

Technology Department Report

The last few weeks have been an educational process of being introduced to the Administration and Instructor Staff along with exposing myself to the systems, system configurations, and supporting infrastructure. A general systems audit was conducted with each associate in every room of the Erie County Technical School campus. The usage of the equipment was discussed and noted.

The collected information was compiled and analyzed by the Technology Team to determine risks, weak points, and opportunities, starting primarily with the network. The results of this process were in part shared with our internal audit team in support of the ISO process, and with Dr. Jackson. The solution ideas were prioritized and aligned with current business objectives and have begun their planning phase for a successful deployment.

Our short term goals include evaluating SchoolDesx and other business productivity applications and their current performance strengths and weaknesses to create a baseline for measure as we begin to focus on performance related system and network changes. The current gigabit network architecture could provide a faster total network backbone to all areas of the school campus with a few minor modifications. Additionally, the creation of a separate segment for server systems is being considered to ensure the best network proximity and aggregate performance with every other network segment. The core component to the success of these solutions will likely be the implementation of a gigabit layer 3 network switch device to manage the virtual division of the separate network segments resulting in the elimination of the bottlenecks associated with physically routed segments. This layer 3 switch will also extend the ability to further subnet the campus network, increasing network security and performance by virtually isolating student computers to only the systems and resources they require access to, resulting in greater aggregate bandwidth for staff systems to interface with critical applications. We look forward to implementing these solutions, and reporting the performance gains experienced.

Additionally the telephone system project has made significant progress this month, and the department has been working with the Business Manager in reviewing proposals and determining the best solution for our school.