

OPLIN Opts for Open Source

We often mention in passing that OPLIN uses “lots” of open source software. That’s a pretty vague claim, so we thought you might want to see a more specific list of the open source software we use to run our services. This list does not include everything we use, nor does it include many of the open source toolkits (“packages”) that run on top of these open source platforms.



For the OPLIN Dynamic Website Kits, and for the OPLIN website, we use the **Drupal** Content Management System.



MySQL is the database management system used for storing and retrieving data.

Apache HTTP Server is the web server program used for all OPLIN-hosted web sites. It handles the flow of data to and from our web server computers.



OHIO WEB LIBRARY

Pazpar2 is the software that runs the Ohio Web Library federated search. Pazpar2 is actually a software toolkit, but is included in this list because it is responsible for running a key OPLIN service.

SquirrelMail is the web interface to the OPLIN e-mail server.

Postfix handles the transfer of mail to/from our mail server from/to other mail servers across the Internet.



Dovecot handles the transfer of e-mail messages from our mail server to your in-box on your computer.

Mailman manages electronic mail discussion and e-newsletter lists. Mailman is integrated with the web, making it easy for users to manage their accounts and for list owners to administer their lists.



Our blogs -- the OPLIN 4cast, Ohio Library News, and What Does This Mean to Me, Laura -- are produced and managed with **Wordpress** publishing software. Wordpress supports the creation, editing, and publishing of blog posts and comments, allows for image management, and handles RSS feeds.

Most OPLIN server hardware runs on the **Ubuntu** distribution of the **Linux** operating system. (A couple older servers run on **SUSE** and **Red Hat**.) Since Ubuntu is based on the well-established Debian distribution of Linux, OPLIN has been able to find many open source packages that handle specific jobs and are easily installed on Ubuntu.



OLC Resolution Honors

Laura Solomon

WHEREAS, Ohio's public libraries provide the highest quality of patron service and experience the most frequent use of all the public libraries in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Ohio's public libraries play an essential role in providing reading materials, research and reference services, homework help, early literacy opportunities, Internet access, services to help people find jobs, and an endless variety of other vital services; and

WHEREAS, in 2007 Ohio's public libraries entered into an agreement with state government that public libraries would be funded through the Public Library Fund; a fund that was a true revenue sharing partnership that set aside 2.22% of the state's tax revenue to fund public libraries; and

WHEREAS, public library funding in Ohio has been deteriorating as a result of the economy since 2002 and estimates that state funding will erode by 20% in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Governor Strickland proposed cutting funding to public libraries by an additional 30%, bringing the total decline of funding to an untenable 50%; and

WHEREAS, following the development of the independent Save Ohio Libraries Web site, Laura Solomon selflessly dedicated hundreds of hours to updating and refreshing the site with valuable information; and

WHEREAS, the Save Ohio Libraries Web site inspired, informed, and directed tens of thousands of Ohio's patrons to contact their legislators and the Governor; and

WHEREAS, the logo and links to the Save Ohio Libraries Web site appeared in places throughout the world, garnering support from celebrities, soldiers overseas, and people from across the globe; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio General Assembly listened to the hundreds of thousands of patrons who contacted them in support of public libraries, and substantially reduced the cut proposed by the Governor; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Ohio Library Council Board of Directors, Ohio's 251 public libraries, and their eight million patrons, applaud, and appreciate the work and initiative of Laura Solomon, for surely her work Saved Ohio's Public libraries.



*Currently focusing on local library levies, Save Ohio Libraries, can be found at <http://saveohiolibraries.com/>
In September, Amanda Knapp of Worthington Libraries also received a resolution for her role in Save Ohio Libraries.*



Get your OWN e-mail!



Have you ever wished that your e-mail address would contain the name of **your** library instead of @oplin.org? Then it's your lucky day!

Since the earliest days of OPLIN, we have offered free e-mail service for public library staff members. While a number of libraries have since set up their own mail servers, many libraries still use the OPLIN mail server.

When communicating with patrons, vendors, etc., it is better to have an e-mail address that identifies the library, like
doeja@yourlibraryname.org or
doeja@somelibrary.lib.oh.us.

With that in mind, OPLIN now allows libraries that use the oplin.org mail server to use their library domain name in their e-mail addresses, rather than the oplin.org domain name.

This service is free to Ohio public libraries; simply contact support@oplin.org to let us know you'd like to make the switch.

Things to remember:

- 1) OPLIN cannot make this change for individual staff members; the change will apply to all staff members at a library, so the change must be requested by either the director or the primary technical contact.
- 2) The new e-mail address will use your lib.oh.us domain name or any other domain name the library owns.
- 3) E-mail accounts will not need to be re-created and no e-mails will be lost during the switch. All e-mail functions will remain the same; webmail access and the setup on any POP e-mail clients you use will not change.
- 4) Your old oplin.org e-mail address will still work and you will continue to receive any e-mail sent to the old address.

Innovation InfoIsland: A Grand Opening in Second Life

A new island opened in the virtual world of Second Life: Innovation InfoIsland. This region represents the birth of a grand idea – a area devoted to the innovative thinking and projects of educators, librarians and information technologists. This region also happens to be the new virtual home of OPLIN.

The theme of the day-long festivities centered around “Innovation Infusion in Second Life,” with presentations, panel discussions, concerts and, above all, the display of various innovative works that have already been imagined, designed and built.



Pathfinder Linden (John Lester)

International educators and librarians had opportunities to discuss The Art of Innovation: Lessons in Creativity from IDEO, America's Leading Design Firm by Tom Kelley and Jonathan Littman. with Maxito Ricardo, who in real life is Tom Peters, founder and CEO of TAP Information Services, a company that helps libraries and other organizations innovate. They also heard Pathfinder Linden (who in real life is John Lester, a former hospital-based health researcher and is now a prominent staff member of Linden Lab, the creator of Second Life) give an engaging keynote address “Innovation in Education in Second Life,” where he highlighted some of the exciting projects currently being undertaken.

Later in the day, attendees had an opportunity to hear information and education professionals discuss the intersections of innovation and such topics as music, art, professional development and media literacy using Second Life.

If you are interested in the virtual environment of Second Life, be sure to check out OPLIN's schedule of courses at <http://www.oplin.org/secondlife> and/or visit us on Innovation InfoIsland!



Join us!



In addition to OPLIN having Facebook & Twitter accounts (twitter.com/oplin and facebook.com/oplinoffice), the OPLIN staff members have personal accounts that you are welcome to follow.

There is some personal info, but we're mostly sharing behind the scenes comments, cool tech discoveries, and library news.

Stephen Hedges:

<http://twitter.com/hedgesst>
<http://facebook.com/st.hedges>



Laura Solomon:

<http://twitter.com/laurasolomon>
<http://facebook.com/laurasolomon>



Vince Riley:

<http://twitter.com/CisopSixpence>
<http://www.facebook.com/v.m.riley>

Bobbi Galvin:

<http://twitter.com/bobbigalvin>
<http://www.facebook.com/bobbigalvin>

Out & About

Tuesday, Oct. 6
Second Life 101 & 201

Wednesday, Oct. 7
Second Life Libraries Tour

Friday, Oct. 9
OPLIN Board Meeting

Tuesday, Oct. 13
Second Life 301 and 202

Thursday, Oct. 22
TecgAtlas Training

Wednesday, Oct. 28
E-rate 470 Workshop

Thursday, Nov. 5
Second Life 101 & 201

Friday, Nov. 6
Second Life Libraries Tour

Tuesday, Nov. 10
Second Life 301 and 202

Friday, Dec. 11
OPLIN Board Meeting

Monday, Dec. 14
E-rate 471 Workshop

HEY! Where are my database stats?

In the past several months, at least two vendors have had technical issues with providing us with statistics for individual libraries. Both **WorldBook** and **AllData** (the latter is subscribed to only by some libraries) have been working to resolve these issues.



WorldBook has recently been able to provide us with some statistics, which have been uploaded into ODURT (<http://www.oplin.org/odurt>). **AllData** statistics are still not available.

No firm ETA has been determined yet, but OPLIN will announce when the stats become available via OPLINLIST.

In the mean time, we thank you for your patience!

**The OPLIN office
 will be CLOSED
 on these holidays:**

Columbus Day
 10/12/09

Veterans' Day
 11/11/09

Thanksgiving
 11/26/09

Christmas
 12/25/09



How secure are you? Would you bet the OPLIN network on it?

Historically, when someone gets hacked on the OPLIN network, the reason for the compromise isn't to steal your identity or use your computer to tap into some top-secret government agency. We get hacked because someone wants to steal an e-mail account for sending out spam.

Thousands of people are impacted when one user e-mail ID is compromised or one library server isn't protected. OPLIN IPs get blocked by folks like Google, Yahoo! and Time-Warner, and it takes time to get removed from their blocked lists. In the mean time, all OPLIN mail is backlogged and we block your offending IP as per the OPLIN Good Neighbor policy.

Do not assume that someone else is taking care of your computer and e-mail security. Ask! Make sure you are receiving at least weekly Microsoft updates and daily anti-virus updates. Use a strong password on your e-mail account. Be proactive and when possible, take personal responsibility for your machine.

Have you seen the latest OPLIN 4Cast?

*We hope you like
the new format!*



It's coming weekly once again, but we've started focusing on only one bit of technology that could have an impact on public libraries.

**Check it out
& then subscribe!**

<http://www.oplin.org/4cast>

E-rate Workshops for Public Libraries this Fall

In collaboration with the State Library, OPLIN will be hosting two different workshops on E-rate for public libraries this fall, October 28 (Form 470) and December 14 (Form 471). The workshops will be presented by Lorrie Germann, Educational Technology Consultant at eTech Ohio. These will be the **only** dates for the workshops this year; however, they will be available in several locations by videoconference.

Workshop participants are generally expected to sign up for both sessions. The first session, on Wed. October 28, will provide an overview of the E-rate process, specific requirements for the upcoming funding year and a line-by-line review of the Form 470, the first step in the application process. This session will run from 9:30 to 3:00.

The second session, on Monday, December 14, will offer a line-by-line review and analysis of the filing of the Form 471, the actual application for discounts on eligible services. This will run from 9:30 to noon.

Lorrie will be presenting the workshop in person at the State Library, but it will also be available by videoconference in Bowling Green, Caldwell, Wellston, Warren, and Cincinnati with the possibility of more sites to be added.

REGISTER HERE: <http://host6.evanced.info/ohio/evanced/eventcalendar.asp>

If you file for E-rate locally, one of the requirements is that you have a technology plan in place. TechAtlas is a helpful tool which will allow public libraries to "build" a Technology Plan which will meet USAC guidelines for E-Rate compliance.

Register here: <http://host6.evanced.info/ohio/evanced/eventsignup.asp?ID=243>