Report From Lucia Khipple & Mike Mraz, IT Department

Ethernet Switch Replacement Purchase

An Ethernet Switch functions as a central station connecting computers, printers and every other wired device to each other. The switch is also wired to the router to access the Internet.

The library currently has 4 – 3Com 4500G 48 Port Gigabit Ethernet Switches, they were purchased in 2008 & 2009 at $3,100 each. The lifespan of an Ethernet Switch is usually around 10 years, ideally replaced every 7 years due to upgrades in Internet speed. Since purchasing the current Ethernet switches, the Internet speed at the library has increased, it is now 32 times faster than in 2008. Besides having access to much faster Internet, there is always the possibility with our 3Com Switches that one could just die one day. On our network the switches run off the network connection supplied by the switch above it, so if the top switch dies we would lose all Internet connection for the entire library until it is replaced.

Today's Ethernet switches can distribute the Internet speed much better, they now have enhanced security features as well, and the prices have also gone up because of these features.

The 2019 Budget includes $5,000 for the Ethernet Switch Replacement in Account Code 53400.01. We are still in the process of obtaining and comparing bids from HP, Pace & PCMG. The bids will be available at the Board Meeting.