



## LACATech Meeting Minutes – June 6, 2007

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### **Roll Call**

The LACATech meeting was called to order at 8:35am on June 6, 2007. The following members were present: Denny Souder (Granville), Michele Berry (Heath), Jesse Lyon (C-TEC), Beth Spieth (Lakewood), Brian Gottfried (LCESC), Chris Cashdollar (Licking Heights), Chip Zolman (Mount Vernon), Larry Smith (North Fork), Mike Carter (Johnstown), Kevin Snyder (West Muskingum), and Sandy Mercer (LACA). Representatives from Lakewood, Maysville, Newark City, Northridge, Southwest Licking, and Tri-Valley were unable to attend.

Others attending were Dave Calloway (LCESC), Paul Kamenan (Fairfield Christian), Dave Deibel (Granville Christian), Jon Bowers (LACA), Dave Stein (LACA), Joey Alexander (LACA) and Chad Carson (LACA).

### **Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes**

07-14 It was moved by Beth Speith and seconded by Mike Carter to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2006 LACATech meeting. A vote of approval was taken.

### **Introduction of New Members**

Brian Gottfried, the new technology coordinator for the Licking County ESC, was introduced and welcomed to the group.

### **ITSCO Update**

An ITSCO update was given by Amy Palermo. Please direct any questions about the ITSCO update to [amy@itsco.org](mailto:amy@itsco.org) or visit the ITSCO website at <http://www.itsco.org/>

### **eTech Update**

Amy Estep gave an eTech update. Please direct any questions about the eTech update to Amy at [amy.estep@etech.ohio.gov](mailto:amy.estep@etech.ohio.gov).

### **Ohio K-12 Network Updates**

*Video Services* – Scheduling software for video classes is switching from VC Wizard to TC Reliance. This new system supports IP video scheduling. There are only two remaining ATM video systems in the LACA network, the rest are IP-only or can support IP.

There will be new pricing structure for video. Pricing will be per building AND video system instead of just per building. Over 500 classes were conducted in the LACA consortium during the 2006-2007 school year.

*K-12 Network Committee* – Priorities for the coming year are the Ironport statewide spam filter, upgrading the ITC internet connection from OC-3 (155mb) to gigabit Ethernet, providing a secondary Internet connection for each ITC, and increasing Helpdesk licensing for the ITCs.

## **WAN Updates**

*ISP Contract Update* – Final Time-Warner negotiations caused the cost for 10mb links to drop from \$850 to \$800 per month for FY08 – FY10. Based upon this new rate, LACA will issue ISP contract addendums to affected districts in the near future. We have received E-rate funding letters for seven districts so far. T-1 rates are \$400.00 for next year with a one year contract.

*District Fiber Updates* – Everyone in wave 2 of the fiber upgrades is scheduled to be done July 1, 2007. T-1 disconnects will take place July 13 after proper testing and setup has taken place.

*Internet Bandwidth Upgrade* – Each ITC is given 20mb of bandwidth, and after that, we must purchase what we need. Each ITC is also allowed to burst 20mb over what is purchased. LACA currently purchases 20mb, so with the 20mb given and the 20mb burst, we can go up to 60mb. On August 1, we will be purchasing 40mb instead of 20mb. This will allow us to burst up to 80mb of Internet bandwidth.

## **Technical Services Update**

07-15 *E-mail Display Name Change* – Chad Carson suggested to the group that we change the e-mail display names in the LACA Global Address List to a “Lastname,Firstname” format instead of the current “Firstname Lastname” format. This will make browsing the Global Address List easier, as names will be sorted by Lastname instead of Firstname. It was moved by Larry Smith and seconded by Denny Souder to globally change all e-mail display names from “Firstname Lastname” format to “Lastname, Firstname” format to improve the search functions of the global address book. A unanimous vote of approval was taken.

*Messageware* – LACA has purchased the full Messageware suite of products in addition to the Plus Pack product that we had been running. Messageware products enhance Outlook Web Access, adding more Outlook-like features than provided by default. The upgrade will add Attachview (lets you view attachments without using the native application), CalendarShare (allows users to use OWA to open other users’s calendars, like you can in Outlook), Timeguard (enhanced timeout functions), and NavGuard (security enhancements to minimize users leaving OWA sessions logged in). More information on the products will be sent out after the upgrades.

*Internet Filtering* – Joey Alexander discussed a new offering from 8e6 that allows you to protect remote laptops with the same level of filtering as the computers within the schools. Pricing for the laptop client software was shared. Anyone interested in this should contact Joey Alexander. A problem was detected early in 2007 where the 8e6 filter can sometimes drop connections erroneously, thinking a connection is trying to reach an external proxy server. LACA had to exempt our e-mail systems from the 8e6 box due to this problem. A new “Internet Filtering Request Form” was presented to the group. This new form includes a place to completely exempt certain servers from the 8e6 filter if they experience similar problems. LACA staff must work with districts to determine the need to do this, and this part of the form will only be used in cases where the LACA staff determines it is necessary. A new version 2.0 release of the 8e6 R3000 software is out, and will be installed in the Fall of 2007 after LACA staff conduct testing on our auxiliary R3000 content filter and put together documentation. One new feature will be the ability to block Instant Messenger selectively per IP range, rather than globally as it is now.

*StorServer Off-Site Hosted Backups* – Chad Carson reminded the group that the new StorServer Off-site backup service will be available July 1, 2007. Pilot testing conducted with Heath has proven to be very successful. LACA is working on a formal Service Level Agreement for this service, to be approved by the Governing Board at the August GB meeting.

*Windows Vista* – LACA currently supports Symantec Anti-Virus software on Vista, but ALL other software is NOT supported yet. As vendors announce that their software is supported on Vista, LACA will follow suit. However, we cannot claim to support LACA applications on Vista until the vendors themselves do. Also, unfortunately, the UltraVNC application that LACA uses to assist people remotely does not appear to work on Vista, in initial testing we have done.

*Digicert Certificate* – LACA purchased a signed digital wildcard certificate from Digicert to cover all LACA.ORG addresses (\*.laca.org). We have installed this on the e-mail and Progress Book servers, and will be getting it installed on all other servers over the summer.

*PRTG Traffic Monitor* – Retention of PRTG data was discussed with the group. It was decided that 12 months worth of data would be kept at all times, and old data past 12 months would be rotated out and deleted.

*LAN Switch Maintenance* – Please contact Dave Stein with any new Cisco equipment you would like put under maintenance. Estimates of costs for 07-08 will be distributed at the next LACATech meeting. Our current contracts expire September 30, 2007.

#### **Other Discussion**

*DASL Updates* – There are currently 346 districts across 16 ITCs on DASL. At LACA, there are 7 districts, 1 non-public school, and 2 community schools. Over the summer four more will be converted (Granville, C-TEC, Northridge, and Mount Vernon). That leaves just 4 districts and 2 community schools to convert. DASL has a new executive director, and they will be contracting with BIG for all software development. Plans are to stabilize the product for the next six months, concentrating efforts on bug fixes rather than new features. A new special education level was added to allow teachers to access IEPs.

*SSDT Human Resources Kiosk* – Maysville will be implementing the new Leave Approval features of the Kiosk. There will be a new release of the product on June 12-13, 2007.

*D3A2 Update* – LACA has two pilot districts participating in the D3A2 project, Southwest Licking and Tri-Valley. Some issues were found when conducting D3A2 training with Tri-valley that will need addressed. We are waiting until the re-rostering module for loading data from EMIS or DASL and the user authentication against existing LACA accounts is working before bringing on the next district.

*LAMA Update* – Mount Vernon has been fully converted to the new LAMA software. Newark City, and Heath City Schools have begun the process. The goal is to have everyone moved over before the end of the summer, and be completely paperless for the start of school in the fall.

*Record Retention* – The MCOECN held a legal presentation on the E-Discovery records retention procedures on April 13, 2007. Sandy Mercer distributed a document summarizing the high points of this meeting. Essentially, LACA can continue to operate with the current policies in place, but in the event of a legal incident, destruction of data must be put on hold.

#### **Unfinished Business**

There were some issues in getting the group purchases in place for Synchronize. Pricing was based upon a certain number of units, but that number of units was not met. Anyone still interested in participating would need to get a purchase order for \$389.00 per lab to LACA by July 20, 2007. It was decided that LACATech was the place to discuss group purchases of software, but actually getting commitments and organizing the group would fall to a LACATech Group Purchasing Sub-committee. Those volunteering for this committee were Mike Carter, Kevin Snyder, Jesse Lyon, and Denny Souder. The first product this committee will work on is Deep Freeze.

#### **New Business**

- 07-16 It was moved by Denny Souder and seconded by Mike Carter to change the LACATech meeting dates beginning FY08 to the first Wednesday of September, November, January, March, and May. A unanimous vote of approval was taken.

The next meeting date will be September 5, 2007 at 8:30am.

- 07-17 It was moved by Denny Souder and seconded by Brian Gottfried to adjourn the meeting at 11:05am. A vote of approval was taken.

NOTE: There was a Study Island presentation held immediately following the LACATech meeting.