



LACATech Meeting Notes – June 1, 2005

A quorum was not present at this LACATech meeting. The meeting began at 8:35am on June 1, 2005. The following members were present: Mike Haudenschild (Granville), Mike Carter (Johnstown), Jesse Lyon (C-TEC), Dave Calloway (Licking County ESC), Lesa McGarity (Licking Heights), Larry Smith (North Fork), Michele Berry (Heath), and Sandra Mercer (LACA). Others attending included Jon Bowers(LACA), Joey Alexander (LACA), David Stein (LACA), Chad Carson (LACA), Tony Smith (C-TEC), and Jill Merry (St. Francis).

Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

A quorum was not present for this meeting, therefore, no motions could be made or approved.

Introduction of New LACA Staff Member

Heather Cronbaugh, LACA's new K-12 Special Services Coordinator, was introduced to the group.

There were no Schoolnet or ITSCO updates at this meeting.

E-Rate/Onenet Updates

There were no e-rate updates. We are in the "limbo" period between e-rate years at the moment.

WAN Updates

There were no new WAN updates to discuss. Nothing new has happened with the Third Frontier Network or the local Fiber project.

Technical Services Updates

Exchange 2003 Migration Status - The migration to Exchange was completed successfully, with only a few random people who had not yet moved over. Webmail will be shut down following the LACATech meeting. Discussion took place on e-mail retention and disk space usage. Chad Carson distributed a document outlining various options for controlling e-mail retention and disk space usage. After some discussion, it was agreed that LACA would place a 100mb limit on disk space, with warnings to be issued when the limit was approached. Inbox items older than six month would be cleaned out, and "Sent Items" older than 30 days would be deleted. "Deleted Items" older than 14 days would automatically be purged. There would be no exceptions to this 100mb limit. A notice will be sent out ASAP announcing this, and another reminder will be sent in late August. These policies will go into effect September 1, 2005. Chad Carson will send lists of users who currently exceed the 100mb limit to the individual technology coordinators so they will know who might have problems in the fall.

PRTG – The site-license key for PRTG was distributed to the group, as well as a location to download the software. Any district that gets WAN services from LACA can install this software to monitor items within their own network (switches, servers, etc). Please contact LACA if you were not present at the meeting and want to install a local copy of this software. All Wide-Area links to LACA and between buildings can be seen on LACA's installed copy of the software by visiting <http://prtg.laca.org/>

Off-site Backups at LACA – Please contact Chad Carson if you would like to test using LACA as an off-site backup location. We are trying to determine the feasibility of setting up FTP sites here at LACA where disk backup files can be uploaded during non-peak hours.

Cisco LAN Switch Maintenance – Dave Stein distributed more Smartnet maintenance estimates. At the April meeting, estimates were given out based on what was CURRENTLY covered. The estimates passed out at this meeting were for EVERYTHING we knew the district had that COULD be covered, and what the prices would be.

I-Trap – LACA conducted a demo with I-Trap in April. This company places an Intrusion Detection device in our network that monitors activity inside and outside our firewall. Their Network Operations Center monitors reports from the device and reports any suspicious activity to LACA. The findings from the I-Trap demo were reported to the group. They would like to see more around the February LACATech timeframe on this subject. We will try to line up a 2nd demo if possible.

Packeteer – Some districts had expressed interest in putting a Packeteer Packet Shaper locally within the district. LACA currently runs one at our DS-3 to the Internet, allowing us to stop certain types of traffic at the application level. Chad Carson will send some information out to the LACATech listserv following the meeting about Packeteer.

Some impromptu discussion took place about SynchronEyes, software that lets an instructor monitor lab workstations. Johnstown currently uses this product and other districts are purchasing it. You can find information about this software at <http://www.smarttech.com/products/>

Other Discussion

IVDL Updates – LACA has purchased two new V500 Polycom IP video systems. Prices have dropped to around \$1,200 for the V500 Polycom.

K-12 Classroom Data (Progress Book) Updates – We are currently working on a couple of issues. LACA will be changing the grade information displayed in the fall for High School's to improve the averaging process. We are having problems with the SQL server that houses the data running at 100% CPU when we don't think it should be. This excessive processor time would be causing slowdowns for Progressbook access.

Library Automation - Everyone is currently migrated to Sirsi except for Newark and Par Excellence. Granville and Garfield Elementary (Heath) will be coming onto Sirsi soon. Everyone will be on Sirsi by Fall 2005.

Printers – HP has discontinued maintenance for the following printers, many of which are in use within the LACA consortium to print grade cards and paychecks (LA400, LA450, LA600, LA700, LG05, LA70, LG05A, LG06, LG10S)

Unfinished Business

The policy for adding and exempting certain keywords in the 8e6 web filter will be tested over the next six months to see if it needs any revision.

New Business

Mike Haudenschild shared information from Matchware, a software company that creates OpenMind, Mediator 8, and Screencorder 4 software for use by students to brainstorm ideas and create presentations and portfolios. There was interest in having a representative from the company present at the October meeting. Granville will be having a presentation and extended an open invitation for other districts to attend. No date has been set for this presentation yet, but Mike will share with the group when it is scheduled.

Chad Carson shared with the group a feature in the 8e6 Web Filter that would lock a workstation from accessing the Internet after so many attempted visits to restricted sites. There was no interest in enabling this feature.

Discussion on computer disposal took place. Mike Carter used TDR Recycling to get rid of some old computer equipment at no cost. Mike Haudenschild shared information with the group on Columbus Micro, who will actually give credit toward purchase of new computers for certain items you turn in to them for disposal. Granville is organizing a community computer cleanup day in the near future. The date has not been set, but it will be shared with the group when it has been set.

Discussion took place about Helpdesk software. Track-It is currently being used by Newark and West Muskingum, but is very high priced. Larry Smith shared information on a free PHP-based helpdesk he found, which can be downloaded from <http://www.phpsupporttickets.com/>. LACA is in the beginning stages of using a state-mandated helpdesk software called Unicenter, by Computer Associates. CA Unicenter is not ready for use by districts at this time.

Discussion took place about SSH tunneling, where students create a virtual link to a server outside the LACA consortium to bypass any security measures we have in place. Research will be done into this to see if there is a way to stop it.

C-TEC asked about getting some secure FTP space for file distribution on LACA's servers. We will work with C-TEC to set this up and determine if the Web Hosting Policy will need any revisions or if this will be a separate type of service offering.

The next scheduled LACATech meeting will be August 3, 2005 at 8:30am in LACA's Conference Room.

The meeting ended at 10:40am.

Molly Muth (MollyM@tangent.com) provided information on Thin-Client computers following the LACATech meeting. There was active discussion about thin-client and Citrix usage within the LACA member districts.