LACATech Meeting Minutes – November 3, 2010

Roll Call

The LACATech meeting was called to order at 8:37am on November 3, 2010. The following members were present for the roll call: Michele Berry (Heath), Gerry Cannon (CTEC), Sondra Wilson (Newark City), Larry Smith (North Fork), Shawn Wilkoski (Northridge), Jeff Cameron (Southwest Licking), Harold Gottke (Tri-Valley), Chris Cashdollar (West Muskingum), Eric Thompson (Granville), Tim Owen (Lakewood), and Jon Bowers (LACA). Verne Benson arrived at 8:42 and Chip Zolman (Mount Vernon) arrived at 8:55. Representatives from the LCESC and Maysville were unable to attend.

Others attending were Brian Gottfried (Excel Academy), Tom Jacob (Excel Academy), Dave Stenson (St. Francis), Paul Kamenan (Fairfield Christian), David Diebel (Granville Christian), Tess Wigginton (Newark Catholic), Dave Calloway (Newark Digital Academy), Joey Alexander (LACA), Dave Stein (LACA), Chad Carson (LACA), and Robert Rittenhouse (LACA).

Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

11-05 It was moved by Sondra Wilson and seconded by Larry Smith to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2010 LACATech meeting. A unanimous vote of approval was taken.

eTech Ohio Update

Steve Crumbacher provided an eTech Ohio. Please direct any questions about the eTech Ohio update to Steve at Steven.Crumbacher@etech.ohio.gov , or visit the eTech Ohio website at http://www.etech.ohio.gov/.

ITSCO Update

A representative from ITSCO was unable to attend this meeting. No update was given.

Ohio K-12 Network Updates

LACA has added 20mb of Internet access to the amount of bandwidth purchased which brings us up to 130mb/second of purchased Internet bandwidth for the consortium. We are allowed to increase this once per quarter. We monitor and adjust as necessary each quarter.

Video Services

FLAP Grant – LACA is planning a student trip to China next summer. The trip will be for 10 days and will be $2,500 per student if the 10 student minimum is met. Price will drop as more participate. This is open to all FLAP grant, SIVDL grant, and schools paying for the Mandarin Chinese distance learning classes through LACA. Please contact Jon Bowers for more information.

LACA Video Content Offerings - LACA's video content is expanding. We have added sessions on Ruby Bridges and Martin Luther King, which are presented by Linda Leffel.   Please contact Marilyn Roder (mroder@laca.org) to schedule a class. These are free to your schools, so please encourage your teachers to request them.

iCoach Grant – LACA applied for and received this grant, so LACA is the iCoach site for the central Ohio region. Information was distributed to show potential content for these classes. Please contact Trish Baker (pbaker@laca.org) for more information.

WAN Updates
Fiber Renewals - For next year's fiber renewals, LACA is researching alternate providers to see if we can get lower costs for the circuits. We will keep you posted on results.
VoIP – On October 6, LACA held a Voice over IP information meeting with Dataserv and The Education Connection (TEC). We were impressed with all that can be done with the TEC server. You do not need to have the voice over IP service to use the features of TEC. LACA would like to bring them in to do a presentation to the entire group following a future LACATech meeting if there is sufficient interest. This could replace AlertNow or First2Know type calling systems as well.
Time Warner Equipment Updates – All new Time Warner contract renewals that occurred over the summer received new Adva on-site equipment, replacing the Foundry switches. This update is now 100% complete.

Technical Services Update
Internet Content Filtering – The 8e6 Reporting Appliance is in place. Will have a training on Wednesday, December 1st at 8:30am, during the Topic-based meeting. The person given the master override account for each district will have access to the reporting, along with each district superintendent.
E-Mail Archiving – Chad and Joey went to training in October. We are currently working on a local installation for the LACA staff, and have a tentative demo date of December 7 to show the product to technology coordinators, superintendents, treasurers/records retention officers.
Microsoft IT Academy – Just a reminder that we have the ability to create three accounts per district to access online classes for all of Microsoft's products. If you have not already gotten a login from LACA for this, please send a message to network@laca.org to request the account and classes.
Virus Protection –BitDefender and Eset Nod32 are two candidates that we are researching. Nod32 licensing is more strict and would require more work to keep up on licensing and would require purchases throughout the year if we needed to add more licensing. BitDefender works with all platforms, including Mac and Linux.   Both products will allow us to deploy a test with a district, and we are doing BitDefender testing with Newark City Schools currently.   It was asked how the management interface on each worked. Nod32 has their own interface, BitDefender uses MMC snap-ins so it has a consistent look with other consoles we are already familiar with. Both products are willing to price-match what we pay for Symantec, so we do not anticipate any increase in fees as a result of a switch. The Symantec contract extends until 2012, so we have a while before such a switch would happen.

Other Discussion
Group Purchasing Committee - LACA has a group purchasing agreement with Pay4It (online payment options for fees, lunch, etc for parents). Currently four districts are using it, and if we get seven districts we can get a higher discount. Please let Jon Bowers know if you are currently in talks with Pay4It or are currently using it and we are not aware that you are.

Anyone LACA customer using Study Island is entitled to a 20% discount on the product (this applies to both renewals and new purchases). Please make sure you are getting this discount.

Unfinished Business
AUP Reacceptance – The new 2010 version of LAMA was shown to the LAMA administrators on October 20. We switched to using this new version in production on Monday, November 1. The new AUP renewal website is up and running. LACA will be sending notice later this week about the new requirement for annual acceptance of the AUP. Chad Carson reviewed with everyone who has local AUPs in LAMA to make sure we have the most recent versions before sending

information out to all users. If you want your local district AUP added to LAMA, please send a copy to Chad Carson to be posted. AUP reports will be created to track who has or has not accepted the AUP and to generate AUP reports for auditing purposes.

Public Records Retention – Last month we had a presentation on eDiscovery by Jim Burnes of Bricker and Eckler, which was very well attended.   LACA is in process of getting sign-offs from each district to destroy our old reel-to-reel tapes full of raw data. Each district has reports and microfiche records of this data, so the raw files are currently meaningless. We are also running into issues with 8mm tapes, as the hardware is becoming increasingly hard to come by and expensive to maintain.

One-to-One Initiative – We have a fee structure in place to offer hosted proxy servers that allow district owned laptops that are outside the network to connect through a proxy server and receive the same filtering level as workstations in the district. Districts would have proxy servers specific to their own rules, rather than a shared server with a standard static filtering level applied.

Internet Safety – E-rate is looking at adding a requirement that all students need an annual internet safety course before receiving your funding. We believe sooner or later this policy will be adopted and everyone will need to do this. Let us know if you are looking for something at your school that we can facilitate.

New Business

The schedule for FY11 LACATech meetings is as follows:
- January 12, 2011
- March 2, 2011
- May 4, 2011

The LACA Topic Based meetings are scheduled for:
- December 1, 2010 - M86 Reporting
- February 2, 2011
- April 6, 2010

Gerry Cannon asked if there was interest in desktop management systems like Altaris or Microsoft Configuration Systems Manager. Discussion took place on doing virtualization as an alternative to managing multiple desktops/ imaging.   Chad Carson discussed recent initiatives happening at other ITCs where the ITC hosts applications from a central location for member districts. This has potential for one-to-one initiatives as well, where the device given to the student is just a portal to the applications on the server…nothing is installed on the device. Students could potentially bring in their own devices to run apps. We will keep you informed as we move into this area.

11-06   It was moved by Jeff Cameron and seconded by Chris Cashdollar to adjourn the meeting at 9:47am.

Next LACATech meeting will be January 5, 2010 at 8:30am.

Reported by Chad Carson, Director of Technology, LACA