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Date: December 2016

To: Marilyn Kappenberg

From: Michael Dietz

Re: Transformed 2 Research Stations

If you ever happen to use our Public Internet stations, you realize that they are getting a bit old but are still being used quite a bit at times. With an aging computer system comes more slow-downs, freezes or lock-ups due to growing Operating Systems, Larger Software and Antivirus Systems which need more powerful computer systems. To help out our patrons until the time comes that we budget some more money to replace more systems, I have replaced the Operating System on 2 of the public internet stations.

These 2 stations are now labeled "Research" PC's and have the benefit of being 3 times faster than the rest of the PC's with the same hardware. These older PC's are now running LINUX. The LINUX operating system is very similar to MAC OS but even lighter on the resources since I was able to tweak the OS by picking and choosing which software components are necessary for a public library.

What makes these 2 stations faster and better than our existing setup? First off, they can bypass SAM's login and print system which is great at the times that SAM is down. When SAM is down, a patron can't login in to a PC. Second, in most cases, MAC and LINUX OS don't require the overhead of an antivirus. Third they are not using bloated Microsoft Office software. They are using a less memory hungry alternative called Kingsoft Office which looks quite similar to their Microsoft counterparts, Microsoft Word & Microsoft Excel.

Did I mention the Operating System is free? If you get time, why not take a moment to see what you've been missing. If you have any old PC's at home and just want to bring it back to life for mainly web surfing, email, and word processing, then take a seat and give them a try.