

Desktop Systems

When we upgraded the Art Lab to Macintosh PC's we anticipated losing the functionality to use their Multi-Function printer for scanning. As an art program, scanning is a large part of their curriculum, but the printer manufacture did not support network scanning with MAC's. We have reinstalled a Windows PC to provide the Network Scanning functionality; to a network location the MAC's can access, for this need until a better solution can be identified. During this process the ideals for scanning in the art program have expanded, and she would like a device capable of better resolution and support for much larger sizes.

We investigated visual presenter technology for various interests around the school. We have an older ELMO device that can provide overhead digital projection however its image quality and features are inferior to what's available on the market today. General McLane and North East School district technology manager's offered some great options, and we demoed a unit at IU5. We will continue to investigate this technology for the school; now that we have digital classrooms with overhead projectors throughout. The Digital Classroom plan anticipated the peripheral devices that can extend the use of a projector; but we knew installation of the hardware, issuing the laptops, and providing the training was the foundation necessary to open the doors to this type of engaging equipment.

Network and Server Systems

We have replaced two wireless access-point due to failure this month. We were able to replace them with the next generation technology (Wireless N capable) in anticipation of a future wireless renovation projects. The investments made to replace these access points are aligned with the goals of the wireless renovation; and will be usable devices in that plan.

Documentation and Planning

We visited the Total Cost of Ownership in the technology department, with the goal of determining the how to best plan for maintaining our software and equipment throughout it's lifecycle fiscally, and what we should anticipate financially for upgrade planning. A discussion was held at IU5 at the December RTSG meeting to investigate the benefit of a Microsoft Campus Agreement for K-12 that would be a consortium Agreement between the IU and several school districts. This concept, just launch at Microsoft this month; would permit a regional area of school districts to participate in one blanket software licensing agreement; with significant projected savings over what we're all doing currently.