

April Technology Board Report

April 17, 2009

Desktop Systems

Installed upgrades in Drafting to support a new 3D Digital Scanner, and assisted with the installation of that scanner.

Purchased and configured 16 new Dell Vostro 1510 laptops in two separate laptop cards (7&8). Student Laptop use continues to grow in demand and preference by the instructional staff. The campus wireless network has certainly delivered confidence in access to digital information and increased classroom flexibility around the facility. The challenge we can expect as the demand continues to grow is the speed limitations that coincide with wireless connections as opposed to physically connected ones. Wireless-G operates at about 5% of the speed of our wired gigabit network. This results in significant performance differences between the two when saving working with network resources.

Network Systems

We invested some time defending the Conficker virus outbreak. For ECTS this was mostly preventative, however there were a few minor isolated incidents. We permitted our update server to deploy all available updates, which we usually try to throttle to periods in the year when staff are not in the building.

Treese Communications is still waiting on a response from Avaya to resolve our conference call system quality.

Student Information System (SIS)

We continue to explore opportunities for improvement with our SIS. We continue to strive for faster performance, simpler navigation, and familiar intuitiveness as this is the primary record for our membership, attendance and grading information. For several months as part of a SchoolDESX committee a group of administration and faculty explored the feedback shared by our faculty over the last few years with regard to this software to determine strategies for improvement. Some of the concepts that were shared reach beyond the functionality of our current system. The technology department has informally investigated how others accomplish similar tasks around the education sector and the education software industry to determine if there are proven methods for increasing the appeal of these experiences. I was hoping for some inspiration, but my initial conclusion remains that what we do with our SIS is what many other CTC's are striving for, and are challenged to accomplish because of limitations or roadblocks with their systems. I will continue to reach out to the industry for ideas on how we can make improvements 'around' the limitations of our software. My conviction remains that the intuitiveness and performance pieces are easily improved with a more current interface feel using well know current programming languages.

Audit

I participated in the State Auditor General s Audit which included specific Information Technology items.