

CCLA Travel Report

Ryan Price
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Background

The Library at BYU-Hawaii provides access to remote vendor-provided databases through the use of a reverse proxy product called EZProxy. When the product was originally deployed, one of the systems administrators (Joseph Colton) at BYU-H configured the server operating system, authentication methods, and proxy application. Joseph left BYU-H shortly after configuring the proxy system. The server operating system and authentication methods were quite different from the setup at BYU-Provo. After Joseph left BYU-H, it was difficult to support and maintain the system because it was different from the proxy systems deployed at the other CES institutions. It was also different from other servers in the BYU-H datacenter.

Purpose

1. Install and configure EZproxy on Red Hat Linux. Provide training for systems and library personnel to support and maintain the application.
2. Configure apache and MySQL on the new server and move subject pages to the new server.
3. Deploy BYU-Provo's remotearch.pl authentication framework.
4. Configure squid proxy on the server for Webfeat federated search.

Report

1. The systems personnel (John Call and Scott Belnap) were very knowledgeable and helpful in getting the server operating system installed and the proxy applications configured. BYU-H has standardized on Red Hat Linux, so we moved the application from Gentoo Linux to the new Red Hat server.
2. We didn't realize that this step would be necessary until I got to BYU-H. Jacob Jenson duplicated the BYU-Provo subject page framework at BYU-H in 2005 on one of their servers. It was determined that the new server would be the best place to run the subject pages, so we moved them.
3. A large part of the problem with the old system was the authentication module. I spent a good share of my time adapting the remotearch.pl framework used at BYU-Provo to work with the Hawaii authentication systems. We were able to debug the system onsite and create authentication processes that will be more easily maintained and supported by BYU-H.
4. The old server ran the squid proxy that Webfeat uses to proxy federated search requests to remote databases. We installed and configured squid on the new server to fulfill this need. Worked with Webfeat support to change the IP address and port that they were using for the proxy. We ran into problems with the Intrusion Prevention System (IPS) at BYU-H when we moved to the new IP address. John Call worked with the vendor to fix the IPS to allow the Webfeat requests to use the new proxy IP address.

One of the major benefits of this trip was the relationships I established with Library and systems personnel at BYU-H. From my perspective, the trip was a success.