LACATech Minutes – May 3, 2017

The LACATech meeting was called to order at 8:45am. The following members were present for roll call: Randy McFerren (East Muskingum), Michele Berry (Heath), Kevin Adams (Johnstown), Jerry Rainey (Lancaster), Chip Zolman (Mt. Vernon), Amy Norman (Newark City), Jack Kruse (Northridge), Larry Smith (North Fork), Ted Harrison (West Muskingum), and Jon Bowers (LACA). Others attending the meeting were David Deibel (Granville Christian Academy), Timothy Ballard (Newark Digital), Kim Watson (North Fork), Mark McGee (Lancaster), Joey Alexander (LACA), Jon Stoehr (LACA), Robert Rittenhouse (LACA), and Chad Carson (LACA).

17-10 It was moved by Larry Smith and seconded by Jack Kruse to approve the minutes of the March 1st, 2017 LACATech meeting. A unanimous vote of approval was taken.

ITSCO Update

Amy Palermo was unable to attend the meeting. She asked Chad to share two items:

1. Registration for Summer Class is now open, and accessible at
   https://itsco.org/upcoming-classes?location_38=All&semester_22=Summer&tags_37=All

2. ITSCO has an open position for an Instructional Technology Consultant if you know anyone who might be interested:
   https://www.itsco.org/content/now-hiring
   If you have questions please contact Amy at amy@itsco.org.

WAN Updates

K-12 Network – The second half of the funding should have arrived in March 2017. The funding will remain the same in the state budget for 2018.

ISP Contracts – May 11th is the last date to post 471s, so please make sure you post these well in advance to avoid potential problems.   Please push as fast as possible if there are any LACA services in the bids, please do not delay so we have time to turn around the project as quickly as possible. If you anticipate any bandwidth upgrades in the coming year, please contact Jon so he can add it to the necessary paperwork.

INFOhio Funding – The bill has passed out of the House with INFOhio funding restored. Now it will go to the Senate. We still need to let the Senators know the importance of INFOhio, as this funding is not secured for next year just yet.

Technical Training – The LACA network team has gone ahead and scheduled training classes for the next few topic-based meeting dates. Graylog Syslog server training is on June 7th, 2017. Graylog lets you consolidate syslogs from various sources into a single repository for searching and management. October 4, 2017 will be an introduction to VMWare. December 6, 2017 will be an introduction to Linux.

Internet Content Filtering – Securly still has the offer for any of our consortium member schools to test out Securly through June of 2017, to finish out the school year on a trial basis. Testing has been done with Licking Valley with the iBoss Chrome plugin, and that testing is going very well. There are additional iBoss clients for Windows and Mac as well, but we have not tested those yet.

We are getting quotes for three new iBoss options:

1. Cloud-based filtering
2. New blade-based appliances (which could let us provide individual hardware per district, eliminating some of the "global" config issues)
3. A hybrid version.

We also have a Lunch-and-Learn session with Lightspeed scheduled on May 11th to review their Internet filtering product. Lightspeed has a similar Chrome plug-in as iBoss. If we ARE considering another product, we would need to know before August 31 at the latest (that is when our current iBoss subscription expires), but would prefer that it happen much sooner so we have time to ramp up before school starts.

One member asked if there were any changes on the iBoss "all or nothing" setting for Youtube safe search. This option requires a district to have a Google Domain. Nothing has changed, and most likely will not. The limitation is with the way Google/Youtube are so tightly integrated, and is not a problem with capabilities of iBoss. This would be a problem with any vendor's filter. LACA is obligated to keep Youtube filtering on, globally, due to recent incidents at elementary schools that were caused by having it OFF.

There are alternate video sites that might be used if Youtube is not working due to filtering, such as TeacherTube, or cleanvideosearch.com.

LACA is still reviewing anti-virus programs. There have been many issues with Kaspersky that is making us back off on this product. Trend Micro is very small, controlled from the cloud, and is very simple to use, which is what we are looking for. Trend does anti-virus and malware detection. Sophos has many more features than Trend, such as a built-in firewall, but is also more complicated than Trend Micro. LACA needs to have workstation counts by Friday May 5th so we can get quotes back from these vendors in a timely fashion. We need to decide on a product by the end of May/First of June so everyone has time to get the software into his or her images for this summer. If anyone wants to conduct a trial of Trend Micro, we can get you a key. For a trial of Sophos, anyone can sign up for a 30-day demo on their website.

Renaissance Learning Issues

Renaissance Learning issued a statement about a Cisco ASA firewall bug/setting that caused issues with their product. Joey has certified that our firewall is not affected, and even went ahead and made the recommended configuration changes that Renaissance Learning suggested, and it made no difference. From the discussion that took place, nothing appears to be any closer to being resolved from the Renaissance Learning end.

Adobe ETLA Program Discontinued

LACA received notice from the MCOECN that the Adobe ETLA licensing program, which lets you license Adobe products by FTE count and get all the products, is being discontinued.   We cannot confirm this anywhere online, no announcements, nothing.   We are not sure if Adobe themselves are discontinuing this, or if CDW-G is just not going to sell it anymore.   We will try to find out the answer to this.

Old Business

SPS – Student Provisioning Software – We had a presentation of this software at the last meeting. There was not sufficient interest to pursue a group purchase. Interested districts should contact Student Provisioning Software directly.

Cybersecurity - LACA is looking into various products that will let us train and phish our own userbase, such as KnowBe4, Wombat, and Sophos. Chad is watching demos, getting quotes, and working out potential plans for using these products. After some discussion, Chad asked if the group thought this was a good idea, and the group consensus is that it was and we should pursue.   We are also looking into having a company do a penetration test to our network, which is the other half of this problem (technology solutions vs. fixing the human side of the problem with training).

Blocking Torrents and Betternet – LACA did not implement these after the last meeting. We will be fixing that by blocking them during our maintenance window on May 4th starting at 11:00pm.

LACA will be hiring a new network team member in the near future. If you know any potential candidates, please have them send a resume to resume@laca.org.

The upcoming LACATech meeting schedule for FY18 has been set.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule (FY18)

    i.   Regular Meetings
1. September 6, 2017
2. November 1, 2017
3. January 10, 2018
4. March 7, 2018
5. May 2, 2018

    ii.   Topic-Based Meetings
1. October 4, 2017 (VMWare)
2. December 6, 2017 (Linux)
3. February 7, 2018
4. April 4, 2018
5. June 6, 2018

17-11   It was moved by Kevin Adams and seconded by Mark McGee to adjourn the meeting at 10:05am.

GoGuardian provided a demonstration to the group for their Chromebook management software. If there is interest in a group GoGuardian purchase please contact Chad Carson at LACA.

NEXT MEETING

The next LACATech Meeting will be September 6, 2017.
- Reported by Chad Carson, Director of Technology, LACA.