branch IT Equipment Replacement Cycle

April 19, 2010

- The Legislative Branch has on average a 3 - 4 year PC replacement cycle.
- Typically, software makes PCs obsolete before hardware failure or other factors.
- We normally budget and purchase half of our PCs every biennium (approximately 187 PCs).
- We typically replace PCs for down stairs full-time staff and then use the replaced PCs for sessions staff.
- Our PC replacement cycle is sometimes longer than 3 - 4 years. After the 2003 session budget crunch we did not do a replacement cycle the following biennium. Some of the desktop PCs to be used for session staff for the 2011 session will be 4 - 5 years old.
- If we skip a replacement cycle then we may have to replace all PCs the next biennium.
- From an IT support perspective, it is a lot easier and less costly if we have large batches of similar PCs.
- LAD uses laptops and takes them on the road a lot and thus has had closer to a 3-year replacement cycle. Mobile environments cause a lot more wear and tear on devices than the desktop environment and thus mobile devices have a shorter life span.
- Recent changes in the replacement cycle have been that we have purchased monitors separately for the PC system unit and have used the monitors for a longer period of time. We have also begun the purchase of laptops for all down stairs full-time staff instead of desktop PCs.
- We replaced the down stairs full-time staff PCs (with laptops) during and shortly after the 2009 session. We currently have about 4 - 5 year old PCs (desktops) that we plan to use for the 2011 session for session staff. All staff (full time and session) will have flat screen monitors.
- We have the money in the budget to do a replacement cycle (half of the PCs in the Branch) just after the 2011 session. Current thinking is to skip the replacement cycle for this biennium and do it sometime next biennium (but that would require proper funding for next biennium). Windows 7 (or more precisely, the looming termination of support for Windows XP) is the driving factor for the replacement cycle needs for next biennium. Our current laptops will run Windows 7 but the 4 - 5 year old desktops will not run it effectively.
- The printer replacement cycle in the Branch is typically 4 years. Printers are most likely made obsolete by the hardware wearing out. We plan on replacing 58 printers this biennium and 40 next biennium. The average printer cost is \$1,600. There are 53 printers added to the network for the Legislative Session.

- The Server replacement cycle in the Branch in the past has been about 3 years. It is more critical to keep servers up and running and therefore available warranty and product life cycle is what makes them obsolete. The new blade center and virtualization has changed how this environment is managed and kept on currently supported releases. However the hardware replacement cycle is still about 3 years. The branch currently has 42 servers.

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