Stony Brook’s Future
Email and Collaboration Suite
“Considering Stony Brook’s ongoing initiatives to increase our administrative efficiencies, our plans to expand our faculty, our student’s ever-increasing needs, our commitment to expand our multidisciplinary research efforts, and the exciting new industry options in this realm, this is the right time to take a look at a major expansion of electronic communications and collaboration services.”

- President Stanley in his invitation to the project’s Steering Committee
Current SB email works reliably at a good value, but many clients seek more.
Students Using Alternative Email Systems

90% of student email addresses in Blackboard point to something other than a Stony Brook email account.

Student mail forwarding totals in Blackboard as of Aug. 2011

- Gmail: 8,105
- Yahoo: 5,144
- Optimum Online: 1,092
- IC: 1,103
- MySBmail: 1,176
- AOL: 2,351
- Hotmail: 2,788
- No email address in BB: 1,226

All other email systems: 4,804
Email Systems Used by Faculty

Totals as of Aug. 2011

Lotus Notes 2,195

- MS 114
- HSC 54
- IC 130
- Nursing 31
- Computer Science 31
- Math 22
- All other 130
How Many Email/Collaboration Systems are Enough?

- There are currently 87 different email systems on campus
- In a few cases, particular research needs may require independent email systems
- But, as much as possible, students and faculty should have access to a common tool set even when working in different areas
- The goal is to maximize institutional benefit and increase efficiency
Why Are We Looking at More Than Just Email?

Because collaboration services are critical to the future of research, teaching and learning

• Research transpires across disciplines, between colleges/universities, organizations/corporations, both nationally and internationally

• Instructors must effectively communicate with students

• Incoming students expect modern technology tools
Multiple providers now offer extensive collaboration services such as:

- Shared documents
- Shared websites
- File storage
- Instant messaging
- Voice and video chat
Stony Brook faculty already use tools such as **Microsoft SharePoint** to collaborate with colleagues when it comes to:

- Publishing Journals
- Writing Grant Proposals
Simons Center for Geometry and Physics Uses Google Apps

For mail, calendaring and collaboration capabilities

- The Simons leadership team uses Google Docs to plan weekly workshops
Industry Innovation Offers New Options

“…the new category of [Internet applications] will eventually transform all aspects of enterprise information management as we currently know it.”

- Forrester Research Report

** Internet tools continue to develop at a rapid pace **
“Skate to Where the Puck Will Be?”

- We can’t predict the future, but we can choose partners who are most likely to keep us aligned with future developments.

Consumer Technology is Driving Innovation in Communications and Collaboration

Laptop with DVD drive

Flip phones

Tablet computers

Google Chromebook

2006-2011

iPhone

Android

iPad

Approximately 25 million sold since April 2010

2006-2011

2006-2011

2006-2011
59% of Higher Education institutions are using some aspects of cloud-based email, calendaring or collaboration suites and many more are planning upcoming moves to the cloud.

- 2010 Campus Computing Survey
The Contenders

Microsoft Office 365 vs. Google Apps for Education

- Both offer full-function collaboration packages available within and across clients at Stony Brook and external collaborators
- Both would connect SB to the rapid pace of innovation to “automatically” keep up with new developments
- Both deliver excellent reliability and availability at equal or lower costs than local systems
- Both deliver superior spam, virus and phishing protections
Google and Microsoft Offer Security Improvements and Risks

• While these large providers are likely more of a “target for attack,” they also have substantial investments in preventing attacks and in responding to new threats

• On balance, most schools believe security is as good as provided by local systems and probably better on balance

• This balance is likely to continue to shift in favor of the large providers like Google and Microsoft
Stony Brook Will Adopt One of These Services

• Individuals at SB are already using these advanced collaboration services and would use them much more if they were readily available
A Five-Year Vision for Stony Brook

- Provide full access to next-generation electronic communications and collaboration tools
- Adopt a partner who will deliver a platform with continuous innovation
- Provide a baseline set of tools campus-wide
- Focus SB’s scarce local IT capability on integration and mission-supporting activities
Project Milestones

- Identify user requirements
- Analyze options
- Cost benefit analysis
- Choose option
- Plan migration
- Implementation and training development
- Go live
- Elective migrations begin
- Migrate and train 100% of students and at least 65% of Lotus Notes users

- Apr. - June 2012
- July 2012
Project Governance

Task Originates → Evaluate
Core Team Members → Evaluate
Internal Senior Advisors

Deliver → Steering Committee Chairs
Recommendation → President
Steering Committee Members
Role of the Steering Committee

- To advise and recommend policy and direction, and assist with the leadership, organizational development and promotion of the project in support of the institution’s mission and needs.

Steering Committee Members
Schools That Have Gone to the Cloud
What Other Schools Are Saying

“You will hate it for two weeks, but suddenly it will all make sense.”
- Mike Pickett, Brown University

“Services like Live@edu didn’t exist five years ago. It provides an option that is very attractive.”
- Christine Haile, SUNY Albany
What Other Schools Are Saying

“In selecting Google Apps, we are able to provide faculty, students, administrators, and staff with a free, high-quality, modern, easily-accessible email system with strong privacy and security protections.”

- Marilyn McMillan, NYU

“The ability to access online resources anywhere, anytime is essential in supporting the academic success of today’s students.”

- Roy Roberti, Hofstra
Will Stony Brook’s Data be Safe?

- Unlike individual accounts with these providers, an SB agreement would be covered by an overall contract which provides appropriate assurances of privacy.

- Any willful violation of privacy would be devastating to the providers’ reputation and business. The providers have much more to lose by violating their terms than the clients.

- Providers offer these services in order to capture the hearts and minds of students and faculty as well as to provide innovation incubators for their products.
Frequently-Asked Questions

What About Security?

• Providers such as Google and Microsoft have more resources to devote to security

What if the Provider Pulls a Bait and Switch?

• Current marketplace offers options and that seems likely to continue in the future

• SB must retain a workable exit strategy

Can This Work at SB?

• Experience at other schools shows technical issues require careful attention, but are addressable
So, Where Will Stony Brook Be a Year From Now?

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Oct. - Dec. 2011
Apr. - June 2012
July 2012
Questions?