



LACATech Meeting Minutes – March 3, 2010

Roll Call

The LACATech meeting was called to order at 8:30am on March 3, 2010. The following members were present for the roll call: Michele Berry (Heath), Jamison Ables representing Sondra Wilson (Newark), Beth Rowley (Northridge), Jeff Cameron (Southwest Licking), Chris Cashdollar (West Muskingum), Sally Sperry (Mount Vernon), Denny Souder (Granville), and Jon Bowers (LACA).

Tim Owen (Lakewood) arrived at 8:35, Vern Benson (Licking Heights) and Gerry Cannon (CTEC) arrived at 8:45, and Harold Gottke (Tri-Valley) arrived at 8:55. Representatives from LCESC, Maysville, and North Fork were unable to attend.

Others attending were Shawn Wilkoski (Northridge), Matt Snyder (West Muskingum), David Deibel (Granville Christian Academy), Brian Gottfried (Excel Academy), Jill Merry (St. Francis), Dave Stenson (St. Francis), Jeff Davis (LACA), Dave Stein (LACA), Joey Alexander (LACA), and Chad Carson (LACA).

Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

10-16 It was moved by Sally Sperry and seconded by Jeff Cameron to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2010 LACATech meeting. A unanimous vote of approval was taken.

eTech Ohio Update

Quentin Briggs provided an eTech Ohio update via Skype video conference. Please direct any questions about the eTech Ohio update to Quentin at Quentin.Briggs@etech.ohio.gov or visit the eTech Ohio website at <http://www.etech.ohio.gov/>.

ITSCO Update

Sally Sperry gave an ITSCO update on behalf of David Hayward. Please direct any questions about the ITSCO update to David at david@itsco.org or visit the ITSCO website at <http://www.itsco.org/>

Ohio K-12 Network Updates

The migration of LACA's upstream link management from eTech to OARNet was completed the week of February 8th, 2010. We had hoped this move would resolve/improve the speed issues we were seeing between LACA and the OECN Disaster Recovery site, and it has improved significantly. Max throughput of 50-70mb has jumped to around 250-300mb (1/3rd of a gigabit connection) in preliminary testing conducted after the move. This does not appear to have affected Internet traffic, as LACA only has 120mb of allowable Internet traffic, even though our Intranet speeds can be as high as 1GB.

The Ohio K12 Network is trying to get the 2nd \$1,000.00 connectivity distribution flowing to the schools, but the status of that is currently unknown.

Video Services

We will be adding Southwest Licking and Northridge to the FLAP grant next year. The life of the current grant is three years, and we have the option to do a grant extension to extend that grant beyond the original three years.

ARRA grant information was sent out to superintendents, and the following districts have buildings that are eligible for this one : Newark City, Mount Vernon, North Fork, Maysville.

Investing in Innovation grant is another federal grant that is in the opinion gathering stage current, and will probably be submitted in the May/June timeframe.

LACA is currently recording some of the Mandarin Chinese classes with the RSS video recorder. We are having some issues with firewall traversal interfering with some functionality of the RSS that we are currently troubleshooting.

The Elmo document cameras that were purchased with the VTEL video systems have an issue where they may catch fire, and there is a recall available on them. You can visit <http://www.elmoussa.com/recall/> to find out if your model number is affected. Turnaround time for the recall is 6-8 weeks, so you will be without your Elmo during this time. Plan to do this over the summer if possible.

LACA will be hosting a Teacher's Technology Workshop June 15 and 16, 2010 at LACA. Jane Galbraith and LACA staff will be conducting the training. Estimated costs will be \$50.00 per person and CEUs will be offered. Graduate credit is a possibility as well, based on need. More information will be coming on this later.

On June 21-23, LACA will be participating in a nation-wide professional development event over video in the LACA conference room. Email Michele Carlise (mcarlise@laca.org) for more information about this event.

Technical Services Update

Internet Content Filtering – Some resources being shown to teachers by training they have attended or by LACA staff are blocked by local district filtering policies. One example is edu.glogster.com, which is educational but blocked under a web logs category. After much discussion, it was decided we would do nothing with the filtering policies themselves, but will instead send announcements of new web resources out to LACATech as well as teachers, preferably ahead of time, so it can be unblocked if necessary.

E-Mail – After this meeting, Chad will be re-activating the 30-day deletion policy on Inbox and Sent Items. Anything that gets deleted will be moved to an Inbox and Sent Items folder under Deleted Items. Currently the deleted items are being retained for 60 days. LACA would like to get this back down to 14 days eventually, but will not be making that change today.

The Mimosa Email Archiving project at the state level has been tabled for the time being, but ITCs have been given the option to put up a local installation. LACA will be exploring this, and putting up an installation for our own staff. After we are comfortable supporting it, we will open it to districts, hopefully before the end of the school year.

Other Discussion

On February 10, LACA hosted a demo of Safari Montage, a competitor to United Streaming. Current pricing given to us is \$1,500 for a K-8 building and \$2,000 for a 9-12 building, and \$2,500 for K-12. We are trying to see if that price can be negotiated lower, but we need commitment. The technology used is different than United Streaming. Playing videos starts immediately, and you can jump to other locations in the video immediately, rather than the typical "streaming" method with buffering before the playback starts. Another product is Learn360, which is cheaper, but has less content than either United Streaming or Safari Montage, and the same streaming technology as United Streaming. Please let LACA know if you are interested in switching products away from United Streaming for next school year.

ESchoolView is a competitor to SchoolWires, and presented their product to LACA. They do very impressive design work. Price is based on ADM. Jon will send pricing to the group after the meeting. Costs were based on LACA hosting the sites for the schools.

Unfinished Business

Some action items came out of the January 28 Records Retention meeting held at C-TEC. Jon will be sending out an inventory to the public records committees at each district of what archives we have that the districts should have a copy of as well. Meetings will be held with district student records personnel to determine what data should be pulled out and kept from DASL, ProgressBook, and/or Special Services, and how that will be done.

New Business

Chris Cashdollar asked the group what they used for mass management of student accounts, whether 3rd party or otherwise. Most of this is done with scripts that read data from Excel spreadsheets. Most 3rd party applications are very expensive. Chad Carson has experience from writing LAMA that may be able to be modified to do these types of things. Microsoft has two command line tools called CSVDE and LDIFDE that can be used for mass operations on Active Directory.

May 5th will be the last regular LACATech meeting of the year. We also have slots to do topic-based meetings on April 14 (moved ahead a week) and June 2. Sally Sperry asked about software to digitize paper forms. Chad will check into doing an Active Directory scripting topic-based meeting on either April 14 or June 2.

- 10-17 It was moved by Sally Sperry and seconded by Michele Berry to adjourn the meeting at 9:45am. A unanimous vote of approval was taken.

Next LACATech meeting will be May 5, 2010 at 8:30am.

Reported by Chad Carson, Director of Technology, LACA