You should run, not walk, to EZProxy. You should switch yesterday.

The only thing that gave us trouble was our IT department did not understand the certificate that you buy to prevent the http to https errors, so they didn’t get it, so that didn’t work right for a long time until I did a lot of work and then we got it straightened out finally.

You should proxy by port and not the old way which was domain name, I think.

You should set up your config file yourself. It’s not that hard. My IT guy did it with the old info from the WAM table, so everything was out of order and out of date with some things missing and I ended up having to rebuild it myself eventually.

It’s important to keep up with changes to the proxy tables. Someone on the EZProxy list said to set up a “followthatpage” account and follow the EZProxy stanzas page using it. That works great for us.

The other thing to keep in mind is that EZProxy senses on-campus urls and drops the proxy from them (which is why it works so great, so all your on-campus users aren’t overloading your proxy server and causing it to crash every day, which is what was happening with us with WAM), which is awesome until you grab the url from the browser bar and try to use it later from off campus. Not an issue for things like EBSCO that offer permalinks within the database interface, but it is an issue for those that don’t, like most journal publishers.

You can set up EZProxy to exclude certain IPs so it always treats them like off-campus, which is what I did with my computer, so I can easily test and troubleshoot things from my own machine.

WAM caused me so many headaches for so many years and EZProxy has made everything better.

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We moved from WAM to EZProxy over the summer.  WAM was a problem because it didn't handle https well and keep giving users messages telling them they needed certificates - it was all very confusing for our users.  It did take a while to build our configuration file in EZproxy with all the databases and journal publisher URLs, but now that it's setup, everyone seems quite happy with it.

I used EZproxy at my former job (just started here in July and they were already in the process of moving away from WAM) though, so I don't have a lot of experience with WAM.

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I saw your email asking about EZ-Proxy vs. WAM. I inherited EZ Proxy from a different librarian here, so my knowledge may be a little incomplete and I never worked with WAM. As for your specific questions, here are my answers.

It seemed to be pretty easy, as the person who set it up did it within a few weeks before retiring.

1. I’m able to manage it pretty successfully with very little training. The listserv is really great, and they’ve helped me a lot as I’ve done this work.
2. I can’t answer your last one sadly.

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We are a III customer and recently moved all our databases from the WAM table to EZProxy. We were continually finding that many of our resources were switching to https, and our WAM table required a new security certificate. It was easy enough to move. Our EZProxy service is hosted by OCLC so OCLC did all the hard work of creating the EZproxy instances. I just provided OCLC with a spreadsheet. It is early days regarding management of it, but my experience with OCLC so far has been positive and they are very responsive. We haven’t decided if we will be keeping the WAM table yet, but it is highly likely that we will retain it as a backup proxy.

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We changed from WAM to hosted EZproxy about a year and a half ago, and have been very happy with the move. We spent a lot of staff time maintaining the WAM table and struggling to keep up with security certificates and changes to https sites. Hosted EZproxy is easy and pretty reliable, and has saved us a great deal of staff time that we have been able to devote to projects with a greater impact on users.

The move took some time and a fair amount of followup, but it was worth it. It probably took 6-8 weeks with 3 staff spending a portion of their time working on it. (A lot of that time was sending emails and tracking whether or not vendors/publishers responded.)

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We, at the University of Northern Colorado, just completed a switch from WAM to hosted EZProxy.

It wasn’t an easy move, but I think it was worth it

Hosted EZProxy has been great in many ways, but I miss the immediacy of having contract of the WAM table

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We just moved this summer. It was a bear to make the move however we are using a hosted EZ Proxy server so some of the work is off our plates and done by our consortium’s systems librarian. All I had to do as the E-resources Librarian was add the EZ Proxy stanzas and contact the publishers to change the IP address for all of our resources and change all the urls. The plus side is that it has been so much easier to proxy the urls since they use a prefix format and I haven’t had an issue with EZ Proxy not working with a resource, like I often did with WAM. EZ Proxy is so stable and widely supported. Also, we can have one wildcard certificate to cover our resources since EZ Proxy is a prefix url and not a wrap url like WAM which is one of the reasons we moved to EZ Proxy. We don’t keep having to add certificates every time we get a new resource (every new journal was throwing a certificate error with the new https protocol) and keeping up with that and paying for new certificates was ridiculous. Everything has been more stable since we have moved to EZ proxy. Also there is an excellent EZ proxy listserv here <https://www.oclc.org/support/services/ezproxy/documentation/list.en.html> for asking question or searching for stanzas and the OCLC page is helpful <https://www.oclc.org/support/services/ezproxy/documentation/db.en.html>

Keeping up with adding the stanzas isn’t too difficult once you have done the initial adding of all your resources, but then again we are a smaller institution and I have a staff person to assist me with that but even before I did have help, I didn’t find it too time consuming.

And for the EZ Proxy stanzas where no stanza is provided 99% of the time, this works

T Resource Title
U [www.example.com](http://www.example.com/) H example.com
 DJ example.com

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We moved to EZProxy in early 2016. I would absolutely recommend it. We have a server hosted by OCLC. There were so many resources that did not work with WAM, but worked with EZP. We use our campuses’ SSO to manage authentication, so we don’t have to maintain the patron table for off-campus access. We have seen a big reduction in the number of off-campus related troubleshooting tickets since moving to EZP.

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I moved Simmons College from WAM/ Forward Table to EZ Proxy and I would recommend it to anyone. The security features that EZ Proxy allows are much better.

EZ Proxy is standard now in our field and I personally feel that WAM/ Forward Tables are terribly outdated. We were having trouble at Simmons with publisher websites not working because we were using WAM, such as Elsevier.

The process is not too bad because you can run both options at the same time and transition your links as slowly as you need to based on the level of time and support that you have. Make sure that you set up EZ proxy by host name and not by port. The help staff at OCLC's EZ Proxy department is excellent. I would also be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Do it! It is completely worth it.