

TOPIC: STRATEGIES TO LOWER THE TOTAL COST OF OWNERSHIP

QUESTION: Are there any special requirements or needs for this technology?

“You have to have a web server. It’s very helpful to have administrative rights to the web server ‘cause sometimes you have to configure the files. You don’t necessarily have to have administrative rights. But, at times it just makes things a little bit easier on the configuration end.

It would help to have a basic understanding of UNIX shell programming and maybe some PHP scripting and how to set up and maintain a backend database such as Postgres or MySQL. And understanding things like setting permissions and making sure you secure the software so that somebody can’t hack into it. My skills as a technology coordinator have kind of evolved over the years. As we’ve wanted to expand what we’re doing on the web I’ve gained additional skills. I took a PHP scripting class that taught me a little bit about PHP scripting and web databases. I took a UNIX shell programming course which was very helpful in figuring out how to configure the overall server environment and to lock things down and to keep it secure.

So really that would be the only limitation is I think you do have to have somebody that has at least, kind of, intermediate technical skills to be able to configure the server and to run the software.

But, once the software is set up on the server, to teach somebody else how to use it, I don’t think they need that great of technical skills. I basically have been able to teach the teachers how to utilize it at a faculty meeting in twenty minutes. They’re all using the same user name and password. It’s very easy to train the teachers. And again, I think that’s the point of some of this being web based, is that it allows end users to do fairly technical things without a lot of technical expertise.”

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