LACATech Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2012

Roll Call
The LACATech meeting was called to order at 8:40am on May 8, 2012. The following members were present for the roll call: Gerry Cannon (C-TEC), Randy McFerren (East Muskingum), Michele Berry (Heath), Kevin Snyder (Lancaster), Brian Gottfried (LCESC), Sondra Wilson (Newark City), Larry Smith (North Fork), Shawn Wilkoski (Northridge), Harold Gottke (Tri-Valley), Matt Snyder (West Muskingum), Tim Owen (Lakewood), and Jon Bowers (LACA). Representatives from Crooksville, Granville, Licking Heights, Maysville, Mount Vernon, and Southwest Licking were unable to attend.

Others attending were Paul Kamenan (Fairfield Christian Academy),Tess Wigginton (Newark Catholic), Dave Stenson (St. Francis), Mark McGee (Lancaster), Joey Alexander (LACA), Dave Stein (LACA), Chad Carson (LACA), and Robert Rittenhouse (LACA).

Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes
12-11   It was moved by Shawn Wilkoski and seconded by Brian Gottfried to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2012 LACATech meeting. A unanimous vote of approval was taken.

Introduction of New Members
Kevin Snyder and Mark McGee from Lancaster City Schools were welcomed and introduced to the group.

eTech Ohio Update
A representative from eTech was unable to attend the meeting. Jon Bowers updated the group regarding the pending legislation to disband eTech effective July 1, 2012 and move the organizations functions to ODE and the Board of Regents. This is all "proposed" at this point pending approval by the Senate. Technology Plan Approval will move to ODE. K12 Network Funding may or may not exist… the wording is not clear. The Video Helpdesk will go to the Board of Regents. LACA is the largest customer of the Video Helpdesk, and Dave Stein from LACA has been assisting the eTech Video NOC after they lost many key people. It is possible this function may revert over to the ITCs.   The Technology Conference may be sold off to a company that organizes conferences professionally. Blended Learning Grant will only be funded for the '12-'13 school year.

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/

Video Services
Michele Carlisle gave an update on video services via video. There are still Mandarin Chinese slots available for next school year for those who are interested. American Sign Language, German, and Latin, and a semester-long Holocaust course are still available as well. The AP Waiver program through the iLearn website (www.ilearnohio.org) is a way to bring in AP courses through video at no cost to the district for eligible students. ECOESC offers AP Government and

AP Spanish through this program.   The LACA/ECOESC partnership has been designated as the first K12 agency in the nation to be designated as a Confucius Institute for partnering with the Chinese Government to train on the Chinese language and culture.   Also, Moodle training is included when you house your Moodle server within LACA's Hosted Server service.   There is a hosted Blackboard service through SCOCA, however, neither LACA nor ECOESC are able to provide support on Blackboard.

Ohio K-12 Network Updates
The K12 Network Committee's current project is researching the cost of upgrading the ITC links from 1GB to 10GB links.   There is a proposal to eliminate the Digital Learning Taskforce by summer of 2012.   Schools that are doing wireless projects should start looking at 100mb minimum to any building using wireless within the next two years. Keep the erate window in mind if planning an upgrade, because the prices to upgrade mid-year are quite expensive.

WAN Updates
LACA Core Network Upgrade – May 17, 2012 4:00pm – 6:00pm LACA will be removing an unneeded piece of equipment at the border to our network.   All traffic to and from the public internet will be down during this time.

Technical Services Update
Internet Filtering Discussion – The categories within the "CIPA" and "LACATech" levels of filtering were reviewed.   The landscape of the Internet has changed in the last few years. Many sites are using "cloud" services to host part of their sites, and many sites have content that is mostly fine, but the filter classifies them as "R-Rated" due to a small percentage of the site content being questionable (YouTube is an excellent example). Because the "R-Rated" category is in the CIPA level, sites within it cannot be exempted without LACA intervention to do a custom category setup. Discussion took place about taking all categories out of CIPA that could contain sites that may need to be allowed, and move them to the LACATech level of filtering.

12-12 It was moved by Sondra Wilson and seconded by Kevin Snyder to categorize only "Child Pornography", "Obscene/Tasteless", and "Pornography/Adult Content" as CIPA, and to move the remaining previously-CIPA categories to LACATech, giving the districts the ability to unblock sites in those categories voluntarily. A unanimous vote of approval was taken.
Managed WiFi Services – Heath, North Fork, and Newark Catholic have all had site surveys completed, and we are now at the "internal wiring" phase, where drops are being run to the access point locations and POE switches are being added to run them.
LAN Switch Maintenance – LACA's annual Cisco Smartnet renewal will take place in October 2012, but we want to mention it now so you can start thinking about it. Let Dave Stein know as soon as possible if you have additional Cisco equipment that you will want to add to this Smartnet contract. Also, Dave will be contacting those with Polycom equipment that is up for renewal to get that process started.
PRTG Demo – LACA recently upgraded from version 6 to version 9 of PRTG. We have the ability to gather statistics and monitor uptime on an unlimited number of devices from a centralized server.   Joey Alexander presented a very brief overview of the new PRTG to the group. Larry Smith volunteered to be a pilot district to set up local devices.   LACA will be doing ½ day class on June 6 (next Topic-Based meeting) to show how to login and add your own local network equipment and servers to the new PRTG.   There is no cost for this service.

New Business
Anti-Bully Hotline Requirement – Schools are now required to have a means of receiving, recording and documenting bullying incidences. T.E.C. (The Education Connection), which provides voice mail services also offers a Bullying Tipline Service to all Ohio schools. This services does not actually use the server housed at LACA, but is available to any district for approximately $350/district/year.   You do NOT have to be a LACA Voice-over-IP customer to use this service. Please contact Jon Bowers if you are interested in using this TEC service.

PARCC Online Assessment Technical Specifications - A document was distributed outlining the technical specifications for devices that will be used for the upcoming online assessments in the 2014-2015 school year.   In addition to these specifications, please keep bandwidth requirements in mind, as specific bandwidth requirements are not addressed in this document.

Digital Curriculum – The Ohio Historical society has digital history textbooks that many LACA schools have expressed interest in buying. They sell for $10 but if LACA can put together a group purchase of 2,000 books, we can get them for $6. Let LACA know if you are interested in this purchase.   Also, LACA wants to put together a subcommittee to review digital resources for integration into a digital curriculum.   This would require key people from the districts, as LACA is not qualified to recommend items for the school curriculum.   There are many open-source resources out there that could be used, such as the resources developed by the state of Arizona that they grant access to for free.

Redeemtech Computer Recycling Program – The MCOECN is partnering with a recycling company named RedeemTech, which is a "green" recycling company. They offer attractive services like hard-drive data destruction and paying the district for the equipment that has resell value.   This company DOES require us to bundle the equipment on palettes and have it at a loading dock for pickup. After some discussion, there was no interest in LACA pursuing this service, as everyone has companies they already work with that come onsite to the districts to collect the old equipment, and do not require the extra work of packing it on palettes and getting it to a central location for pickup.

Topic-Based Meetings – The last Topic-Based meeting of the year will be June 6, 2012, and LACA will provide training on the latest version of PRTG, which allows districts to input their own equipment for statistics and downtime monitoring.

FY12 LACATech Schedule - Below are the scheduled dates for the upcoming FY12 LACATech meetings.

      Regular Meeting Dates
            September 12, 2012
            November 7, 2012
            January 9, 2013
            March 6, 2013
            May 1, 2013

      Topic-Based Meetings
            October 3, 2012
            December 5, 2012
            February 6, 2013
            April 3, 2013
            June 5, 2013

12-13   It was moved by Larry Smith and seconded by Brian Gottfried adjourn the meeting at 10:40am.

Reported by Chad Carson, Director of Technology, LACA