

## December Technology Board Report

December 10, 2009

### **Desktop Systems**

Testing of Windows 7 is going well. We have overcome all of the challenges we identified in the early stages, and we are now testing our lab specialized software. We are only considering the 64-bit version of Windows 7 mainly for the significant performance characteristics 64-bit represent. This will likely introduce more challenges with our software than the 32-bit version; but we believe it is the right decision for the long term.

### **Network and Server Systems**

Content Filtering has been working well. We did however identify a program students were spreading around the building that was compromising our system named Ultra Surf. We have identified its technical characteristics and are now impeding its usage. We've shared our findings with the Regional Technology Services Group (RTSG-IU5) and our content filtering provider Websense for their consideration in defeating it.

Our wireless network is starting to show signs weakness with its age and the growing number of wireless devices across the campus. In the last 16 months alone we have introduced 40+ additional laptops being utilized daily. We intend to focus on strategies to improve this service in the coming years.

The RTSG has been discussing services we feel our Regional WAN could support. Technologies like IPTV (broadcast television on computer networks), co-location (distributing servers across physical locations to improve reliability), and distributed services (using other school resources). It is our goal to increase the utilization of the available bandwidth between our schools in effort to increase our service levels through shared resources and expertise. I would say we are in very early stages of exploring our potential.

### **Applications**

Our Food Service POS system has become problematic. The hardware in the cafeteria service line is over 8 years old, and is due for an upgrade. We are making the necessary steps to purchase and implement before the end of the holiday break.

### **Training**

Technology Training sessions have continued for the Faculty, and I am immensely pleased with our progress. The feedback has been very positive, and I truly hope this remains a staple recurring opportunity for our faculty as our use of technology in education continues to grow.