



LACATech Notes – September 6, 2016

The meeting took place starting at 8:30am. The following members were present: Rocky Ringhiser (C-TEC), Kim VanWey (East Muskingum), Michele Berry (Heath), Kevin Adams (Johnstown), Mark McGee (Lancaster), Jack Kruse (Northridge), Larry Smith (North Fork), Justin Post (Lakewood), Jon Bower (LACA). Others attending the meeting were Dave Dewese (Fairfield Christian), David Deibel (Granville Christian Academy), Timothy Ballard (Newark Digital), Kim Watson (North Fork), Joey Alexander (LACA), Jon Stoehr (LACA), Robert Rittenhouse (LACA), Dave Stein (LACA), and Chad Carson (LACA).

NOTE: There were not enough members present to form a quorum. No motions were made.

Introduction of New Employees

Jon Stoehr was introduced to the group. Jon is another member of LACA's Technical/Network team, and has taken over primary support for items such as iBoss and Antivirus. Melissa Elliott is another new LACA employee, but was unable to attend the meeting. Her title is Instructional Resource Coordinator and she support INFOhio and INFOhio Instructional Resources.

ITSCO Update

Amy Palermo provided an ITSCO update. If you have questions please contact her at amy@itsco.org

WAN Updates

K-12 Network Funding – The funding notices will be going directly from ODE to treasurers, superintendents, technology coordinators, and possibly EMIS coordinators, rather than to ITCs. Please be on the lookout for these. The window is only open for 30 days to apply, mostly in October. They are very strict this year...if you miss the window you do not receive funding. After you submit your application, it comes to LACA for verification that the circuit bandwidth report is accurate, so we will see those.

ISP Contracts – VoIP reduced by 20% for the coming year. There is no indication that this will be reversed. Plan on VoIP being completely de-funded over the coming years. Lorrie Germann will continue with the workshops, though we have not seen any dates posted. LACA checks about once per week for new 470 postings.

Core Network Upgrades – LACA did a full upgrade to our core network over the summer. Our original core was limited to 5GB of throughput. We now have core switches with a 2 TB backplane, and redundant external firewalls with 20GB of throughput each. The Standby firewall does not yet have a connection to the iBoss to get out to the Internet. This is one part of the upgrade that is not completed yet. We will be adding a second 1GB of throughput to the secondary Time Warner link to the Internet, which will bring us to 5GB total for the start of the school year.



Technical Services Updates

Single Sign-On – The single sign-on research/testing did not result in anyone wanting to use the Classlink product. We have discontinued any research/testing of this product due to lack of interest.

Video Surveillance as a Service – This is just a reminder that LACA now offers a Video Surveillance as a Service, where we install and manage the entire solution, end-to-end. We use Digital Watchdog Products as well as Arecont cameras as the basis for this service. If you are interested in a demonstration please let LACA know.

Technical Training – Last spring LACA conducted a VLAN/Subnet class. It was well received. If you have ideas for any additional classes, let us know. We will be doing on PRTG as the next class, and future classes as we come up with relevant topics.

iBoss Firmware Upgrades – The iBoss boxes are in need of firmware updates to fix a number of Chromebook issues. Because of testing going on in September, we will postpone this update until the beginning of October.

Avast Cloud vs. On-Premises – The only way we can do a cloud implementation under our current Avast licensing is to either get new licensing per district, which reduces the version of Avast down to just the anti-virus...all other features like firewalls would not be part of the new licensing. The other option was to grant everyone access to our cloud console, but there would be no way to separate access rights, so everyone in the consortium would see everyone else's workstations. So, we are sticking with the current on-premises Avast setups and not moving to the cloud.

New LACA Website – LACA will be rolling out a new website with eSchoolView this fall. As part of this, eSchoolView is giving our consortium members a discount on their eSchoolView websites. We do not have anything ready to demo at this time. We hope to roll the new website out by November 1.

New Acceptable Use Templates from Kimball Carey Law Firm – These were emailed to the group. They are updated templates for both Staff and Students to be used if you wish.

Licking County Technology Roundtable – This meeting will be held October 19th at C-TEC. The roundtable brings together technology professionals from all industries and government in Licking County. The guest speaker for the upcoming meeting will be Matt Curtain of Interhack, a very energetic speaker in the realm of cybersecurity. This event is open to all LACA members, even those not from Licking County. Jon Bowers will be sending out more information on this event when it is available.

Network Storage Service – LACA has implemented an offsite network storage service, allowing you to connect to a NAS device here at LACA to send important files offsite. This can be set up as an iSCSI target as well as other protocols. If you are interested, please contact LACA. This is going to be a pay-for service, which we plan to sell in blocks of 500GB or 1TB.



Video Services Updates

Polycom representatives will provide grant workshops next week at four locations around the state. These are 10 am to 1 pm and include a working lunch at no cost to you. The workshops have been very successful and well-attended for the three years we've been doing them. Registration link: <http://response.polycom.com/SeptGrantSeminars>

Polycom has a trade-in promotion allowing 15% off new equipment with a qualifying trade, and practically all legacy gear qualifies, including all V-Tel equipment. This is a great opportunity that runs through December 25. We are extending this to include the Group 310 w/12x zoom camera, which is what we typically deploy for single monitor environments. There may also be a discount available for coverage that has lapsed. Dave Stein is working to get those details.

If you have new contacts for the video lead teachers in your buildings, please get these to LACA so we can update the distribution lists. For districts that are part of the Teacher Credential Grant, we still have money available for tuition credits or getting teachers licensed through this grant. There is still about a year left on this grant. LACA has applied for a new grant in conjunction with ECOESC to help support the new video infrastructure at LACA. We will find out more about the status of this grant in November.

We will be creating a Video Conferencing Newsletter for the upcoming year to get information about video opportunities out to users. Be on the lookout for this newsletter.

INFOhio Updates

Your media specialists may ask you about adding an iSearch widget to your websites, to easily search INFOhio resources. This information was recently shared to the media specialists group, and they will likely contact you regarding how to add to your school website. If you have questions about this, please contact Trish Baker at LACA.

New Business

Future of LACATech Meeting Format - Chad Carson discussed the future of the LACATech Meeting format. We want to make sure the meetings are valuable and everyone who attends feels like their time was well spent attending the meetings. We would love to see presentations from our members on things they are doing locally to share with the group, even if the presenter is a teacher or other staff member from your district. Some topics were brought up in discussion that could be a central topic for the meetings: Online Registration (Registration Gateway, InfoSnap, OneView), WIFI Policies in use at our member districts, One-To-One Policies (Insurance, Take Home Policies, Funding methods), Repair of Chromebooks, iPads, other equipment. These are great suggestions. Please send any ideas you would like to see at future meetings to Chad Carson.



District Visits - Chad also informed the group that he plans to set up and conduct as many on-site district visits as possible over the 2016-2017 school year. He would like to get on the agenda during administrator meetings in the districts, to inform districts about LACA services as well as getting feedback from the entire team of administrators (superintendents, treasurers, building principals, etc).

Presentation: Scam Awareness and Password Tips

Chad Carson gave a presentation on Scam Awareness and Password Tips. The intended audience for this presentation are non-technical district employees. Chad would like to present this at any large district meetings you have in the future, to raise awareness of phishing scams and educate employees on smart password choices.

If you have events (teacher in-service days, large building-level staff meetings/trainings, etc) that Chad could have 15-30 minutes on the agenda, let him know and if possible he will be there to conduct this presentation.

The presentation was shared to the District Technology Coordinators to use as well, if they see fit. Chad will also look into making this a training video available on the LACA website, time permitting.

NEXT MEETING

The next LACATech Meeting will be November 2, 2016.