

CKUT AGM 2011 Production Department Report

Overview:

Many repairs were done (CD players, headphones, microphones, cables, tape decks, door locks, light fixtures, remote kit, PA amplifiers, etc.) Many hours spent mopping, vacuuming, dusting, wiping (broken record endless echo nag 2011 edition: No food or drinks in the studios!!). A good assortment of technical help, live bands, volunteer projects, fixing on-air conundrums. Coordinating a few live remotes, found technicians, liaised. I recorded many ads, good times in PCR with Louise and clients. I attended one or two volunteer presentation shows, and trained many new volunteers. Production Intern High fives: Dominique Morton and Guillaume Ross. 2 new marrantz recorders were purchased this year, these machines get a lot of love here. Circuit workshops were had, recording workshops were slim this year, but serious plans are in the works to make this really move forward post Referendum with new shiny recording equipment in PCR.

Goals and Projects

I have mapped out a plan to ameliorate PCR with the aim of making multi-track recording sessions feasible. Presently it is rather complicated and requires a lot of messy patching. The recording workshops have been fun and informative and appreciated by bands and volunteers. I believe with a little investment it can be made better, require less of my direct involvement and become a great source of local programming content and outreach to local bands and musicians. A full proposal and financial committee purchase request will be drafted post referendum.

I will continue collaborating with Izaak with discussions on how to improve MCR, notably with the physical layout of the computer screens. This may be a longer-term project, but the goal is to make MCR as excellent as possible given so many different working methods of programmers.

Highlights.

Autumn 2010

It's early 21st century, lo and behold independent music artists are producing releases on cassette. Like vinyl, the cassette has its place. If cassettes had no redeeming qualities, they would not exist. All that to say that work was done to repair all our cassette decks. I also bought a couple of used ones from a great source in Laval (the decks CKUT uses are long discontinued, but are much better machines than the versions currently sold new). On that note, like it or not, eventually the CD format will disappear. and, truthfully, I will not regret that day.

Segues quite nicely into: Installation of 4 USB ports in the MCR equipment rack. This means programmers can now bring audio files stored on USB keys, plug them in, open the files on one of the computers and press play! Thanks Izaak for making this possible.

Got myself a communauto (car sharing organization par excellence) membership. Very helpful for occasional errands and equipment transports!

3 Private recording school interns came through the department. We had them all help with

the production of the CKUT Adobe Audition (the digital audio editing software used by ckut) manual. A big push was done by Dominique and it was completed in the late summer. Available online, soon to be printed!

I did my best to politely request that our landlords live up to their promise of building a proper kitchen upstairs (I have a bad feeling this is becoming an annual installment of the reports). This went on through-out the year, so far it is still stuck between the contractor's estimate, McGill facilities approval and a strike.

Winter:

We dealt with a Marantz recorder getting badly damaged from serious miss-use, but all came out unscathed and wiser from the experience.

Assisted technical matters at Art's Birthday show at L'Envers. Great event, nice costumes (Courtney was a cake), Great bands, live text messages projected on a wall degenerating into bad jokes.

Started gargantuan project that Dominique bottom-lined to revamp and make sense of the station ID's folders now stored and played from computers.

Set up homelessness marathon. Had a one week vacation in New Orleans. Amazing town, would easily move there.

Spring

Did some grunt work, painting, moving things around, in old engineering so it could be transformed into the amazing new server room thanks again Izaak!!!

I attended discussions with Julie and 3 representatives from OLF, about getting subsidies and training for increasing Francais at CKUT. This culminated in my meeting with a professional translator, the idea being that person would be hired to translate the entire contents of our new website. But there were problems in how the OLF suggested we approach this, and with the money factor, so it has been put on the back burner until post referendum.

Sent nominations for NCRC awards.

With with AJ, met with three high level representatives of Industry Canada about a new radio station that needed our permission to operate, it was considered a special situation.

Summer

Worked out a pickup of equipment from Thompson house in exchange for co-presentation ads. We got 3 useful pieces of equipment.

Had meetings with the Kids Camp coordinators and planned and executed a couple of workshops with them: circuit bending and studio recording. (Merci Emilie).

Checked out a few details pertaining to French language laws and our website content. This helped with our decision to delay our translation project.

Coordinated a new project with a group from France called " LA Chambre à Aire". They

organized a series of live remotes and produced pre-recorded content in exchange for borrowing our portable broadcast equipment.

Did some touch up painting downstairs here and there, just trying to keep things looking non-shabby and loved.

Autumn

-Helped with Comedian show in St Henri.

-Finalized and set up the new folders for our station ID's. If you are a programmer, I request that you use the folders called "Station ID's remix". This new system will make it much easier to file and catalogue the ID's, as well as making them easier to sort for access, seeing as they now categorized by the following: Generic (ie. standard ID), Famous People (i.e. drops) Francais & Español and Brand New Station ID's. There is also a new print-out of the newly ordered and cataloged ID's in volunteers.

Have started work on new FD promo spots, as well as sending email requests for producers to make new FD 2011 promo spots.

To Conclude:

A very warm thank-you to all who helped in the production department and CKUT in general. Every minute of assistance with trainings, cleaning, moving of equipment, producing audio for programming, etc, was greatly appreciated.

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