



LACATech Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2011

Roll Call

The LACATech meeting was called to order at 8:47am on January 20, 2011. The following members were present for the roll call: Gerry Cannon (CTEC), Robert Sexton (Granville), Michele Berry (Heath), Jamison Ables (Newark City), Larry Smith (North Fork), Shawn Wilkoski (Northridge), Harold Gottke (Tri-Valley), Chris Cashdollar (West Muskingum), Tim Owen (Lakewood), and Jon Bowers (LACA). Chip Zolman (Mount Vernon) arrived at 9:00. Representatives from East Muskingum, LCESC, Licking Heights, Maysville and Southwest Licking were unable to attend.

Others attending were Dave Stenson (St. Francis), Paul Kamenan (Fairfield Christian), David Deibel (Granville Christian), TJ Baughman (Licking Valley), Joey Alexander (LACA), Dave Stein (LACA), Chad Carson (LACA), and Robert Rittenhouse (LACA).

Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

11-07 It was moved by Larry Smith and seconded by Chris Cashdollar to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2010 LACATech meeting. A unanimous vote of approval was taken.

Introduction of New Members

Robert Sexton from Granville was introduced to the group. The group was also informed that East Muskingum is now a full member of LACA. No one was able to attend from East Muskingum, so they will be introduced at the next meeting.

eTech Ohio Update

Amy Estep provided an eTech Ohio update via videoconferencing. 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/>.

ITSCO Update

David Hayward provided 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/>

Ohio K-12 Network Updates

ODE has created a new Technology Advisory Committee with representatives from the ITCs, Board of Regents, and eTech. The plans for this new committee is to cover both the network AND data sides of ODE's projects, and the plans for the future of the Ohio K12 Network Committee is uncertain. This will not affect the \$2000 per building distribution to the districts, and schools should be getting the second \$1000 per building for this year.

LACA has added 30mb of Internet access effective January 1, 2011 to the amount of bandwidth purchased which brings us up to 160mb/second of purchased Internet bandwidth for the consortium. We are allowed to increase this once per quarter. We monitor and adjust as necessary each quarter.

At the beginning of January, LACA network team discovered we had an issue with the outbound Time-Warner Internet fiber connection to Oarnet. We were experiencing 1% packet loss which

caused enough TCP retransmits to give the appearance of slow internet, without really being noticeable enough to stand out as a true problem. This was resolved last week and we are now 100% clean out to the Internet. Districts should see better performance out to the Internet moving forward.

Video Services

China Trip – The LACA China trip for students has been cancelled. West Muskingum had organized their own trip, and received a better price than the one LACA was planning, so any districts that wanted to participate are welcome to participate through West Muskingum. LACA is planning a China trip for the summer of 2012. If you have questions about either of these trips, please contact Michele Carlisle (mcarlisle@laca.org).

iPad Training - LACA is organizing a class where participants leave with an iPad as part of the course fee. This is being organized by Trish Baker (LACA) and Jane Galbraith (Newark City Schools). This class was approved by the Governing Board, and they made it clear that if the school district pays for the class, the iPad then belongs to the district, not the class participant. The treasurer of that district will be notified that the employee was given an iPad and what the serial number of that iPad is, so they can track it in the district inventory.

Midland Theatre Connection – The Midland Theatre received a grant, and they have put together a project to stream video of the Newark Granville Symphony Orchestra's performance of Holst's *The Planets* on February 28th, 2011 at 10:00am to area schools. This event will have images from the Hubble space telescope choreographed with the music on a screen behind the orchestra. LACA has been assisting to get network connectivity to the Midland for this project. Michele Carlisle has sent out information to the video lead teachers, but so far we have no responses back. Jon Bowers will re-send this information to the LACATech group. Contact information to sign up for the event will be on the information sent out. This event will be streamed, so any computer can watch it. The endpoint does not have to be an IVDL video unit. LACA would really like to see participation in this proof of concept.

WAN Updates

Fiber Renewals – LACA has been investigating alternative options for our fiber renewals, and we had questions that needed answered before we could respond to bids. LACA should be able to get bids out early next week. Pricing will be better than in the past.

VoIP – There will be a presentation by Dataserv and TEC on the LACA VoIP service on February 14, 2011. Information will be sent out once a solid date/time have been determined.

Technical Services Update

Internet Content Filtering – Joey Alexander conducted an 8e6 Reporting Appliance training immediately after this meeting.

E-Mail Archiving – Mimosa Nearpoint was approved as a new LACA service at the last governing board meeting. Chad Carson conducted a presentation on the software immediately following the meeting. Please contact Chad Carson for pricing and further information about implementing this service for your district.

Virus Protection Research – Chad Carson presented a proposal for creating a free domain controller with minimal configuration as an off-site copy of the live active directory for each district, with the possibility of adding the new virus scanning console to these servers as well, and let that sit offsite at LACA rather than dedicating a local computer to this task. Please email network@laca.org with the version of Windows you want the domain controller to have, and we will work on getting this set up.

Hosted Servers – Today, LACA's hosted server offering only offers one level of server for \$500 per year, with a minimal configuration of memory and CPU. We are in the process of developing a tiered approach to hosted servers (various CPU levels, various memory levels, etc) to be approved and presented at a later date.

Other Discussion

Cell Phone Hot Spots – Gerry Cannon asked if anyone was doing anything to filter or stop the practice of making a WiFi hotspot out of a cell phone, allowing students to bypass the filtering at the school by going through the cell network instead of the school network. Rob Sexton said he had a wireless device policy that addressed it, but no one knew any technical means to stop this problem. Rob said he would share this policy with the group by sending to LACA to distribute to the LACATech group.

Group Purchasing Committee – Jon Bowers asked the districts if they participated in any sort of HVAC monitoring service where LACA might do a group purchase to reduce that cost. Nearly everyone manages their HVAC themselves via web interfaces. After much discussion, it was decided that there was nothing LACA could really do to reduce costs. The expense is in the equipment to control the HVAC system, not in paying external companies to monitor them.

Unfinished Business

AUP Reacceptance – Chad Carson will active the automated task that sends out daily email notices to those who have not yet accepted the AUP starting early next week. Please be aware that these notices are legitimately from LACA, and are not phishing attempts. After that has been running for approximately 30 days, LACA will begin disabling accounts that have not accepted the AUP.

Internet Safety – Jon Bowers gave a reminder that E-rate is requiring that all students need an annual internet safety course before receiving your funding. Harold Gottke shared that you can get free publications regarding this. The website is www.onguardonline.gov (NetCetera).

New Business

Ohio Alerts - Chad Carson provided a brief demo of Ohio Alerts, a free offering by NOACSC, the ITC in Lima, Ohio, to all schools in Ohio. This is a parent/community notification system that uses email and texting ONLY, no voice calls. It is free because the largest expense of a notification system (the voice calling) is eliminated. In this day and age, most people can be reached via email or text rather than voice, so a large percentage of your parents and community can be covered by this service. It can also complement any existing voice calling system you have in place today. Contact network@laca.org if you are interested in having this system set up for your district.

Virtual Applications Pilot – Chad Carson provided a brief overview of a Citrix virtual applications pilot LACA is working on. The idea is to run applications from hosted servers at LACA, rather than within your district. Most any application can be virtualized to run this way. This would be potentially useful in one-to-one projects or “bring your own tech” project to provide filtered internet access, since the browser is running from a server going through the content filter, and the application is running directly from an https site which makes setup very minimal. Any districts interested in testing this service should contact network@laca.org for information, and we will work with you to get Citrix clients installed. There were questions about Microsoft licensing in a concurrent licensing model like Citrix that LACA will need to follow up on.

Survey of Reflection Licensing – LACA is interested in knowing how many Reflection users you have in your districts today. Most are only going to have 3-5, now that USAS/USPS are the only applications requiring Reflection. Please let LACA know if you have extra licensing you would like to donate the pool at LACA for distribution to new members or for conversion to the Reflection on the Web licensing pool.

eReader Usage – Michele Berry asked if anyone is using eReaders like Kindle and Nook in their districts and what the logistics were of buying books, restricting access to internet, etc. Some districts buy gift cards to use for buying new books. Amazon has started accepting purchase orders, which you can use during checkout.

Live@Edu Setup – LACA has configured a Live@Edu domain for LACA so we can evaluate and test this free offering from Microsoft. We can build you sample accounts in this domain if you want to see how it looks and works. Contact network@laca.org if you want an account or two for testing purposes.

The schedule for remaining FY11 LACATech meetings is as follows:

- March 2, 2011
- May 4, 2011

The LACA Topic Based meetings are scheduled for:

- February 9, 2011- Moved to February 9 due to eTech conference on Feb 2.
 - o Topic will be Live@Edu
- April 6, 2011

11-08 It was moved by Harold Gottke and seconded by Chris Cashdollar to adjourn the meeting at 10:17am.

Next LACATech meeting will be March 2, 2011 at 8:30am.

Reported by Chad Carson, Director of Technology, LACA