

Desktop Systems

We successfully deployed Windows 7 to one Administrator (Paul Fritz); and are working with him to ensure a smooth transition for everyone else in the offices.

Our Anti Virus upgrade includes protection that enables end user interaction to verify trust with certain applications. This has inconvenienced some, and the reality is if the prompts are not fully understood, they are not providing value. We intend to roll out another upgrade and will be removing these prompts.

Network and Server Systems

We believe we have resolved our issues between the new Anti Virus and our Websense internet content filtering system. Websense was upgraded, and exceptions were created in the Anti Virus to resolve their incompatibilities.

In the process of working on our Anti Virus issue with Websense, we have identified that “transparent” end-user identification with Websense is not supported by Websense. This unfortunately means that to service and differentiate internet policies to users on our Macintosh computers requires an additional logon prompts. The classroom has been impeded by this process since the Mac’s were installed; however, until now there had been hope that this process would be improved.

As reported last month, on October 18, 2010 an update was applied to SchoolDEX, our student attendance and grading system in effort to resolve significant instability with the software disrupting daily operations. It has now been over a month since this update and I am confident at this point that this update was successful.

Application Development

We extended our online grade book (eDesx) to our Administration, Faculty, Clerical, and Instructional Aids. This addition to eDesx is providing faster access to student grade information, streamlining communication, enabling some new practices and/or opportunities, and simplifying some processes. We appreciate everyone’s involvement and creativity in leveraging the use of this application.

Documentation and Planning

Much of October and November was invested in cooperation with our State Auditors analyzing the complexities of the Pennsylvania Information Management System (PIMS) and its change to require CTC’s to report child accounting/membership data to the state. This change introduces many data requirements that the Erie County Technical School was previously not collecting or the authority of. One significant limitation of PIMS is its inability to relate information between districts, so that each district only reports information that it is the authority of (ie. ethnicity, residency, etc..). The end result is duplication and the possibility of miscommunication. We are working to establish a process for collecting the necessary information; and to determine a feasible reconciliation process of the data so that our state reports are accurate.