LACATech Meeting Minutes – November 2, 2011

Roll Call

The LACATech meeting was called to order at 8:40am on November 2, 2011. The following members were present for the roll call: Joe Winnenberg (Crooksville), Gerry Cannon (C-TEC), Kim VanWey and Randy McFerren (East Muskingum), Rob Sexton (Granville), Michele Berry (Heath), Brian Gottfried (LCESC), Sondra Wilson (Newark City), Shawn Wilkoski (Northridge), Jeff Cameron (Southwest Licking), Margy Arck(Mount Vernon), Tim Owen (Lakewood), and Jon Bowers (LACA). Representatives from Licking Heights, Maysville, and West Muskingum were unable to attend.

Others attending were Paul Kamenan (Fairfield Christian), David Deibel (Granville Christian), Joey Alexander (LACA), Dave Stein (LACA), Chad Carson (LACA), and Robert Rittenhouse (LACA).

Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

12-3   It was moved by Brian Gottfried and seconded by Randy McFerren to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2011 LACATech meeting. A unanimous vote of approval was taken.

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

Everyone's applications have been submitted and approved. The payment will be broken into a fall payment and spring payment. Fall payments are going out as of the day of this meeting. LACA is not getting funding commitment decision letters this year. If possible, please send a message to LACA or (preferably) scan it and send Jon Bowers a copy. This information is used by LACA to invoice the districts for internet services.

Video Services

Michele Carlisle gave an update of video services via video. Licking Heights is conducting an ESL (English as a 2nd Language) for Crooksville now, in addition to the ASL and Mandarin Chinese classes that are still going on. Mount Vernon is conducting Gifted classes intra-district using Polycom desktop software to avoid traveling around the district. Five electives will be offered 2nd semester; video lead teachers were sent a message with this courses, times, etc. We ask the teachers to share this information with guidance and building principals. Please do what you can to see the right people get this information.

RSS Streaming – LACA now has the capability of streaming live video out to desktops. We have done this with EMIS training and it worked well. This is not meant for two-way communication, but works great for meetings where there is a one way dissemination of information. Let us know if you have a need for this for any of LACA's meetings and we can accommodate.

CMAD for Mac/Ipad – Polycom's CMAD (desktop video conference) application is now available for Mac and iPad. This software is free for the time being. Dave Stein can get you an account for this if you have a need for it.

WAN Updates
ISP Contract Update – This document cannot be signed by Superintendents for LACA member districts.. It must be signed by president of school board or treasurer.
E-Rate Eligible WiFi Service – LACA is investigating offering "wi-fi as a service", which would make it eligible for eRate priority one funding.   In this scenario, LACA would provide the controller and access points…the district would not own any equipment.
Bandwidth Concerns – Due to the way Time Warner calculates bandwidth increases, everyone needs to start really looking at bandwidth and decide if an increase will be needed within the next few years based on one-to-one or wireless projects you are looking at (or are) implementing. The bandwidth increase is calculated based on the remaining contract term. If you have three years left on a contract, it MAY be cheaper in some cases to increase now and pay the higher rate for three years rather than wait and end up paying an even higher rate for two years or one year. LACA uses PRTG to monitor this, and we are looking at other tools (Netflow Analyzer and Spiceworks) to help get a better picture of usage to help make these decisions. LACA recommends you look at Spiceworks for your district if you are not already using it. It is free software that can help you inventory your network. LACA has been talking with Horizon, who is bringing fiber into the area, as well as Windstream as alternative options.
CIPA Compliance and Enforcement – It is important to align your Internet filtering practices with your policies to make sure you are compliant. Please keep this in mind when making decisions to exempt sites from the filtering.
iSafe Update – We have had past discussions about buying iSafe for all the schools. After further review, we have concerns that the tracking is not sufficient for eRate purposes. Another product is Common Sense Media, which has all the same type of content for free.
http://www.commonsensemedia.org/educators/curriculum.   David Hayward also mentioned
http://www.netsmartz.org/Parents as another site with free content about Internet safety.

Technical Services Update
E-Mail – Everything was switched over to Exchange 2010 as the front-end server for LACA email. Connections from activesync are working on the new server (for iPad/cell phones).   We are having an issue where CPU on the Exchange server goes to 100% and the OWA website becomes unresponsive. We believe we have isolated this to the eSET virus scanner and will monitor and send notice when this is fixed.   LACA did not renew our subscription to Messageware due to the costs. OWA 2010 filled many gaps that Messageware added to OWA 2007.   One feature that is not replaced that will go away is ActiveView, which would show documents like Excel spreadsheets in HTML format, eliminating the need to have the full application installed on the workstation.
Virtual Servers – The LACA Governing Board did approve the new reduced virtual server pricing at the last meeting. If interested please contact the LACA network team for price quotes.

Unfinished Business
Virtual Applications – LACA will be getting a quote to set up a virtual application setup locally for the LACA labs/staff, provided it is economically viable to do so.

New Business
LACA AUP Re-accept - Automatic disabling of accounts that have NOT accepted was postponed so it did not coincide with the switchover of email from 2007 to 2010, so there would not be confusion if login issues were due to disabling or the email switch. The automatic disabling will go into effect next week.   If someone gets disabled and you need to enable them, you can do this through LAMA. The person will have until 2:00am to accept the AUP or their account will be disabled again.

Topic-Based Meeting – The October Topic-based meeting was a wireless roundtable, and was very well attended. A topic has not been set for December 7th. Email with ideas.

12-4   It was moved by Brian Gottfried and seconded by Jeff Cameron to adjourn the meeting at 9:40am.

Reported by Chad Carson, Director of Technology, LACA