



LACATech Meeting Minutes – September 7, 2011

Roll Call

The LACATech meeting was called to order at 8:35am on September 7, 2011. The following members were present for the roll call: Gerry Cannon (C-TEC), Randy McFerren (East Muskingum), Brian Gottfried (LCESC), Verne Benson (Licking Heights), Jamison Ables (Newark City), Larry Smith (North Fork), Shawn Wilkoski (Northridge), Jeff Cameron (Southwest Licking), Chris Cashdollar (West Muskingum), Margy Arck (Mount Vernon), Tim Owen (Lakewood), and Jon Bowers (LACA). Michele Berry (Heath) arrived at 9:00am. Representatives from Crooksville, Granville, Maysville, and Tri-Valley were unable to attend.

Others attending were Chip Zolman (Mount Vernon), Todd Doyle (Mount Vernon), Jeremy Singrey (Mount Vernon), Paul Kamenen (Fairfield Christian), Dave Stenson (St. Francis), David Deibel (Granville Christian), Cory Marling (Par Excellence), Joey Alexander (LACA), Dave Stein (LACA), Chad Carson (LACA), and Robert Rittenhouse (LACA).

Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

12-1 It was moved by Brian Gottfried and seconded by Larry Smith to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2011 LACATech meeting. A unanimous vote of approval was taken.

Introduction of New Members

Margy Arck from Mount Vernon City Schools was introduced to the group.

eTech Ohio Update

Erik Falasca and Mike Edwards from eTech Ohio provided an eTech Ohio update. Please direct any questions about the eTech Ohio update to Erik Falaska at eric.falasca@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

K-12 network funding applications are now open. Public and community schools must log into eTech Ohio's website with a hall pass to apply. Distributions will be \$1,800 per instructional building this year. You can get your diagrams at <http://www.laca.org/diagrams/>, which are required for the application process. LACA must apply on behalf of the non-public schools. The K-12 network committee has not met for over a year now, and they will be reconvening soon to determine future direction of the committee.

Video Services

Video Courses – LACA is currently running nearly 40 classes daily across our network. The Mandarin Chinese instructors have been moved from Metro HS (on the OSU main campus) to the Fawcett Center, also on OSU main campus. Our equipment and instructors are now in soundproof broadcast rooms that are perfect for this type of service. A fifth teacher has been added for Mandarin Chinese housed at Northridge Local Schools.

Video Content – The kickoff meeting for video lead teachers in each building will be held on September 8, 2011 at LACA. This group focuses on bringing content in the classroom over video. A demo will be given by the Cleveland Institute of Music. Technology coordinators are invited to attend.

Midland Theatre – The Midland Theatre still has a permanent connection directly to LACA's network to conduct "Yellow Bus" sessions. The schedule of Yellow Bus sessions can be found on their website <http://www.midlandtheatre.org/yellowbus.html>.

WAN Updates

Internet Safety Compliance – More discussion took place on iSafe for tracking and meeting these requirements later in the meeting, under the "Group Purchasing" section of the agenda.

Bump in Bandwidth – LACA bumped our Internet bandwidth from 160mb to 200mb for the start of the 2011-2012 school year.

Technical Services Update

Internet Content Filtering – The motion taken to the Governing Board over the summer to globally exempt GoToMeeting and related websites was passed, and these sites were exempted from the M86 filter. Please let the LACA network team know if you have any issues connecting to GoToMeeting. Two districts now have M86 boxes in place. The one at C-TEC is not fully integrated to local Active Directory yet, and we are not sure of the status of the one at Granville as we did not assist with the installation. We will try to have more meaningful information at the next LACATech meeting.

E-Mail Archiving – We had intended to make a change to bump Exchange 2010 as our OWA.LACA.ORG server in anticipation of a migration to Exchange 2010, but due to some testing errors we encountered with mobile devices, we decided to hold off on this until we could do more testing and be sure the transition went smooth. We will announce a new date for this in the future after our testing is complete.

Interest in Live@edu implementation - The group was asked for input if there was interest in LACA having more structured assistance with getting Live@edu up and running. LACA has assisted one-on-one with setups, but has not made assistance on this a structured service. There did not appear to be interest from the group at this time, but LACA will assist as needed moving forward on an individual basis.

Virus Protection Research – All Nod32 licensing has been purchased, so the entire consortium can migrate over at any time. LACA has been setting this up on a hosted virtual server here at LACA (which also can be a set up as an off-site domain controller). LACA gives you the admin password for the server, you join it to your domain, and build a Nod32 admin account that LACA then uses to install your instance of Nod32 for your district. Contact network@laca.org if you are ready to switch, or if you need help un-installing Symantec (there are tools available to do a full removal of all traces of Symantec). Please let LACA know what type of server you have for a domain controller (2003, 2008) and we will build this virtual server to match your existing setup. It can then act as a backup domain controller as well as Eset Nod32 console.

Virtual Servers – LACA offers virtual servers but to date not many districts have used this service. Discussion took place on what factors influence this decision (cost, etc). The main reason appears to be that the type of servers districts mainly have are file share servers, and these are better to be housed locally so files can be accessed at LAN speeds, rather than WAN speeds. Existing hardware investments are also a reason...if there are already physical servers in place, why switch them to virtual servers? Fear of having links go down and cutting a school off from its servers is another possible reason. The hosted server service remains in effect, and is there when it makes sense to use.

LAN Switch Maintenance – If anyone has any last minute additions of Cisco gear you would like to add, we have not yet gotten a final quote for this upcoming renewal. We will have that soon. We have quite a few end-of-life 2924 series Cisco switches that are being covered by Dataserv. We are looking at alternatives to continuing to do this. One option is a group purchase of more modern equipment, then letting districts pay the cost back over a few years (effectively turning the maintenance paid now on the old equipment into a lease-to-own payment on new equipment). Lakewood and Southwest Licking also have 2924 spares, and if LACA could keep those stocked at our location, we could self-maintain these old switches for much lower cost or potentially no cost. LACA will follow up with SWL and Lakewood to pursue this option.

Other Discussion

Group Purchasing Committee – LACA has signed contracts with TRZ (Pre-K12 Notification) and One Call Now for reduced pricing if purchased through LACA. Pricing was shared with the group. If interested please contact LACA. iSafe is software used to conduct and track Internet Safety classes to students in your school. LACA has negotiated group pricing of iSafe to cover the entire consortium (public and non-public schools) for an annual cost of \$9,400. This gets the eRate Subscription Package level of iSafe. There is a more complete version that would be \$19,500 for the entire consortium per year. There was interest from the group in having LACA pursue this and come up with a cost structure for all customers.

Safari Montage – One district had expressed interest again in Safari Montage. Jon Bowers asked if there was interest in looking at Safari Montage again, for those who use United Streaming. Contracts with United Streaming have already been done for this school year. This needs to be re-visited at the March or May LACATech meeting to allow sufficient time to make a decision before renewal time. Safari Montage will be added to the agenda in the spring. The following topics were brought up to see if there was interest: Managed Wi-fi services – No. Sprint devices – Maybe, if there are demo units provided. Telecom Auditing Software – No. Gerry Cannon asked about the new VmWare pricing structure and how C-TEC and LACA might be affected. Chad Carson explained that for smaller implementations like ours (less than 96gb RAM in a server) the pricing does not jump. LACA will get more information together about this change to present to the group.

Unfinished Business

Virtual Applications – The pricing for this project through MCPC was much higher than anticipated. We are investigating getting service from NWOCA, another ITC heavily involved in a virtual applications project that is selling the service to other ITCs. They have streamlined the service and software to what is really needed for schools, and it appears to be more in line with what schools can afford.

Public Broadcast Rights – If movies or TV is played in a school setting, you must have a public performance license to do so. There are companies that provide a license to do this, though they are for specific studios...there is not one license that covers everything. Chad Carson will follow up with information after the meeting.

New Business

LACA AUP Re-accept - Last year this group decided to require an annual re-acceptance of the LACA Acceptable Use Policy (AUP). We gave a 60 day grace period from the start of school for all LACA accounts to accept this policy, or they would be disabled. It was agreed by the group that November 1, 2011 would be the last day of this grace period. Anyone accepting the AUP

after 7/1/2011 would not need to re-accept it. Heath, West Muskingum, North Fork, Licking Heights, and Mount Vernon would like their local district AUPs set to re-accept as well.

Election of LACATech Officers – The floor was opened for nominations for Chairperson. Tim Owen was nominated for Chairperson. The floor was closed for nominations. Tim Owen was elected as Chairperson by a unanimous vote. The floor was opened for nominations for Vice Chairperson. Larry Smith and Michele Berry were nominated for Vice Chairperson. The floor was closed for nominations. Larry Smith was elected Vice-Chairperson by a majority vote. The floor was opened for nominations for Governing Board Representative. Chris Cashdollar and Tim Owen were nominated for Governing Board representative. The floor was closed for nominations. Chris Cashdollar was elected Governing Board representative by a majority vote.

Future LACATech Meeting Dates – Meeting dates for the 2011-2012 school year have been set as follows.

Regular Meetings

- November 2, 2011
- January 11, 2012
- March 7, 2012
- May 2, 2012

Topic Based Meetings

- October 5, 2011
- December 7, 2011
- February 1, 2012
- April 4, 2012
- June 6, 2012

Wireless networks (what everyone is using and allowing through their wireless) was discussed as a potential topic for a topic-based meeting.

Blackboard – Gerry Cannon asked about the use of Blackboard at other districts. Verne Benson shared that the “core services” portion of Blackboard is free to use.

12-2 It was moved by Brian Gottfried and seconded by Jeff Cameron to adjourn the meeting at 10:35am.

Nancy Ramsey and Rich Seymore from Microsoft presented on the new EES licensing model from Microsoft immediately after the meeting.

Reported by Chad Carson, Director of Technology, LACA