

Defense Against the Dark Arts

At its latest meeting, the OPLIN Board decided to make a substantial financial commitment to protecting the OPLIN network and participants from Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks. DDoS attacks send extreme amounts of traffic to a victim's web server, and the victim's Internet connection or web server cannot handle it all. The website becomes inaccessible to legitimate traffic ("denial of service").

The "distributed" part of the name refers to the fact that a single computer cannot generate enough traffic to overwhelm most systems, so the traffic comes from an automated collection of computers that have been infected with malware – a "botnet" – that is under the control of a bot master. We have seen library servers used as components of botnets for quite a while, but lately the fees to rent a botnet have become so inexpensive that libraries are becoming the victims of these attacks.

Stakeholders Meeting

Held in conjunction with the 2014 OLC Convention and Expo, the *OPLIN Stakeholders Meeting* is our annual report to Ohio public libraries.

Director Stephen Hedges gave an overview of the past fiscal year and reported on federal and state initiatives that affected OPLIN network connections and the Ohio Web Library collection.

Stakeholders PowerPoint Slides:

<http://www.slideshare.net/OPLIN/stakeholders2014>

OPLIN Annual Report FY 2014:

<http://www.oplin.org/go/ar2014>

We officially implemented our new solution on December 22, but have been testing it on our network since November. Understandably, we are not sharing details of these attacks or our protection measures, but the OPLIN Board does want OPLIN participants to know that we are working toward preventing any future incidences. •

OPLIN Brief News

For communicating with fellow library professionals, don't forget about the OPLIN listservs. As employees leave the library and others are hired, sometimes useful information (such as joining the listserv) gets lost in the shuffle. We often post important updates, and others in the community post anything from job openings to local library news and helpful technical knowledge.

Please remind your colleagues to join!

General information:

<http://www.oplin.org/content/oplin-listservs>

OPLIN-specific Lists:

<http://www.oplin.org/content/oplinlist>

<http://www.oplin.org/content/oplintech>

<http://www.oplin.org/content/oplinupdates>

All OPLIN-hosted Lists:

<http://lists.oplin.org/mailman/listinfo>



E-Rate Information

The federal E-Rate program, administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), provides discounted rates to assist schools and libraries in obtaining affordable telecommunications and Internet access. All public libraries are eligible to receive E-Rate refunds by simply completing some required forms, and once reimbursed, libraries can spend the money on anything beneficial.

Lorrie Germann, State E-Rate Coordinator, will present all E-Rate workshops to outline the process and assist public libraries in completing Form 471. A workshop will be held in-person at the State Library of Ohio with webinars available at various dates. All workshops are free of charge.

Scheduled E-Rate Form 471 Workshops:

- *State Library*, Columbus (in-person): Thursday, January 29, 9:30AM – 12PM
- *Webinar*: Thursday, January 29, 9:30AM – 12PM
- *Webinar*: Tuesday, February 3, 2 – 4:30PM
- *Webinar*: Thursday, February 5, 9:30AM – 12PM

Participants should register through the State Library of Ohio website (<http://library.ohio.gov/event>). •

OPLIN Brief News

Title: “Information on Managed Wi-Fi”

Date: January 15 at 2:00PM

The FCC’s E-Rate Modernization Order has added funding for “Managed Internal Broadband Service,” with particular emphasis on increasing the managed Wi-Fi capacity for libraries.

Hosted by OPLIN and the State Library and presented by Joe Prchlik, Director of Operations and Technology at the Northwest Ohio Computer Association, this webinar will provide information that may help answer questions. While OPLIN manages external broadband service for public libraries, managing local internal services can help libraries keep pace with increasing Internet demands and provide valuable data about patron usage, while also leveraging existing infrastructure to provide consistent quality network services.

Registration is not available yet, but additional details will be forthcoming on OPLINList.

OPLIN Calendar

Thursday, January 15
SLO Board Meeting
State Library, 10am-12pm

Friday, January 16
OLC Board Meeting
OLC office, 10am-1pm

Monday, January 19
Martin Luther King Day
Holiday, OPLIN CLOSED

Thursday, January 29
E-Rate 471 Workshop
State Library, 9:30am-12pm

Friday, February 13
OPLIN Board Meeting
OPLIN office, 10am-12:30pm

Monday, February 16
Presidents’ Day
Holiday, OPLIN CLOSED

Thursday, March 19
SLO Board Meeting
State Library, 10am-12pm

Friday, March 20
OLC Board Meeting
OLC office, 10am-1pm

Wednesday, March 25
OLC NE Chapter
Kent State, 8am-4pm