LACATech Meeting Minutes – May 5, 2010

Roll Call
The LACATech meeting was called to order at 8:30am on May 5, 2010. The following members were present for the roll call: Eric Smith (Maysville), Larry Smith (North Fork), Shawn Wilkoski (Northridge), Chris Cashdollar (West Muskingum), Denny Souder (Granville), and Jon Bowers (LACA). Gerry Cannon (CTEC) arrived at 8:50.
Representatives from Heath, Lakewood, LCESC, Licking Heights, Newark City, Mount Vernon, Southwest Licking, and Tri-Valley were unable to attend. A quorum was not present so no motions took place this meeting.

Others attending were Linda Denny (Maysville), Tom Jacob (Excel Academy), Brian Gottfried (Excel Academy), Dave Stenson (St. Francis), Paul Kamenan (Fairfield Christian), Tess Wigginton (Newark Catholic), Joey Alexander (LACA), and Chad Carson (LACA).

Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes
There was no quorum present to approve the previous meeting minutes.

eTech Ohio Update
Steven Crumbacher filled in for Quentin Briggs and provided an eTech Ohio update via Skype video conference. 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/.

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/

Ohio K-12 Network Updates
LACA will be bumping our outbound Internet by 10mb as soon as possible and bumping another 10 or 20mb in the fall. LACA tried to postpone this until August, so we would not be paying for additional unused bandwidth over the summer, but we are hitting the cap every day now, and we need the extra bandwidth to offer service through the end of May and into June.
Based on current projections, the K-12 Network $2,000 subsidy per building should continue for next year as well.

Video Services
LACA is testing a Polycom V2IU video gateway/firewall traversal device, which will allow us to move to an extension dialing plan, rather than require every Polycom system out there to have its own unique public IP address. Under this new system, each Polycom will be an extension off of one main public IP address that sits on the V2IU gateway. It will be very similar to a phone system with a main phone number, then an extension to reach individual people off that main number. This new system will route video calls around our firewall, so we can eliminate some issues caused by blocked ports or other software issues caused by the firewall. LACA will work with you to reconfigure your systems to use the gateway/extension model as we roll this out.

There will be a total of 10 districts next year that will be doing Mandarin Chinese classes as part of the FLAP grant, and Newark City, Newark Digital, and Mount Vernon will also be part of the Mandarin Chinese class through the EETT grant.   There are other schools around the state participating that are just buying the service, not through a grant. LACA will have at least 4 teachers next fall teaching full-time via video.

Some testing on the newer version of RSS software has found some bugs. We were hoping to use this, since it can render video natively in MP4 format. Dave is continuing to work with Polycom to resolve issues with the hope to be on this new version in the fall.

Flyers were distributed on the Teacher's Technology Workshop that LACA is hosting on June 15 and 16, 2010 at LACA. Jane Galbraith and LACA staff will be conducting the training. Flyers were also distributed about the June 21-23 Using Distance Learning Effectively in the Classroom event.

WAN Updates
For those districts that have Time Warner contracts renewing this summer, these contracts will be moved under state-term pricing, and as part of this, Time-Warner is replacing the Foundry switches with Adva switches, which gives them more capabilities to support the links. This will require some downtime as they physically move cables from one switch to another. LACA will coordinate this with you to provide minimal disruption to service.

Technical Services Update
Internet Content Filtering – The LACA Governing Board voted for LACA to install an add-on reporting appliance for the 8e6 R3000 content filter. This will be completed this summer, and will allow easier and more intuitive reporting from the R3000.   LACA will let everyone know when this is in place.
E-Mail – LACA is moving forward with a local Mimosa archiving installation for our staff. We have purchased the necessary software and are setting up the servers. We hope to have this completed in the next couple of weeks, and open it up to districts after our staff is comfortable with supporting the software.

Jon Bowers re-iterated the importance of email document retention for legal liabilities. Email should be treated the same as any other document in the district. It is not exempt from retention just because it is electronic. LACA has recently learned that if there is a threat of litigation, the 30-day deletion of inbox and sent items email policy must be stopped. Contact LACA immediately if such a situation arises. Jon suggested that we bring back the Email Best Practices subcommittee to address some of these issues.
LAN Switch Maintenance – Every year LACA purchases Smartnet maintenance on our Cisco equipment. Any district who wants to put their own equipment under Smartnet can do so our our annual renewal.   Dave Stein will be contacting each district to find out what Cisco equipment you would like to cover this year very shortly.

Other Discussion
Jon Bowers polled the attendees to see who was interested in Safari Montage for next school year.

Unfinished Business

At the last LACATech meeting, it was decided that we would do a consortium-wide re-acceptance of the LACA AUP. We need to set a date when this will begin, and a date by which everyone must have it done before the accounts are deactivated. After discussion, it was decided that we start the process on August 15, 2010, and allow 45 days (until the last day of September) for the users to do the reacceptance. Chad Carson will alter the main login page for OWA to show a notice about the reacceptance to help raise awareness, as well as daily email notices to each user until the acceptance is complete. District AUPs through LAMA can be re-accepted as well, and this will be done on a district-by-district choice. Chad will contact everyone who does this to find out their preference.

New Business

The MCOECN recently purchased a Microsoft IT Academy subscription for each ITC. This gives us access to over 200 computer-based training classes. Along with that, we are allowed to create three accounts for each of our customers, with the intention that this is used by the Technology Coordinator and other technical staff to do training as well. Login codes and instructions were distributed to each attendee.

One-to-one initiative. – Many districts have expressed interest in doing a one-to-one (one device per student) setup for their districts. There are many factors to consider (what device, who pays for it, power requirements, maintenance, insurance, growing Internet usage, etc). LACA would like to form a sub-committee or task force to help with guidelines and best practices for such an initiative. Interested districts so far are Maysville, C-TEC, Granville, Lakewood, Tri-Valley, and Mount Vernon. We would like to have the first meeting mid-June. Please email jbowers@laca.org if you are interested in being part of this.

LACA has hired a new employee to fill the Network Coordinator position. Robert Rittenhouse will be starting in the next couple of weeks.

The schedule for FY11 LACATech meetings is as follows:
- September 8, 2010
- November 3, 2010
- January 12, 2011
- March 2, 2011
- May 4, 2011

The next LACA Topic-Based meeting will be June 2, 2010, and will be a discussion on Active Directory tools for mass management of accounts. It will be at 8:30am here at LACA.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45am.

Next LACATech meeting will be September 8, 2010 at 8:30am.

Reported by Chad Carson, Director of Technology, LACA