



LACATech Meeting Minutes – April 1, 2009

Roll Call

The LACATech meeting was called to order at 8:30am on April 1, 2009. The following members were present for the roll call: Michele Berry (Heath), Gerry Cannon (C-TEC), Sondra Wilson (Newark), Larry Smith (North Fork), Beth Rowley (Northridge), Jeff Cameron (Southwest Licking), Harold Gottke (Tri-Valley), Kevin Snyder (West Muskingum), Sally Sperry (Mount Vernon), Denny Souder (Granville), and Jon Bowers (LACA). Representatives from Lakewood, LCESC, Licking Heights, and Maysville were unable to attend.

Others attending were Chip Zolman (Mount Vernon), Jamison Ables (Newark City), Tom Jacob (Excel Academy), David Diebel (Granville Christian), Mike Carter (Johnstown), Dave Stenson (St. Francis), Paul Kamenen (Fairfield Christian), Dave Stein (LACA) and Chad Carson (LACA). Shawn Wilkoski (Northridge) attended via video conference.

Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

09-19 It was moved by Kevin Snyder and seconded by Sally Sperry to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2009 LACATech meeting. A unanimous vote of approval was taken.

Introduction of New Members

Harold Gottke was introduced to the group. He is the new Technology Coordinator for Tri-Valley Local Schools.

ITSCO Update

David Hayward gave 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/>

eTech Ohio Update

Amy Estep provided an eTech Ohio update. Please direct any questions about the eTech Ohio update to Amy at amy.estep@etech.ohio.gov, or visit the eTech Ohio website at <http://www.etech.ohio.gov/>. One issue was brought up about Itunes, and whether the Itunes Store can be blocked via group policy. Amy was going to find out and let the group know. Jeff Cameron was also going to check for ways to set Registry keys to accomplish this.

Ohio K-12 Network Updates

K-12 Network Update – There is a motion in effect asking that the \$3000 per building funding be split in half. Schools would receive half this fall, and half in March 2010, if funds are still available. Keep in mind you will have received only half of the money when LACA invoices for Internet Access, so please budget accordingly. LACA will contact districts if this goes into effect.

TSG District Digest – These newsletters are recommended reading for everyone. These come from the MCOECN Technology Services Group, which is affiliated with LACA and the other sites that make up the Ohio Education Computer Network.

Video Services

Video Usage within the Consortium - There are 468 total calls scheduled for the 2008-2009 school year (including those that have happened already and those currently scheduled).

Mandarin Chinese over Video – LACA is working with OSU to secure a Mandarin Chinese teacher to teach the class over video distance learning. This is being offered to all LACA districts. Participating districts can select the period of the day that works best, but selection is on a first-come first-served basis. The teacher will most likely broadcast out of LACA's offices. A \$10,000 buy-in gets you one period per day for the entire school year. This cost will be cheaper as more districts buy-in. LACA highly recommends using HD technology for delivery of these classes, due to the clarity of the video when sending computer screens over video. LACA can facilitate group purchasing for HD equipment for those who are interested. Please contact Michele Carlisle (mcarlisle@laca.org) for more information.

FLAP (Foreign Language Assistance Program) – LACA is applying for this federal Department of Education grant again. We applied last year, but were not awarded the grant, so we are attempting again this year. Michele Carlisle will be writing this grant. LACA is also creating a stimulus funding proposal related to local historical sites, like the Newark Indian Mounds. Gerry Cannon asked about Technical Training needs for Nortel, VMWare, Cisco, Apple, Microsoft, and Interwrite Boards, and wondered if that could be delivered over video.

WAN Updates

ISP Contract Update – All 470s and 471s were in on time, now we are just dealing with PIAs.

FTP Access to LACA Alphaserver – Chad Carson will be cutting off direct FTP access from the public Internet to LACA's Alphaserver OpenVMS system. This is due to excessive brute-force scanning against that port disrupting normal services for users within our network. Any FTP access to the Alphaserver will need to proxy through a new version of Reflection for the Web. It is possible that direct SSH access will be removed in the near future, pending a review of usage above and beyond simple terminal access.

Technical Services Update

Email Archiving – LACA has still not received firm pricing on the Mimosa e-mail archiving project in the works by the MC-TSG. The other contender, Barracuda, would price out at around \$30,000. LACA will also be investigating the Symantec E-mail archiving solution.

09-20 It was moved by Kevin Snyder and seconded by Gerry Cannon to recommend to the LACA Governing Board that LACA has a voluntary e-mail archiving solution in place by July 1, 2009, with the product to be determined by LACA technology staff recommendations. LACA will be scheduling one more Email Subcommittee member meeting in the near future before the July 1 deadline.

E-mail Disclaimer – Some member districts had asked for our recommendation for a standard e-mail disclaimer. Though not really a recommendation, the e-mail disclaimer being used by the LACA staff was distributed to the group as an example. Districts may choose to use this one or develop their own.

Recent E-mail Slowness – LACA experienced a multi-day slowdown in e-mail processing in the days leading up to this LACATech meeting. Chad Carson explained that this had been resolved, and was caused by LACA's use of OpenDNS.org as our upstream DNS provider. The primary e-mail blacklist used by LACA (uribl.com) unexpectedly cut off DNS requests from OpenDNS.org due to excessive volume, and caused a 15-30 second delay on the spam-scanning of each inbound message. This was resolved by bypassing OpenDNS.org when querying uribl.com, and going straight to the root DNS servers.

Internet Filtering – LACA has been reviewing alternatives to the 8e6 content filter. We are not recommending a move away from this device, we are simply doing due diligence and researching what is available today. Every solution we have reviewed is drastically more expensive than the 8e6 filtering we have in place today. CIPAFilter impressed the LACA staff with its reporting capabilities, but annual costs were 4 times what we pay for 8e6 and there would be startup costs on top of that. Jeff Cameron shared the reporting capabilities of his freeware Squid proxy with

the group. it was decided that the June 3 Topic-Based meeting would center around Squid. Jeff volunteered to present on the product at the June 3 meeting.

8e6 Translation Services Category – A new category was introduced to the 8e6 database.

Translation Services will contain sites that translate from one language to another

09-21 (Ex: <http://babelfish.yahoo.com/>). It was moved by Kevin Snyder and seconded by Larry Smith to allow Translation Services under the default LACATech level of content filtering. A unanimous vote of approval was taken.

Goodreads.com – Information about Goodreads.com compiled by Trish Baker at LACA on behalf of the Media Specialists in the consortium was distributed to the group. It was requested that

09-22 Goodreads be allowed in the default LACATech level of filtering. It was moved by Kevin Snyder and seconded by Sally Sperry to allow GoodReads.com under the default LACATech level of content filtering. A unanimous vote of approval was taken.

Larry Smith expressed concerns that 8e6 is not responding correctly when end-users submit requests to them for review. LACA will attempt to address the problem. Users should be very specific when submitting requests to 8e6. If a site should be re-categorized, the FULL URL must be sent to 8e6 with an explanation of why it should be re-categorized.

<http://www.something.com/> might be categorized differently than

<http://www.something.com/games/>, so the FULL URL is important. And, 8e6 will not “allow” a site, so requests to unblock something will be responded to with a canned answer, like “contact your local admin to allow a site around the filter”.

Other Discussion

DASL Update – LACA will be converting DASL to Microsoft SQL 2008 in mid-May. Because LACA provides state-wide support for SSEM, we need to have DASL over to 2008 before we can do testing. All DTS extractions are being tested in SQL 2008 so data extractions will continue after the switch. There are negotiations currently happening between DASL management and Global Scholar, with the intent to sell or license DASL to Global Scholar, but there have been no new updates on this since the last meeting.

Kiosk Update- The IPDP module is complete, and two schools will be piloting this software in April. This should be a free addition to the Kiosk, replacing the current STARS system.,

D3A2 Update – Eleven districts have all data loaded, but some professional development needs to be done with some of these districts. Funding for this project will continue to flow, so LACA is still moving forward with D3A2.

Group Purchasing Committee Update – There will be an Alertnow meeting immediately following the LACATech meeting.

Unfinished Business

Hosted Moodle Service – LACA’s Governing Board has authorized the creation of a Hosted Moodle Service. For \$500/year per server, and \$1gb/month to cover backups and disk space, LACA will provide the district a blank Moodle server that can be configured and managed to the district’s needs. Please contact network@laca.org if interested.

United Streaming – Please contact Dave Stein (dstein@laca.org) to get a login to United Streaming to see usage statistics.

Safari Montage, Learn 360 – Please let LACA know if you want us to review other similar learning systems.

Public Records Policy and Document Management – LACA has been working on guidelines for student data. We are also working with the prosecuting attorney in Licking County to find out what they would request in the event of a public records lawsuit.

Disaster Recovery Plan – The OECN DR site now has network connectivity. Chad Carson will be conducting testing with the facility and developing the DR plan further based on test results.

New Business

LACATech Topic Based Meeting – The next LACATech Topic-Based meeting will be June 3, 2009 at 8:30am. The topic will be SQUID, presented by Jeff Cameron, Southwest Licking Schools.

09-23 It was moved by Sally Sperry and seconded by Jeff Cameron to adjourn the meeting at 10:30am. A unanimous vote of approval was taken.

The next LACATech meeting date is May 6, 2009 at 8:30am.

Reported by,

Chad Carson
Director of Technology, LACA

NOTE: A presentation by AlertNow immediately followed the LACATech meeting.