

AA and Advancing Technologies

28th Annual
Intergroup/Central Office/AAWS/AAGV Seminar
October 26th @1:15PM
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Introduction

~ Brouck H ~

A.A.'s Legacy of Service Bill W. (1951)

- Our Twelfth Step - carrying the message - the basic service that the A.A. Fellowship gives
- ...an A.A. service is anything whatever that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer
- ...but one question: “Is this service really needed?” If it is, then maintain it we must, or fail in our mission

~ Service Manual S1

What is the Problem?

This is a management problem

**We seem to have exhausted our
current ability to deliver technology**

...Problem? (cont.)

- our **model** for implementing technology is as varied as the number of groups we have
 - **Upside-Down Organization**
 - Nobody has been “asked” to provide central services
 - We have not agreed to the requirements
 - How would we fund them?
- no service positions for **focusing** on technology
- requests for technical solution have become more **complex** than ever before

... Problem (continued)

- Little trust that AA can produce technology
- **Slow implementation** and **long delivery lifecycle** is way behind the always changing technology market
- Service that requires Special Knowledge
- How to share experience of a technical nature
- No common language for sharing experience
- Duplication of efforts

HOW IT WORKS

- Our structure runs on Experience & Traditions
 - How does Experience work?
 - How do the Traditions apply?

Three Pillars of Innovation

- **Desirability**
 - Is there a “NEED”? Is it useful?
- **Feasibility**
 - Can we afford it? Does it Assess well?
 - Can we create it? Are we capable?
- **Viability**
 - Can we maintain it? Can we pass it on?
 - Can we support it? Are we self-supporting?

eTech Team

Who, What, Why?

- *No Special Authority – We are AA Members*
- *Not affiliated with GSO – We are invited guests*
- *Financial Resources are limited*
- *Team is small and have “Day Jobs”*
- *Have broad experience across technology fields*

*Here to **SERVE** regarding **TECHNOLOGY**, but*

HOW?

Our Experience...

...and Goals

~ Blaine B ~

Goal #1: Investigation

Determine the need

- Are we the only ones who care?
- What resources are available?
- Connect across the fellowship with technology workers

What we DO do

- Encourage sharing of solutions that prove useful and related **EXPERIENCE**
- Suggest roles to focus on this area of **SERVICE**
- Trust our **TRUSTED SERVANTS**
- Offer experience to AA Service **COMMITTEES**
- Evolve deeper service **GUIDELINES** and insights applying our **TRADITIONS**

What we do NOT do

- Create software to **SOLVE** all AA's problems
- Create a central IT group to **DECIDE** things
- Provide a **LIST** of “conference approved” technologies and vendors
- Do the job of **EXISTING** AA Service committees
- Tell AA groups the **CORRECT** way... what their requirements should be

Goal #2: Definition

Help define Technology Service in A.A.

- What is the scope of work?
- How to be effective?

What We Found

To be defined by those *trusted servants who participate*.

There is no *Shared Experience* on how to do this.

What are the *Principles & Responsibilities* involved for addressing technology service in the fellowship?

→ eTech *Suggestion*: 12 Statements of Technology

“...guides to progress.”

Tradition 5: “Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.”

“The measure of technology value in AA is its support of 12 Step progress”

~ Brouck H, 4/3/2012

12 Statements of Technology (v3)

1. We suggest implementing technology where it **supports our primary purpose** of carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers
2. We are responsible and assess value when using **self-support** funds for technology initiatives
3. We are responsible where **anonymity** is more vulnerable to a wider audience with increased speed or new sensation
4. An **informed** group conscience is paramount to technology decision-making
5. We strive to understand where **Individual** versus **Group** values are different
6. We perform due diligence and rely on demonstrable A.A. **experience**
7. We record non-technical **requirements** before making technology choices
8. We take care to understand the **property value** and **legal** implications of technology used for A.A. purposes before making binding decisions
9. We are responsible for **transparency** in discovery, process, & implementation
10. We use technology to make information **available**, not to limit it
11. We consider how best to **Pass it On**
12. ... (Keep it Simple)

*All that just for my Area's
Website?*

Areas of Scope (v2)

“Self-support”

- Communication
 - E-mail / Fax
 - Phones / Devices
 - Remote work / Broadcast
- Content
 - Web / Cloud
 - Publishing / Documents
 - Multi-lingual
 - Retention / Recording / Retrieval
- Software Applications
 - Programming
 - Design / Usability
- Information Security
 - User / Password / Identity
 - Encryption
 - Intellectual Property / Copyrights
- Operations
 - Monitoring
 - Maintenance
 - Storage / Hosting
- Management
 - Committees
 - Contracts
 - Vendors
 - Projects
- Systems
 - Inventory
 - Connectivity
- Support
 - Inter-committee
 - Member users
 - Non-member users

Technology Value

12 Step... *Efficiency, Synergy, & Innovation*

- Functionality (Provide New)
- Self-service
- Ease of use
- Low cost
- Reusability
- Transparency
- Accessibility
- Convenience / Availability
- Speed
- Integration
- Reliability
- Security
- Modernity
- Ubiquity (Cross-platform)
- Guarantees
- Attractiveness
- Popularity
- Automation
- Search-ability (Data Accessible)

Goal #3: First Thing's First

Establish the National AA Technology Workshop

Parallels in function to the National AA Archives Workshop:

“We share information, methods, procedures, ethics, and our enthusiasm at each Workshop as we continue to gather, grow, and serve.” ~ www.aanationalarchivesworkshop.com

Track 1:

Using Technology in Service

- Inter-committee Work
- Traditions
- Steering

Track 2:

Creating Technology for Service

- Geekery
- Mayhem
- Shared Experience

In all of its actions, the ~~Archives~~ **Technology** committee needs to be guided by A.A.'s primary purpose. Thus, if non-A.A. friends are asked to serve on the committee, which may be desirable due to their interest and special knowledge or expertise, they ought to be people who are thoroughly familiar with our primary purpose, as well as all of our A.A. Traditions.

Sometimes it may be necessary to seek outside professional help to ensure the integrity of ~~an item~~ **technology service**...

...it takes a considerable amount of time to become familiar with ~~a collection of historical~~ **technology** information. Therefore, it is recommended that the ~~archivist~~ **technologist** not rotate frequently. Some areas choose to appoint non-rotating ~~archivists~~ **technologists** who hold the position for many years.

Purpose Statement

The National AA Technology Workshop (NAATW) is committed to helping Alcoholics Anonymous service workers who are also bound by the spiritual principles of our Fellowship to...

- demonstrate and share technology related **experience**, strength, and hope with each other
- provide a **consistent** interface to the fellowship on technology and assist members where practical
- provide a useful medium for willing members and non-member friends with specific **technical expertise** to help A.A.
- **serve other A.A. service groups or committees** with their technology concerns

Mission

Work in progress...

The National AA Technology Workshop is committed to helping Alcoholics Anonymous to help the still suffering alcoholic where less technological alternatives may be limited.

Workshop History

- ✓ 2012 AAWS ad-hoc Technology Team formed 4/2
 - ✓ Recognized the need for tech discussion within the fellowship at regional forums.
- ✓ 2012 Southeast Regional Forum - Boca Raton, FL 11/9
 - ✓ First Forum Workshop
- ✓ 2013 Pacific Region AA Service Assembly - Boise, ID 3/1
 - ✓ First Regional Service Event Workshop
- ✓ 2013 Northeast Regional Forum - Cromwell, CT 6/8
- ✓ 2013 West Central Regional Forum - Bloomington, MN 9/7
- ✓ 2013 Southwest Regional Forum - Oklahoma City 10/12
- ✓ 2013 Intergroup Manager's Seminar - Palm Springs 10/26
 - ✓ First discussion with Intergroup service workers
- ✓ 2013 East Central Regional Forum - Fort Wayne, IN 11/16?

Next Steps...

- Produce NAATW.org website
- Form Guidance Committee
- Call for Host Committee
- Call for Topics / Speakers

On To The Sharing!