Messaging Platforms

Craig Given
Information Technology
Public Broadcasting Service



Overview of Messaging Platforms

- FirstClass Portal
- FirstClass at Stations
- Exchange at Stations



Messaging Platforms

- Launched FirstClass email system and PBSExpress+ in 1995.
- Pre-Y2K began exploration of expanded options.



Three Options

- FirstClass
 - ◆ Existing Infrastructure
- Internet protocol based
 - ◆ Exchange, Lotus Notes, etc.
 - ♦ Via NNTP, SMTP, LDAP
- PBS-hosted Portal



FC Portal

- Launched in 1999
- Accounts hosted on FirstClass server located here at PBS.
- High reliability and availability
- PBS administrated hardware and software.
- Station controls local content.



FC Portal

- Since launch:
 - ♦ No unscheduled downtime
 - ◆ 23 stations hosted
 - ♦ 707 total users
- Low cost
 - ◆ \$5 per user, per month



Case Study

- Great economic sense
 - ◆ A small station with 20 users can be hosted for \$100 per month.
 - ◆ A large station with 200 users can be hosted for \$1000 per month.



What This Means

- Each station has their choice of three options, and can pick what is right for them.
- Maximum Flexibility, Maximum Benefit



Coming Next...

- Taking advantage of FirstClass features
- Benefits of Exchange in a station environment

