LACATech Meeting Minutes – March 2, 2011

Roll Call

The LACATech meeting was called to order at 8:30am on March 2, 2011. The following members were present for the roll call: Gerry Cannon (CTEC), Kim VanWey (East Muskingum) Michele Berry (Heath), Larry Smith (North Fork), Shawn Wilkoski (Northridge), Jeff Cameron (Southwest Licking), Harold Gottke (Tri-Valley), Chris Cashdollar (West Muskingum), Sally Sperry (Mount Vernon), Tim Owen (Lakewood), and Jon Bowers (LACA). Jamison Ables (Newark City) arrived at 8:35am. Representatives from Granville, LCESC, Licking Heights, and Maysville were unable to attend.

Others attending were Randy McFerren (East Muskingum), Chip Zolman (Mount Vernon), Tom Jacob (Excel Academy), Brian Gottfried (Excel Academy), Jill Merry (St. Francis), Dave Stenson (St. Francis), David Deibel (Granville Christian), Tess Wigginton (Newark Catholic), Joey Alexander (LACA), Dave Stein (LACA), Chad Carson (LACA), Robert Rittenhouse (LACA), and Jeff Davis (LACA).

Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

11-09   It was moved by Larry Smith and seconded by Chris Cashdollar to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2011 LACATech meeting. A unanimous vote of approval was taken.

Introduction of New Members

Kim VanWey and Randy McFerren from East Muskingum Local Schools were introduced to the group.

eTech Ohio Update

There was no eTech Ohio update at this meeting.

ITSCO Update

David Hayward provided 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

No major updates this time due to the fact that the future of the Technology Advisory Committee is still in limbo. The second distribution of K-12 network funding ($1000) is still happening. For private schools, it is broken into two $500 payments. LACA will hold onto these and send only a single $1000 reimbursement, rather than sending two $500 reimbursements. The future of this funding is uncertain moving forward.

Video Services

iPad Training - The training scheduled for May 6 is already full. We have also filled three more future classes of 10 participants. Everyone was reminded that the iPad belongs to the district, not the class participant, if the district pays for the class.

Midland Theatre Connection – We now have a 5mb direct link to the Midland Theatre. The live broadcast on February 28 went off perfectly, but the appliance the Midland uses to stream had a bug with capturing the recording, so we do not have a recording for future viewing.

WAN Updates

Internet Safety – LACA recommends you conduct a lesson for all students and document it well to meet the eRate requirement for providing such training.

Time-Warner Fiber renewal – Everyone who is renewing this year will see reduced pricing on your Time Warner fiber links.

Technical Services Update

Internet Content Filtering – C-TEC will be buying a local M86 filter appliance to integrate with their local Active Directory. The blanket licensing for our consortium covers licensing on local boxes as well, so your only expense is the cost of the appliance (sub-$3000) and annual maintenance. We will keep you updated how this project proceeds. It was asked if our global M86 could integrate with local district Active Directories at schools. We had researched this and found that attempts at other ITCs were unsuccessful to make this work.

E-Mail Archiving – Nearpoint will be used moving forward for allowing access to user mailboxes in the event of legal issues, rather than using Mailmarshal replication as we have done in the past. The cost of the Mimosa Nearpoint is cheaper than we anticipated. The MCOECN had pre-purchased a block of licensing, and demand was not what was anticipated. So the licensing will be given to LACA, and our only cost responsibility is the annual maintenance and hardware/storage. Options will be presented to the Governing Board at the next meeting to roll archiving into the cost of providing email and provide it to everyone, or to leave it an optional service. The 30-day delete policy becomes irrelevant once a full district is using the archiving. One other question was the retention of former employees email archives. Legal counsel advised that as long as that employee has no pending litigation or threat of litigation, their archives could be purged after a given amount of time and not retained the full term like a current employee.

Virus Protection Research – It was asked after our last meeting, after offering to have hosted Domain Controllers for off-site backup, if a district could use this server for WSUS to push out Windows updates. LACA will be putting up a WSUS server within our network, and the hosted DC servers would just point to that central WSUS to get updates. This way, they will not each require the disk space to hold these update files, and this should save internet bandwidth as well, since only LACA's WSUS server would need to pull down the files from Microsoft for distribution within our private network.

11-10   *Hosted Servers* – LACA presented a tiered cost structure for hosted servers. After discussion, it was moved by Jeff Cameron and seconded by Michele Berry to propose the following tiered hosted server pricing to the LACA Governing Board: $500 for 1CPU/1GB ram, $900 for 2CPU/2GB ram, and $1200 for 4CPU/4GB ram, with disk storage the same as our backup service $1/gb/month up to 500gb, $0.25/gb/month above 500gb. There was a unanimous vote of approval.

Other Discussion

Group Purchasing Committee – LACA has had questions from districts about setting up their own local VMWare infrastructure. Based on this, we considered the possibility of getting a group purchase together for a server/SAN package that could reliably run VMWare. There was interest in this, so we will pursue researching some options.

Alert Now – About 50% of LACA's members use Alert Now. LACA would like to spearhead the next renewal of this product to attempt to get better pricing. The group was interested, so LACA will move forward with this.

Unfinished Business

AUP Reacceptance – LACA will begin disabling accounts that have not yet accepted the LACA AUP next week. Please be prepared to re-enable accounts for those who are disabled so they can accept the AUP.

Ohio Alerts Reminder – Ohio Alerts was shown at the last meeting. This is a free alert system that only uses email or text messaging, but no voice calls. If you are interested in setting this up, LACA can add you to the system. Chad showed the software after the meeting to interested parties.

Virtual Applications Pilot – Xenapps server is in place, but we have had issues that need fixed and sending the information about this out has been postponed multiple times. We will be sending this out soon to let you test these applications. This will not be available from outside the LACA network, as we cannot run this through the firewall without extra software. It was asked if Reflection could run on this. We will add Reflection to this server for testing.

New Business

Teamviewer– LACA is purchasing Teamviewer to replace our VNC Single Click software for doing remote support to end users. This will allow us to effectively support Mac and Windows 7, which are impossible or problematic with UltraVNC Single Click.

Microsoft Licensing EES Program - Harold Gottke mentioned the new Microsoft per-building licensing is a very cost effective way to buy Microsoft licensing. (GET CONTACT INFO)
It was also mentioned that CDW-G is not the only vendor that can sell Microsoft licensing to the schools. MCPc was much cheaper according to discussion that followed. Contacts were shared with the group - Rhonda Mechir – 800-777-7178 x4384 or Eric Wickham – 866-291-6272 x5303

The schedule for remaining FY11 LACATech meetings is as follows:
- May 4, 2011

The LACA Topic Based meetings are scheduled for:
- April 6, 2011
  - o Topic will be VMWare – We will cover the basics of how it works and how we use it here at LACA.

11-11 It was moved by Harold Gottke and seconded by Jeff Cameron to adjourn the meeting at 9:40am.

Next LACATech meeting will be May 4, 2011 at 8:30am.

Reported by Chad Carson, Director of Technology, LACA