



# LACATech Minutes – March 1, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 8:35am. The following members were present for roll call: Randy McFerren (East Muskingum), Michele Berry (Heath), Kevin Adams (Johnstown), Tim Owen (Lakewood), Eric Smith (Maysville), Chip Zolman (Mt. Vernon), Jack Kruse (Northridge), Larry Smith (North Fork), Jeff Cameron (Southwest Licking), Chris Irvin (Tri-Valley), and Jon Bowers (LACA). Amy Norman (Newark) arrived shortly after. Others attending the meeting were Dave Dewese (Fairfield Christian), David Deibel (Granville Christian Academy), Timothy Ballard (Newark Digital), Kim Watson (North Fork), Linda Denny (Maysville), Joey Alexander (LACA), Jon Stoehr (LACA), Charles Gillogly (LACA), Robert Rittenhouse (LACA), and Chad Carson (LACA).

- 17-08 It was moved by Larry Smith and seconded by Randy McFerren to approve the minutes of the January 9th, 2017 LACATech meeting. A unanimous vote of approval was taken.

## *ITSCO Update*

Amy Palermo provided an ITSCO update. ITSCO is now part of WOSU Public Media, but their services all remain the same. If you have questions please contact Amy at [amy@itsco.org](mailto:amy@itsco.org).

## *WAN Updates*

K-12 Network – ODE approved the payments. Within a week, you should be receiving the second half of the subsidy. It appears this subsidy will remain in place unchanged for next year.

ISP Contracts – The window for posting 471s opened, and you can still post 470s, but you should not wait. The schedule for Lorrie Germann’s workshops is at <https://www.ohio-k12.help/erate/> under the “Events” tab.

## *Technical Services Updates*

Technical Training – LACA will have a PRTG class on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017. There will be “beginner” in the morning, for those who have never used PRTG, and “advanced” in the afternoon for those who might have used it a little, but want to know more. Feel free to attend both sessions. These sessions will be posted to the LACA website so you can register for them. We are also wanting to host some more training over the summer on different topics. VMWare, Linux, and Graylog were three topics we thought would be helpful. We will also conduct training on whatever new virus protection software is chosen by the consortium.

Internet Content Filtering – Securly has extended an offer that allows any of our schools to test out Securly through June of 2017, to finish out the school year on a trial basis. You can do this in small steps (one building, or just Chromebooks, etc). Chris Irvin gave an overview of the testing that he has been conducting at Tri-Valley to the group. As far as a filter goes, it works very well. There were many unanswered questions, mostly around reporting on devices that are NOT authenticated through Google. Cloud-based solutions like Securly rely heavily on authentication to report on a user-by-user basis. They are working very hard to get an Office 365 integration piece in place within the next month. Active Directory can be used through GADS (Google Active Directory Sync).



Lengthy discussion about possible content filtering scenarios took place. LACA is reviewing the iBoss cloud offering as well. Another option would be a dedicated iBoss box per-district, however, due to the way our network is constructed, all of those boxes would have to be housed at LACA, presenting a space/cooling/electricity issue. The cloud makes the most sense as we continue to grow our bandwidth needs. As a next step, Chad Carson will schedule a webinar with a Securly engineer and send out the link to the group. We can present questions about reporting and implementation directly to a Securly support engineer.

LACA would like to begin blocking Torrents and Betternet for the consortium at the firewall level. Chad Carson asked the group if there was any objection to testing this out. The group said it was OK to proceed.

#### *Renaissance Learning Issues*

Renaissance learning has been working very closely with Lancaster City Schools to determine the cause of this problem. Unfortunately, we do not have a resolution yet. Randy McFerren shared with the group, that Renaissance Learning support told him they were able to recreate the issue. They also shared a finding; if they connected to the site, and waited 3 minutes before actually logging in, they could not get the issue to happen. This did not make sense to anyone present at the LACAtch meeting, but it might be worth a try.

#### *New Antivirus*

LACA has started the process of reviewing alternates to Avast. We have extended our Avast license until summer, so we can finish out the school year on Avast. We are looking at many alternatives, including Kaspersky, Bitdefender, and Sophos. We have not considered staying with Avast due to issues we encountered while using the free version. Jeff Cameron, Larry Smith, and Chris Irvin volunteered to demo new products to help in the decision making process. We need to know what we are doing before May, so everyone has time to roll out new images with the new software.

#### *Cybersecurity*

Chad Carson asked the group what we might facilitate to help districts with cybersecurity issues. One suggestion was having an outside company phish the network (email, phone, etc) and give us results of their findings. Another option is using consultants that can do training on district network enhancements to minimize the effects of a ransomware outbreak. The thought is it will happen eventually, despite best efforts to prevent users from falling for phishing. Chad Carson will investigate potential solutions for these suggestions for the next meeting.

#### *New Business*

LACA will be hiring a new network team member in the near future. If you know any potential candidates, please have them send a resume to [resume@laca.org](mailto:resume@laca.org).

17-09 It was moved by Eric Smith and seconded by Jack Kruse to adjourn the meeting at 10:35am.



Keith Larson from Student Provisioning Software gave a demo on his company's product to the group immediately following the meeting. If there is sufficient interest in the product, LACA can facilitate a group purchase. You can find out more about their product at <http://www.sps-k12.com>. Please contact Jon Bowers or Chad Carson if interested in a group purchase.

## NEXT MEETING

The next LACATech Meeting will be WEDNESDAY May 3, 2017.

- Reported by Chad Carson, Director of Technology, LACA.