Re: Fw: July 2023: MX Sunday A/V team

From: Chris Burkholder (chrisjburkholder43@gmail.com)

To: bret_blackford@yahoo.com; jeffmcglawn@gmail.com

Date: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 at 01:34 AM CDT

Hi Bret & Jeff,

I just put a walk through video together here:

https://youtu.be/GKjBobSybLI

Here's the corresponding video:

https://youtu.be/25rL9pUNSXU

I hope this explains well enough what is involved. Please let me know if you have any questions.

-c

> On Mon, Jul 24, 2023 at 7:56 PM Chris Burkholder <chrisjburkholder43@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> Hi Bret,
>
> Thanks for passing this along. I started down the path of a diagram and realized it is not the way to go. I believe the objective would best be served by a video walkthrough of what we have currently. I will pursue that once I return to Mauritius and Redeemer the week of August 13. There are just a few too many interconnections and details to represent in a Visio diagram or stack of Google Slides, and I also could write at great length to cover everything. However I'm pretty sure a video walk-through, assembling desktop video capture with some actual video in the room of the cameras and their input paths and the projectors and their output paths, with chapters would best serve to clearly demonstrate our setup.
>
> One quick hit is that it may be worth a look, since I understand from Brian that Google Drive is broken on your ProPresenter machine, to instead try Microsoft OneDrive (I believe this is using the individual user's credentials to synchronize files). I know that this is how we accomplish file transfer from our slide maker in our case. I know yours is a Mac (boo!) but it might be worth a try. We make use of our church Google account on our LiveStream machine not for Google drive but to receive an email for each Sunday message containing nothing more than the title, description with the link to the notes, and image to use for YouTube. Then of course we also fire up YouTube with that account in order to kick off the LiveStream to which we connect.
>
> Also, don't forget to get that funky stage spruced up. Way too last century...
>
> Here is a set of our full-length Live Stream trimmed, followed by our Message only version, from yesterday.
>
> https://youtube.com/live/18ixUctRgrg?feature=share
>
> https://youtu.be/h4cWNL-NyxQ
>
> I am about to go back in to put some chapters but they're not there as of sending this email...
>
> -c
>
> On Sun, Jul 23, 2023 at 1:01 PM M Bret Blackford <bret_blackford@yahoo.com> wrote:
>
>> Chris,
>>
>> **You have some good A/V experience that would be helpful to MX.** Our use case is slightly different so we do not need to duplicate your setup but it would be great if you would document your tools and workflow. You're geeky, so perhaps you could even make a Visio diagram of your hardware/software setup on Sunday!
>>
>> Below thread has some info on our current system and pain points. I'm looking to get with the team and address but will want to understand options (as well as clarify the vision/goal of A/V at MX). This is an easy area to spend money (as well as have a solution looking for a problem), so need to be clear on priorities and end goal.

--- Bret

Brian,

Excellent detail in your responses below. Thank you for taking the time to address these so thoughtfully. I'll talk with you and others on the team when I can catch you, but hope to schedule a meeting where we can all get together and discuss training (for Sundays, weddings, funerals, other special occasions), state of equipment (doesn't sound like any immediate fires), wish-list items to help, next steps, etc.

Unfortunately A/V is an area that only gets attention when things go wrong and then all the comments are bad. So, let me take this opportunity to say THANK YOU to all of you who serve so faithfully and the difference that it makes each Sunday.

More to come.

  --- Bret

From: **Brian Hill <hillbrian@att.net>**
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 8:42 AM
To: M Bret Blackford <bret_blackford@yahoo.com>
Cc: Kaylynn Myers <kmyers@mcknightcrossings.org>; Jeff McGlawn <jeffmcglawn@gmail.com>; Fogarty Jeff <jeff@fogarty.org>; Ross Brown <i.am.ross.brown@gmail.com>; Leon Sewkarran <leonsewkarran@gmail.com>; jonathan.worthey@gmail.com; Jeff Kryder <jkryder@mcknightcrossings.org>; Blackford, Bret B. <mblackford@archrsc.com>
Subject: Re: **MX Sunday A/V team**

(1)

I don't think it's Chrome that needs updated. That app tends to update itself autonomously. The *Google Drive* app, however, had a pop-up last Sunday that stated our macOS (operating system) is no longer compatible with the latest Google Drive app and therefore it has stopped auto-syncing to & from the Auditorium computer with shared accounts. So what Kryder uploads to the shared Google Drive folders isn't automatically available on the Auditorium through the Google Drive app, what's housed on the Auditorium computer isn't automatically available to Kryder (and others) like it used to be. There is, however, a work around; everyone can access the *Google Drive* and shared files through the web browser. It requires an added step or two, but is a functional work around for the time being, if needed. Additionally, being on the Apple ecosystem allows us to use AirDrop to instantly drop files from one computer to the other if logging into *Google Drive* via the web browser isn't an option.

(2)

ProPresenter 6 is what we're running on the Auditorium Computer. It works well, but it's also what's holding us back from updating the macOS to the latest version & thereby resuming automatic syncing functions of the Google Drive app. Again, not a make-or-break type of thing, but it does remove a degree of convenience we're used to & does require those extra couple steps to work around it by using a web-browser to access G-Drive or using AirDrop. I've done a little research into what versions of our current macOS ***ProPresenter 6*** will run on but I would have to sit down at the auditorium computer in order to know it's specifics before I could offer thoughts on other work-arounds or where to go from here. It's something I plan to do after I return from my vacation this coming week. AirDrop is the quickest & easiest work around for the time being in my opinion.

(3)

The largest issue being caused for ***ProPresenter*** by the G-Drive app not being able to auto-update files on the computer is that many of the ProPresenter files (background graphics for example) are housed on the Auditorium computer & available to others via the shared Google Drive. So when the Drive stopped auto-updating people lost access to those Auditorium computer files via their devices. Again, it's not a make-or-break and can be worked around using the preceding suggestions, but it's not ideal in relation to the immediacy & convenience we've gotten used to.

(4)

Regarding ***copyright*** - we moved to using YouTube in order to be free of fear from licensing. We are welcome to use nearly any music at all on YouTube. We can use copyrighted music during service without fear of being fined, sued, or our account being removed. YouTube is built specifically to allow that type of sharing. In fact nearly EVERY service we have streamed via YouTube has had a copyright claim placed on it. If we were going to get shut down it would have been long ago. The way it works is, once a stream ends, the YouTube algorithm reviews the video & finds what it thinks might be copyrighted materials, which includes any song the praise team uses in the worship service. YouTube then notifies who it understands the owner of that copyrighted material to be, and the owner then lays claim to that section of our livestream. This either stops it from streaming in certain places (generally other countries outside of the US) and/or allows the owner of the copyrighted material to monetize our video for their own profit. In either situation our video still plays without issue, but the company that owns the copyrighted material benefits from it being shown. So music & possibly videos that we feature during a Sunday Service are not likely to be an issue at all unless we begin live-streaming entire professional productions from Hollywood (as an example). If that becomes a practice then we may need to do more investigating into fair-use laws & copyright reuse practices.

(5)

In my absences (which seems to be the common theme in this question so I'll address it in that manner) the team absolutely has the skills & knowledge to operate all of the equipment & produce both an in-house & livestream service. In short I have full confidence in them - they don't need me at all to make it happen. I am learning that I might have a deeper knowledge of details that others aren't aware of because of how closely Jeremy and I worked through & following the pandemic, but that doesn't negate the knowledge base & skillset of the team in my absence. They've got this; no doubts at all.

With that said I would also fully support offering additional training to the existing team in areas where they feel they might benefit, as well as offering opportunities for new people to learn. Abby Hollingsworth has been shadowing for some weeks now, offered suggestions, & on occasion operated the camera or soundboard. We could benefit from someone committed to the camera and / or the lighting if we had them on some occasions. I think using the upcoming Ministry Recruitment event Kryder mentioned recently would be a great thing to do in order to invite people to ask questions. I have a feeling our level of busy & focused during a service or event likely dissuades people from engaging us in those convos.

> (1) Lighting system - The 4 lights on the stage are my only real complaint that I'd like to see updated so that they're integrated into the new lighting system. A wishlist item I have is purchasing a physical board to provide a more immediate & fine-tuned control over the lights individually instead of the digital interface which is great for presets, but isn't great for on the fly changes.

> (2) The current board has a fair number of small issues that I believe are basically due to age & usage wearing it down. I'd like to have it either (1) serviced or (2) replaced. However, in the meantime it's functioning as we need it to & we can certainly teach the quirks to other users as needed.

> (3) ProPresenter is working for me as is. Maybe training people on how it interacts with Google Drive, & thereby how it interacts with what other people build using ProPresenter on other computers & then share to the

Auditorium computer might be beneficial, but I have no complaints with it as is.

(4) As stated above; the teams knows how to produce a livestream in my absence. The production of that livestream creates the file that YouTube then automatically posts to our channel. Livestreams saved on our YouTube channel aren't uploaded by me; it's a by-product of the initial livestream that automatically happens. In regards to troubleshooting the SlingStudio equipment & the iPad app used to control it; I'm pretty sure Ross & possibly McGlawn know more than I do about its workings at this point. I'm confident they can troubleshoot anything I can, and more. However, you do bring up a good point in regards to what the protocols are in the case where a livestream goes down. In those instances the only thing we record is the sermon, and I'm not sure if the team knows what apps to launch & what steps to take in order to make sure we get that done. So that's likely something we need to set up time to include in a training session.

(6)

Other than the Google Drive issue (and possible other complications) **outdated stage lights** and the **worn-down soundboard**, which isn't really a lot in the grand scheme) I don't feel any major pains in the A/V tech side of things. I also recognize that I come from the legacy of Mid-County & MX-Gym services where the general practice was 'take-what-you-get-&-make-it-work' so little inconveniences don't hit my radar the way they might for others so I'm open to other feedback.

With that said I will say that we would be good to be developing a plan for how we will replace SlingStudio eventually. I firmly hold that we do not need to replace it now, or even soon. But I'd like to have something that we have learned & can quickly swap in for when the day SlingStudio gives out on us, or becomes obsoleted by advancing software compatibility issues. For now, like this fiscal year or maybe longer, I think our funds can be used in more immediately impactful ways (replacing/repairing worn down tech) before we invest in a SlingStudio replacement.

I would also be happy to lead a class/classes about "how-to" the various A/V tools & equipment.

We absolutely need to schedule a time for the team to learn the protocols for responding to a complete loss of streaming, but in the meantime if it's something we experience while I'm away just call me and I'll talk y'all through it.

Looking forward to continuing this convo & work!

-Brian Hill

(he, him, his)

On Jul 17, 2023, at 1:05 PM, M Bret Blackford <bret_blackford@yahoo.com> wrote:

MX Tech Team;

We are doing a great job transitioning post-Jeremy, but we should probably meet soon to discuss any gaps or needs. Here is a short list of a few items to discuss, in no particular order:

1. **software updates** on the A/V machines
   1. do we need to update Google Chrome on the Macs?
      1. on computer, open Chrome
      2. at top right, click **More**

3. click **Help -> About Google Chrome**
4. click **Update Google Chrome** (if option not available you are on latest version)
5. click **Relaunch**

2. **Pro-Presenter** Version - https://renewedvision.com/propresenter - I am unsure what version we are running or if any issues
3. **Pro-Presenter** - file transfers - do we have a good understanding and documentation of how to build and transfer slides from Jeff Kryder or any guest speaker?
4. **Using licensed material** (songs or video clips) - we need to understand how we can properly use licensed material in our Sunday live-stream. If we fail to properly use material our video can be removed from YouTube and we could be fined (neither good). We'll need a team to investigate how to properly pay and use any licensed material.
5. **Equipment Training** - is the team comfortable with the Sunday A/V setup and all the vacuous equipment. Do we have adequate cross training and/or documentation on:

   1. new lighting system

      1. presets
      2. manual operation

   2. audio board
   3. video system

      1. pro-presenter
      2. starting projector
      3. setting up files
      4. etc.

   4. video recording

      1. in Brian's absence do we have the equipment and knowledge to do the Sunday live-feed
      2. **SlingStudio** (not sure if this is the proper name of the box we use for live video feed) - do we know how to use and troubleshoot
      3. Troubleshoot - should we have an issue with live feed do we know (besides Brian Hill) how to upload video later to YouTube channel?

6. **Other/Misc** What else do we need to make sure we discuss or document? What other pain points are there?

I am impressed at how well our Sunday service has been going post-Jeremy and want to make sure the A/V team gets the training and resources needed. Look for a follow-up email soon as I work to get a date/time on a meeting.

THANKS AGAIN FOR YOUR TIME, TALENT, and EFFORTS, and feel free to email with any question or issues.

   ---- Bret