

Desktop Systems

DDE Computer have been ordered and received. As of the Board Meeting they should be installed and ready for school. ADS iMAC's have been deployed to the classroom, and had their software installed. The MAC network deployment strategy has been designed, and implemented. As it turns out having MAC's without a MAC XServer is much more difficult than with a MAC XServer. Currently we are using an old iMAC machine borrowed from General McLane School District as our MAC XServer. Thank you General McLane School District, and expressly Jeremy Dylewski and his technology staff for their MAC expertise, time, and resources to help us.

We have deployed Windows 7 (64-bit) to our office staff, new computers, and qualified re-deployed computers. Windows 7 offers the latest in features available from Microsoft, and I believe it is a positive choice for presenting ECTS as an innovative institution. Embedded in Windows 7 are some very good easy to use Video Authoring tools which will become valuable in the coming years as students transition their student portfolios into digital content, and expressly multimedia content. We realize there will be challenges with Windows 7, with our choice of using the (64-bit) flavor, and in the integration of MAC's into our network. These challenges may include several unanticipated pitfalls; but in technology not all risks can be anticipated. We are going to make every effort to ensure rapid response with our HelpDesk system to mitigate issues as they become evident.

Network and Server Systems

Our email systems have officially been migrated to Virtual Server technology; and are running on the production Microsoft Hyper-V Virtualization Server. This has been an ongoing project over the last year that was plagued with hardware and driver errors; as well as longer than expected support solutions from both Dell and Microsoft. Virtualization is an emerging technology aimed at reducing IT power consumption, and increasing data center flexibility. Our email server was our first step at introducing Virtualization at ECTS; and we anticipate growing our Virtualized environment in the coming years as systems become due for replacement.

Our Network demands have increased over the years, and in addition to file system risks like Virus' and malware, we have introduced network risks. Rogue network devices like personal laptops and handheld communication devices like the iPOD bring with them new challenges. Embracing these devices is an opportunity to engage many of our students, but we must remain cognitive of the potential impact. The use of these devices is expected to increase in the next school year, and we have made an effort to minimize known potential risks through network segmentation (ie. new hallways and doors on our data network), and we anticipate monitoring any other impacts of these devices as they arise.

Technology Staff

Our summer staff Peter Craven, EIT Intern of Waterford (originally), David Wesler, EIT Intern of Wattsburg, Dan Melena 2010 Networking graduate of Albion, and Clinton Litel 2010 Networking Graduate of Albion have done a wonderful job for us this summer. They exhibited professionalism, teamwork, and dedication to ECTS and IT. I am grateful for their hard work, and their flexibility. I hope our experience together has provided them with an edge in their future careers.