

January 21, 2011

Desktop Systems

We have rolled out a few more Windows 7 Systems in January; and the appeal has been very positive. The change has sparked interest in learning new ways to do things; and we have provided education with almost every deployment on how the users could make improvement and be more efficient. This aspect of the deployment is the most rewarding for everyone.

Network and Server Systems

We have continued our stride to identify opportunities to improve our telephone service, and at the least provide redundancy so that service provider outages do not impact our ability to communicate with our districts. We are in conversations with IU5, Sting Communications, Time Warner, and One Communications. Jeremy Dylewski at General Mclane, Micheal Cortes at Fort LeBouf and I all have similar interest right now for our schools. We mentioned our ideas at the Regional Technology meeting at IU5 this month, and sparked a lot of interest for others. There are opportunities out there to do things more affordably; and were hoping the Regional WAN can help us lower telecommunication costs.

Applications

Some time was spent modifying a few reports that involved some custom programming. Due to the lack-luster reporting engine in SchoolDESX; as we evolve and our interests in analyzing data broadens and exceeds the limitations of the report writer. However, with a little creativity and understanding of the elements we are able to produce the desired reports. It's just not point and click.

We used an online community to find a freelance application developer to help us with extending our interests with our databases. As many of our internal processes for student management have evolved and become more flexible our ability to automate record updates and replicate those changes to all of our databases pertinent to our students is increasing in need.

SchoolDESX, LLC our Student Management Vendor has communicated with us that they are again going through a re-organization as they continue to determine how they can continue to compete in the Student Management market. I am encouraged by their new direction. They have asked for our help based on our experience with SchoolDESX to better understand how it has helped us as a part time CTC in areas where other SIS vendors have been weak or unattractive; in hopes we can help guide their future products.