LACATech Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2009

Roll Call
The LACATech meeting was called to order at 8:30am on September 9, 2009.The following members were present for the roll call: Michele Berry (Heath), Gerry Cannon (C-TEC), Tim Owen (Lakewood), Keith DeVore (LCESC), Don Orr representing Verne Benson (Licking Heights), Jamison Ables representing Sondra Wilson (Newark), Larry Smith (North Fork), Shawn Wilkoski representing Beth Rowley (Northridge), Harold Gottke (Tri-Valley), Kevin Snyder (West Muskingum), Sally Sperry (Mount Vernon), Denny Souder (Granville), and Jon Bowers (LACA). Representatives from Maysville and Southwest Licking were unable to attend.

Others attending were Eric Thompson (Granville), Chip Zolman (Mount Vernon), Tom Jacob (Excel Academy), Brian Gottfried (Excel Academy), David Diebel (Granville Christian), Dave Stenson (St. Francis), Paul Kamenen (Fairfield Christian), Joe Alexander (LACA), Dave Stein (LACA) and Chad Carson (LACA).

Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes
10-01　It was moved by Michele Berry and seconded by Eric Thompson to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2009 LACATech meeting. A unanimous vote of approval was taken.

ITSCO Update
David Hayward gave an ITSCO update. Please direct any questions about the ITSCO update to David at david@itsco.org or visit the ITSCO website at http://www.itsco.org/

eTech Ohio Update
Quentin Briggs attended via videoconference, and provided an eTech Ohio update. Please direct any questions about the eTech Ohio update to Quentin at Quentin.Briggs@etech.ohio.gov or visit the eTech Ohio website at http://www.etech.ohio.gov/.

Ohio K-12 Network Updates
K-12 Network Update - ETech/OARNet will be merging all state networks into a meshed network. (K12/OECN, Higher Ed). This will provide a significant cost savings by reducing maintenance on duplicate equipment.
The $3000 subsidy per building has been cut to $2000, and then split in half. You will receive half in November and the other half in the spring as long as state budgets allow it.
Public school districts need to submit applications for K-12 network funds so LACA can approve them. Please get the most recent diagram from Joey Alexander at LACA before submitting.
LACA will continue to submit requests for non-public schools on their behalf when we get direction from ODE on this process.

Video Services
FLAP Grant - Mandarin Chinese over Video – The grant has paid for the equipment and the teacher for the Chinese class. A second Mandarin Chinese teacher may be added next year, and they will likely be housed at LACA due to space restrictions at the OSU facility. The costs for the class per school will continue to decrease as more schools participate. If you plan to participate in one of these classes, HD video equipment is *highly* recommended. The Polycom HDX7002 does everything the old VTEL did, plus HD quality. Polycom is offering additional discounts in addition to the low state-wide pricing negotiated by LACA.

INFOhio State Support has asked LACA to deliver video-based INFOhio training. LACA has hired Jane Galbraith as a purchased service to assist with this.

WAN Updates
ISP Contract Update – About 50% off districts contracts with LACA for Time-Warner fiber will be up June 30, 2010, and the rest on June 30 2011. Jon Bowers informed the group that he plans to try to renew everyone for new four-year contracts and negotiate lower pricing, unless anyone is opposed to this. There was no opposition to this course of action. Almost all buildings, with a few exceptions, would be renewed to the same co-terminus date.

Technical Services Update
Symantec – LACA had received new pricing for the next three years, and it is lower than the Ohio state-term pricing. Non-members will have to pay this price, while members will continue to get Symantec Anti-Virus as part of their WAN contract with LACA. Gerry Cannon asked about Altaris pricing and how this might play into our current pricing with Symantec. Jon Bowers said he would forward Gerry the State Term pricing for all Symantec products, as well as the contact information Symantec's Ohio representative.
Exchange 2007 Upgrade – Exchange 2007 Server licensing and CALs have been purchased, and LACA staff are working on building the new Exchange 2007 servers. We will be migrating the LACA staff over to those as soon as they are ready, and will be working out the bugs and differences between 2003 before moving districts over to these new servers.
Email Archiving – We have not currently had any districts express interest in starting e-mail archiving, so nothing has been done at this point. We have the option of a hosted service at the OECN Disaster Recovery site, but there are currently network speed issues happening in the K12 network between LACA (and other ITCs) and the DR site. We would like resolution on those before starting a mimosa hosted implementation. We also have the option of hosting our own Mimosa but that would require hardware and staff training, which would delay the startup of the service as opposed to the hosting option. Please let LACA know if you have an immediate need and we will accelerate the implementation of this service.
Internet Filtering – Chad Carson asked the group if there were any issues raised by the recent speech to schools by President Obama caused by the Internet filtering? There were no issues that needed to be addressed.
Password Policy – At a previous meeting, a motion was made to enforce a stronger password policy based upon recommendation by LACA technical staff. Chad Carson asked the group if they felt a strong password policy should be implemented WITHOUT expiring passwords every 90 days? Chad believes this would cause more problems for end users rather than preventing problems. Everyone was in agreement that this should not be implemented at this time. Chad will be sending out a draft message explaining the stronger password implementation to the technology coordinators for their review, before sending to the general user base. It was mentioned that such a message should make clear that this would not affect LOCAL district passwords, only LACA passwords.
Windows 7 Support – Gerry Cannon asked about LACA's stance on Windows 7 support. LACA is bound by the vendors who support our major applications. If they do not support Windows 7, LACA cannot turn to them for support, therefore we cannot support it. LACA only recently gained support for Windows Vista from most vendors, so we do not anticipate Windows 7 support anytime soon. We will let the users know when we receive confirmation from our vendors of Windows 7 support.

Other Discussion
DASL Update –The re-rostering process from DASL to D3A2 is still being worked on by the DASL developers (BIG).   LACA is scheduling a lawyer to come in an speak on records retention. This event will be attended by DASL team leaders, the district records retention officer, and special education directors. The date has not yet been scheduled.
D3A2 Update – LACA is continuing to scrub and load data, but teachers cannot see their current students until the DASL re-rostering has been completed. Jane Galbraith will be doing all D3A2 training in-house for LACA, instead of scheduling a trainer from another ITC. This frees us up to do more training on our own schedule, instead of working around availability of an outside trainer.
Group Purchasing Committee Update – LACA is working with Naviance, which does electronic transcripts, to get group discounted pricing. There is no pressure to participate, we are just trying to get cheaper pricing.   Denny Souder discussed getting representatives from Edulog and Versatran in front of the DASL project leaders to discuss integration options.
SpS Workstation Requirements –Workstation requirements for the SpS (formerly SSEM) special education package were handed out. Anyone working with this software (mainly Special Education directors and staff) will need workstations that meet these requirements.

Unfinished Business
Public Records Policy and Document Management – LACA staff and a few district representatives took a trip to the HCCA ITC to see Onbase document management software in action. The features were very impressive, but the costs are also very high.
Disaster Recovery Plan – Chad Carson has been working with the director of the Disaster Recovery site to do real recovery testing on critical applications, as well as restoring some virtual servers running in VMWare. We have successfully restored the OpenVMS system for payroll processing, and uncovered a few network speed issues that have hampered further testing. Chad is actively working with K-12 network personnel to troubleshoot these speed issues before doing further testing.
LAN Switch Maintenance – Please have Purchase Orders for Cisco Smartnet maintenance on local equipment to LACA by the end of next week (September 18) if possible.

New Business
LACATech Topic Based Meetings – The next LACATech Topic-Based meeting will be October 7, 2009 at 8:30am. The topic will be Microsoft Sharepoint, and will be presented by representatives from Microsoft.
Upcoming Meeting Dates for LACATech Advisory Committee – Regular LACATech meeting dates for the upcoming FY10 school year will be as follows:
- November 4, 2009
- January 6, 2010
- March 3, 2010
- May 5, 2010
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Michele Berry received an e-mail from Bricker and Eckler informing districts that they should visit Facebook and register any names that might be associated with their schools, as those names are available on a first-come-first served basis, and could be obtained by anyone. Someone could use those links to impersonate the school and post questionable or embarrassing content. Michele will forward the information to LACATECH for review.

10-02   It was moved by Kevin Snyder and seconded by Tim Owen to adjourn the meeting at 10:12am.   A unanimous vote of approval was taken.

The next LACATech meeting date is November 4, 2009 at 8:30am.

Reported by,

Chad Carson
Director of Technology, LACA