Carrington, Bradley, DCA

From:	Carrington, Bradley, DCA
Sent:	Tuesday, October 07, 2014 9:00 PM
To:	nmsalsa@lists.zianet.com
Subject:	Look at all the fall colors in Polaristown!

Hello merry automaters,

Today I learned at an all-day SQL workshop. Polaris has over 500 tables! I tried linking and joining. Primary keys, foreign keys. Data types. A table on the left, one or more on the right. Inner joins, outer joins. The difference between empty and null (that discussion was very philosophical).

We're hosted so we can't run the real reports. But now I can do neat SQL stuff with the find tool, such as finding all the items with barcodes that begin with mq …at least I think I can. I'll certainly try.

Select! From! Where!

More tomorrow….
Brad

P.S. Yesterday morning I left the house at 3:30 almost-full-moon Mountain time and finally got to the hotel at 4:00 Mountain time. The plane from Atlanta had several Polaris people and we went for pasta with peppers. Nothing like our chile! Went again tonight with this group and more, this time to for Mexican food. Well, we won't even discuss that.
P.S. Polaristown (the documentation site) becomes a Ghosttown tomorrow. All the documentation will be in the Supportal

From:	Carrington, Bradley, DCA
Sent:	Wednesday, October 08, 2014 8:38 PM
To:	nmsalsa@lists.zianet.com
Subject:	Polaris Staff Talent Show

Hello Polaris pals, or, Hello Innovative energizers,

Today the III staff stayed on parade. I met Kim (III CEO) and Bill (former CEO of Polaris, now III VP Sales). Kim Massana was quick to adore the quality of light in New Mexico!

Who has purple hair and wears a black leather jacket? Maureen, our site manager! I met John our sales rep. I met another John who is in charge of the hosted sites. And I met Scott and Arthur, our engineers for our database. Because we have over 20 connections we are "dedicated virtual" and get better attention than the basic hosted customers.

They are expanding the server farm in Syracuse to include some VTLS hosting. They'll take all of the hosted sites down for a few hours sometime soon, so that they can make the expansion. Maureen and Scott will try to get us onto 5.0 this winter.

Here are some projected developments
-- new carousel toolkit with 5.0
-- 5.0 display-in-PAC will automatically set based on the item mix... e.g., if the only item is for a circulating copy but the status is lost then the bib won't display
-- 5.0 patrons can opt-out of getting notices
-- 5.0 when you run notices jobs the robot can automatically renew loans that are about to expire
-- new PAC in about 2 years
-- moving to cloud in about 3 years, including the client apps
-- Tech services redesign in about 3 years
-- they are planning for linked data, the replacement for MARC

We are now on 41.R2 build 1439
-- the mobile PAC is at web accessibility level A
-- we now have 10 new customizable fields in the patron registration records; indexed and searchable
-- we can handle "bound withs": multiple bibs ("constituents") tied to one item record ("host")
-- new SQL job for automatically linking new authority records to any matching bibs
-- bib exports now UTF8

I met June Frosch from the New Mexico Military Institute!

We had lots of rain today.

More tomorrow!
Brad

Carrington, Bradley, DCA

From:	Carrington, Bradley, DCA
Sent:	Thursday, October 09, 2014 6:47 PM
To:	nmsalsa@lists.zianet.com
Subject:	Polaris Users PowerPoint SmackDown

Hello ILS engineers,

Today and tomorrow feature PowerPoints and Forums. I survived a couple of PowerPoints, but barely.

Didn't learn much new at the Hosted program, but it was good to see our Hosted hosts again and good to study again the ramifications of our server situation.

Went to a forum on APIs, hoping to pass as a geek, but I let my mind wander. Lots of twenty-somethings out there rigging Polaris sites to the ebook vendors, to self-check systems, to RFID inventories.

III sells Fusion, a product competing with CONTENTdm. The Fusion metadata integrates into the PAC, showing the inviting thumbnails. The presenter got a state library grant from Washington for digitizing community history stuff. The local libraries work with the local historical societies.

Went to another presentation on SQL and SimplyReports.

I voted! For you all I checked:
-- Chair Elect: Jill
-- Enhancements Coordinator: Mary
-- Member-at-Large: Holly and Colleen
https://polarisusersgroup.wildapricot.org/resources/documents/sc%20candidates%20for%202015.pdf
and I voted for all the bylaws changes:
-- dropped "annual" meeting
-- enabled a vote on merging Users Groups
-- changed name to III
https://polarisusersgroup.wildapricot.org/pug-bylaws

The keynote speaker was an I-school prof from Syracuse, giving programming tips for helping improve the digital literacy of those "left behind." We should fill toy chests with devices that they can try and we should give workshops on Internet fraud, etc.

On Monday III laid off 20% of its staff worldwide. Oh!

One more day!
Brad

Carrington, Bradley, DCA

From:	Carrington, Bradley, DCA
Sent:	Friday, October 10, 2014 7:42 PM
To:	nmsalsa@lists.zianet.com
Subject:	Polaris Prep School

Hello, yawn,

I finished 4 full full days. I soaked in the culture... the cult of Bill and his staff, the cult of SQL and SSRS and Microsoft Report Builder, the cult of conference addicts, the indescribable cult of rubber chicken, wild rice and other catered hotel food.

Not until I went to the very last forum on Tech Services did I seem familiar and see familiar... all those white-haired veterans of MARC and spine labels. Half of the conference attendees seemed to be youngish IT types with little library background.

More product info came as answers to the "Questions for Bill" show.
-- new PAC in about 2 years will be like the III Encore (ABC Libraries uses Encore
http://encore.cabq.gov/iii/encore/search/C__Schile%20cheeseburger__Orightresult__U?lang=eng&suite=cobalt)
-- moving to cloud/platform-agnostic is a 7 yr plan; all clients will be web-based
-- cataloging would move to SkyRiver; they will fix it up for linked data/BibFrame; we would inherit our bib records from SkyRiver.
-- III combined its separate HR, Finance and Marketing depts. Invoices are a bit messed up at the moment. I have a contact for helping with our invoices: Bruce Randall.
-- woops: I verified that we have the least expensive version of Hosting: Shared SQL

I had a long meeting with Tim Auger, III director for Resource Sharing. We discussed how INN-Reach could make a NM union catalog with patron-initiated ILL.
Some INN-Reach examples:
-- CO Prospector <http://prospectorhome.coalliance.org/> Encore interface; Now includes Mobius!
-- MI Melcat <http://elibrary.mel.org/>
-- ME MaineCat <http://mainecat.maine.edu/> Looks like LIBROS!
-- OH OhioLink <http://olc1.ohiolink.edu/search/>
-- MO Mobius! <https://mobius.missouri.edu/>
-- CA Link+ <http://csul.iii.com/>
Average cost per item, including courier service, is about $2.50.

I talked with our sales rep John Lytle. He says if we drop SHI we have to renegotiate the contract to eliminate the after-market middle-layer. To add a library the profiling fee is about $500. Migration cost depends on existing ILS and size of file. Web training is available for $150/hr. Client access is $750 per connection.

All the by-laws changes passed.

I met Tom Brenndorfer, the presenter of our favorite video *RDA in 10 Easy Steps*.

Aubrey, I just missed saying hello to Sylvia.

That's all folks!
Porky