



LACATech Meeting Minutes – November 4, 2009

Roll Call

The LACATech meeting was called to order at 8:35am on November 4, 2009. The following members were present for the roll call: Michele Berry (Heath), Tim Owen (Lakewood), Keith DeVore (LCESC), Sondra Wilson (Newark), Larry Smith (North Fork), Chris Cashdollar (West Muskingum), Sally Sperry (Mount Vernon), Denny Souder (Granville), and Jon Bowers (LACA). Gerry Cannon (CTEC) arrived at 8:45 and Verne Benson (Licking Heights) arrived at 9:05. Representatives from Maysville, Northridge, Southwest Licking, and Tri-Valley were unable to attend.

Others attending were Chip Zolman (Mount Vernon), Tom Jacob (Excel Academy), Brian Gottfried (Excel Academy), David Deibel (Granville Christian), Dave Stenson (St. Francis), Jeff Davis (LACA), Dave Stein (LACA) and Chad Carson (LACA).

Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

10-03 It was moved by Sondra Wilson and seconded by Chris Cashdollar to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2009 LACATech meeting. A unanimous vote of approval was taken.

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

Quentin Briggs was unable to attend. There was no official eTech Ohio update. Jon Bowers asked if everyone was receiving e-mails announcing the Erate workshops put on by Lorie Germann. If not, please e-mail Jon and he will get you on the list, as there is value in attending them to be sure steps are not missed.

Ohio K-12 Network Updates

K-12 Network Update - LACA contracts with eTech Ohio for the NOC services, but this is now being taken over by OARNet. The vision is that all state networks be under one umbrella and this is a step to make this happen. eTech Ohio will still provide video support. Chad Carson added that the conversion from eTech to OARNet is planned out, and scheduled to happen for LACA in late December. Chad will push to see if that can happen sooner rather than later, but sufficient notice will be given to the districts when the downtime for this conversion is required. It is projected that based on current budgets, schools will receive the 2nd half of the K-12 subsidy funding (the 2nd \$1000.00 per building).

Video Services

LACA is current providing Mandarin Chinese classes to West Muskingum, Tri-Valley, and Heath City through the FLAP grant. We will be adding two more districts next year (Northridge, and either Newark Digital or Southwest Licking). Lakewood expressed interest as well and Tim will be talking to their high school principal about the opportunity.

LACA was approached by The Works in Newark to house a video system for them, as they received a grant for a high-definition system, but they do not have sufficient bandwidth to properly deliver the content to the schools in the area. In exchange, LACA can use the system during times when The Works is not using it.

EETT (Enhancing Education Through Technology) grants are available for eligible buildings. The grant is through eTech, and is around \$50,000 for purchasing equipment, services, maintenance, and professional development. If you have eligible buildings, LACA encourages you to apply for this grant.

WAN Updates

LACA has negotiated lower pricing for Time-Warner links. We are encouraging everyone to file new 470 forms in order to get the lower price. In order to get this lowered pricing, the new term would be five years rather than four year as the original contract was. You may still do a four year agreement, but the costs will remain the same as they are now, rather than the lower monthly rate.

Technical Services Update

Exchange 2007 Upgrade – Part of LACA staff are already on Exchange 2007 and doing testing. We have recently installed the Messageware Add-ons for 2007 to bring OWA 2007 up to the same or better functionality than we currently have with OWA 2003. LACA staff will be moved over and run for a couple of weeks to make sure everything is working properly before moving district personnel over to Exchange 2007. Chad Carson prefers to do a clean transition of everyone over to 2007 on one date, rather than a slow migration involving two login sites. It was preferred that we do this switch before or after Christmas break, not during, and during the week rather than first thing Monday morning. After discussion, a target date of December 3 was set to cut all users over to Exchange 2007.

Email Archiving – We have not currently had any districts express interest in starting e-mail archiving, so nothing has been done at this point. Please let LACA know when you are ready to move forward with implementation of this service.

Internet Filtering – Due to reduced state-term pricing this year for the 8e6 R3000 Internet Content Filter subscription, we have the option of purchasing a reporting appliance to complement the filter for less than we paid for filtering-only last year. Everything would be logged by IP addresses, since the filter sits here centrally at LACA and is not tied to local Active Directory domains. If a district could not tell what computer had a certain IP address at a certain time/date, this reporting may not prove very useful. Chad Carson gave a brief demonstration of the reporting screens and reports available for the R3000 Internet Content Filter. Cost would be around \$3500 for the appliance and one year of support, and around \$200 per year for ongoing support. After much discussion, it was determined there was no interest in purchasing a reporting appliance at this time.

Chad Carson distributed two documents listing the current R3000 database categories and the current level of CIPA and LACATech filtering in place. These are reviewed on an annual basis to make sure nothing needs to be added or removed from these filtering levels. Discussion took place on the current filtering levels. Larry Smith expressed concern that 8e6 does not really look at submissions for recategorization, but simply replies with a canned response. Jon will follow up with 8e6 to see if anything can be done. It was moved by Sally Sperry and seconded by Larry Smith to approve the CIPA filtered categories as presented. A unanimous vote of approval was taken. It was moved by Sally Sperry and seconded by Larry Smith to approve the LACATech filtered categories as presented. A unanimous vote of approval was taken. Jon Bowers advised that the SLD is starting to look into CIPA filtering and making sure that you hold a public forum to discuss what will be blocked under CIPA, and notify the public that you will be discussing this.

10-04

10-05

Putting this on a school board agenda would be a sufficient way to accomplish this if your school board agenda is announced to the public prior to the meeting.

Password Policy – LACA will enable a strong password policy for new accounts and future password changes, but will not force all passwords to expire at this time. Notice will go out to the users letting them know that future password changes will require strong passwords. It was asked if LAMA would still allow temporary passwords that do not meet these specifications. Chad will test that, and make necessary changes to LAMA if it does not work. Notice will also go to LAMA administrators letting them know to choose a stronger temporary password.

SQUID Proxy – LACA has a squid proxy server set up and available for anyone to use that might need it. It was originally going to be a hosted server for one district, but we decided to just make it available for all to use. The purpose of this is to allow external clients to connect to the proxy to provide filtered Internet access. The filtering level is the default LACATech filtering level. This will not be modified, as it cannot be changed on a per district basis. If you are interested in using this, contact network@laca.org to get the address/port and username/password.

Other Discussion

DASL Update – Software Answers has presented a proposal to the DASL ITC directors to take over development of DASL, and Smart Solutions has also requested to present a proposal for consideration. LACA's position would be to stay with BIG rather than switch, now that DASL has finally started to stabilize. The only reason other proposals are being considered is due to the high cost of DASL development.

D3A2 Update – We now have the re-rostering capability. We are testing this capability now. Jane Galbraith will be conducting the training on D3A2 going forward after we are satisfied the re-rostering is working as expected.

Group Purchasing Committee Update – Naviance – timing didn't match for doing a purchase this year, but the company is interested in offering group pricing next spring. Educational Resources has been the MCOECN Microsoft partner for years, but recently stopped selling Microsoft Products. The new reseller is Journey Education. Jon will send out contact information for Journey Ed to the group. Jon also distributed a new Streamline flyer, which gives school employees 15% off their cell phone bills (personal phones included).

Unfinished Business

Public Records Policy and Document Management – LACA is arranging a lawyer to come in and speak with DASL Team Leaders, Public Records officers, and Special Ed directors. This will be in January, but a definite date has not yet been set. The function of this is to determine how long we need to retain student data here at LACA, and to get it into a manageable form that can be easily retrieved even if software changes.

Disaster Recovery Plan – LACA will be upgrading our Storserver backup system to a newer system, as the current system is nearly four years old. Our current system is struggling to get our backups, district backups, and off-site DR backups done within a 24 hour period. The new server should be in before the end of November. Those districts that backup data to LACA will be given sufficient notice, and if the hardware is swapped out with no glitches, the upgrade should be transparent. There are some speed issues between ITCs and the DR site that are currently being worked on by eTech and OARNet, and once those are resolved, more DR testing will be done.

New Business

- 10-06 *Election of Officers* - It was moved by Sally Sperry and seconded by Larry Smith to nominate
- 10-07 Denny Souder for LACATech Chairperson. It was moved by Sally Sperry and seconded by Sondra Wilson to close nominations for Chairperson and elect Denny as LACATech Chairperson.
- 10-08 A unanimous vote of approval was taken. It was moved by Sondra Wilson and seconded by
- 10-09 Larry Smith to nominate Sally Sperry as LACATech vice-Chairperson. It was moved by Tim Owen and seconded by Michele Berry to close nominations and elect Sally Sperry as LACATech
- 10-10 vice-chairperson. A unanimous vote of approval was taken. It was moved by Keith Devore and seconded by Michele Berry to nominate Tim Owen as LACATech Governing Board

10-11 Representative. It was moved by Sondra Wilson and seconded by Michele Berry to close nominations and elect Tim Owen as LACATech Governing Board Representative. A unanimous vote of approval was taken.

Voice over IP Interest - LACA was approached by Dataserv with a proposal to offer Voice over IP services to the districts, making it possible to get Erate discounts on a managed phone service. A service of this type would allow districts to add phones on an as-needed basis without the initial expense of an IP call manager. This service would most likely start July 1 of next year, and would require you to file a 470 for telecommunications for voice over IP and internet service for voice over IP. LACA will host a meeting to discuss the VoIP service in more detailed with interested districts.

LACATech Topic Based Meetings – The following dates are reserved for LACATech Topic based meetings:

- December 2, 2009
- February 3, 2010
- April 7, 2010
- June 2, 2010

LACA is open for suggestions for the topics. Please send ideas to network@laca.org. Jon Bowers suggested bringing in someone to discuss cyber-liability. This would be on policies that direct behavior of employees on-line, even during non-work hours (Ex : posting on Facebook, posting negative items about the district online, etc). There was interest in having a topic on this, so Jon will line something up.

Upcoming Meeting Dates for LACATech Advisory Committee – Regular LACATech meeting dates for the upcoming FY10 school year will be as follows:

- January 6, 2010
- March 3, 2010
- May 5, 2010
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10-12 It was moved by Sally Sperry and seconded by Tim Owen to adjourn the meeting at 10:40am. A unanimous vote of approval was taken.

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

Reported by,

Chad Carson
Director of Technology, LACA