



MCCE NEWS

MONTANA COUNCIL FOR COMPUTERS
AND
TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION

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Integrating Technology Ideas & Views

by Desiree' Baisden

In Montana, our schools are beginning to see computers in almost every classroom. Teachers are tracking their grades, taking attendance, and communicating with each other – all with the assistance of computers. Some are even using presentation programs to present material to the students. My question is are we integrating technology into the classroom? Of course there are always the early adopters that have found ways to use technology in their classroom – to get it into the hands of their students - but what about the rest. My guess is, slowly but surely we are seeing more and more teachers understanding the role technology can play in education.

Recently I had the pleasure of presenting with a colleague, - Hal Schmid of St. Ignatius - at the Western Ed Technology Roundup in Bozeman. Our goal was to help school administrators, technology coordinators, and teachers understand the environment needed to successfully integrate technology into the curriculum. Here is an excerpt from that presentation:

Myths about technology

The first myth is content gets lost when teachers use technology in the classroom. The key is using technology effectively. When a teacher first uses technology in a lesson, they tend to focus more on the technology than the content. The technology should be used just as a pencil and paper are; they are just instruments used in the learning process – so is a computer. Students are familiar with the technology. Chances are they know more than you – and that's okay. So take the focus off the technology and have confidence that you can concentrate on the content.

Another myth is computers will replace the need for teachers and books, and children will become socially isolated. Teachers and books are as important as ever that is not going to change. With technology, teachers can pro-

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Webmastering in the K-12 School - Part 2 -

by Vince Long

In our last issue (MCCE News, December 2000) we covered some of the skills required to be a successful webmaster, particularly one who runs a web server in a K-12 school. Knowledge of various operating systems was mentioned as an advantage as were the abilities to handle network security, build web pages, and even do a little programming. While these skills, and the others mentioned, may seem daunting to the classroom teacher who just wants to set up their own web server, these skills are in no way a prerequisite to setting up a basic web server for a classroom or a school. Most of what it takes to run a server can be picked up along the way.

In this issue we will look at setting up a web server that will handle the traffic for a high school or a smaller school district. The goal here to keep things simple, secure, and inexpensive, especially inexpensive. But before we get started, lets look at why you might want to pursue this endeavor in the first place.

Having a school web site is becoming a requirement of operating in the technological world of ours. The public is becoming increasingly web-savvy and when they want to find information about a school they are likely to look on the school's web site before looking elsewhere. Information that the public will want to find there includes phone numbers and addresses, fax numbers, e-mail

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY SUZIE FLENTIE



Hello!

Our annual winter board meeting held in Lewistown on Feb. 10th was well attended and productive. Sally Brewer has agreed to come back on board as past president since Anne Stenberg left Montana to take a position with Microsoft. John Kuglin resigned from the board and Bill Lee has agreed to fill his spot for the remainder of his term. Thanks to Sally and Bill, and thanks to all of the board members who took time out of their busy schedule to attend our Saturday meeting. By the time this newsletter reaches all of you, you should have received a mailing including an invitation to present at the MEA convention next fall and a postcard to send us with your updated email address. We sincerely hope that many of you will decide to present. As you know, MEA gives presenters a \$30 stipend for each presentation. The MCCE board has decided to give each of our presenters an additional \$20. Our members who present will also receive a complimentary MCCE Montana shaped pin. Please return your applications to present as soon as possible.

All members can purchase a pin for \$6.50. Just send a check to me made payable to All Awards (my address is listed below). You can pick up your pin at the MCCE table at the MEA conference. Let me know if you need it sooner than that.

I have reserved a block of rooms at the Hampton Inn in Bozeman for the MEA convention. If anyone wants to book one of those rooms, call 522-8000 and ask for one of the MCCE rooms for those dates. They are \$58 per night.

We are excited to have Del Siegle for our keynote speaker for the MEA convention. Del has extensive experience with integrating technology into the curriculum and is currently a professor at the University of Connecticut.

Hopefully we will be able to continue our efforts to infuse technology into the classroom even in the wake of all the budget cuts the state is facing. Good luck to all of you.



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<http://www.neccsite.org/>

Join the team that is building on the future at the 22nd annual National Educational Computing Conference (NECC) to be held at McCormick Place in Chicago, from June 25th through the 27th, 2001.

Thousands of educators from across the globe will converge in the “city of broad shoulders” to explore the opportunities and innovations of education in the 21st century.

Inspiring speakers, stimulating workshops, a massive network of educational professionals, the biggest ed tech exhibit in the world, and more than 20 years of conference experience guarantee that your time at NECC 2001 will be well spent.

The foundation of education in the Information Age is being built this very moment—whether you’re constructing from the ground up or are already at the top floor, NECC is the best staff development choice you’ll make this year.

Partial Listing of Keynote Speakers



Steve Jobs
CEO, Apple
Monday, 8:30–9:45 am

Steve Jobs is CEO of Apple, a leader in personal computing devices that he co-founded in 1976, and CEO of Pixar, the Academy-Award winning computer animation studios that he co-founded in 1986. Steve grew up in the apricot orchards that later became known as Silicon Valley, and he still lives there with his wife and three children.



Janiece Webb

"Touching Tomorrow Today: A Practical Look at Future Technologies"

Janiece Webb is the Senior Vice President and General Manager of the Internet Software and Content Group, Motorola, Inc. She is the highest ranking woman at Motorola.

Debbie Silver



"Going Outside the Lines"

Dr. Debbie Silver began her teaching career in 1970 and has taught almost every grade level, almost every subject, and almost every type of student including many exceptional children along the way.

Member E-Mail Address Roundup



The list of e-mail addresses that we have for our members is out of date. Many of you have changed your e-mail account since you first became an MCCE member and we sure do not want to lose track of you.

Rather than deluge our Treasurer, Randa Siegle, with e-mail we have set up an account at Yahoo. **ALL MEMBERS**, please send a message to mccenews@yahoo.com and please include, in the body of your message, your full name and current mailing address.

Or, send back the postcard that was recently sent to all members.

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Next Submission Deadline:
12 April 2001

This and past issues of MCCE News are available on the World Wide Web at:
<http://senior.billings.k12.mt.us/mcce/>

Webmastering in the K-12 School

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addresses, list of staff names and contact information, the geographical area served, curriculum information including course descriptions, activity schedules, alumni and reunion information, and samples of student work.

Most Internet Service Providers (ISP), including those who provide Internet access for schools, provide some hard drive space on their web servers which schools use to store their web pages. This is convenient since the ISP takes responsibility for keep the server running, however, users are usually given only a small amount of hard drive space and limited, if any, access to CGI (Common Gateway Interface), a feature that can let you run your own programs on your web site. Some school districts set up their own web servers that run at the district level from some central location. Again, space and access might be limited. To have full control over your web site you really need to have control over the web server on which it is stored and the ultimate control is to have the server physically located in your building or, even better, in your classroom.

Before getting to far into this project you should check with your district's technology coordinator to determine if current policy allows individuals to run their own servers. In most cases your server will not impact the overall network, but this depends on your school's network design, the amount of traffic that your server will get, and whether the traffic will come from inside the school's network or from outside it. If much of the content on your site is designed to serve those in your building, it is likely that the tech coordinator will welcome the server as it will minimize the traffic between

computers in your building and the outside world. Additionally, if your district's network is behind a firewall, the coordinator will need to "map" your server's address to the outside world so users outside the district may access it.

OK, so we have the desire and the permission, or at least the willingness to ask for forgiveness, and we're ready to get started. You need to acquire both hardware and software to get your server online and luckily both are free, or nearly free. Let's look at hardware issues first. You will need a computer, obviously, but it does not need to be the fastest, most up to date machine available and could be a Mac, a Windows machine, or even a PC running a free operating system such as Linux. Remember, we want to set this system up using the least expensive, simplest route possible and I am looking for a computer that is essentially free. Most Mac users seem to use their computers forever and finding a free Mac, via a donation, is not as likely as finding a hand-me-down Windows computer. The corporate world is heavily dominated by the Windows platform and they upgrade their machines on a fairly regular basis, which creates a good number of machines available to a worthy cause such as ours, therefore we will be looking for a Windows-based computer. Start spreading the word as to what you are looking for to parent groups and anyone else who will listen.

How much of a computer system do we need? Using the computer that runs the web site for Senior High as a gauge, I can tell you that a Pentium 150mHz with 64 megabytes of RAM is sufficient to handle the 2,000 hits we receive daily as well as process CGI scripts and

deliver streaming audio and video. While this server runs Windows NT 4.0 I have another server dedicated only to student use that is a donated Pentium 100 with 32 megabytes of RAM running Windows 98 that more than handles its duties as a web server. So, a gigahertz machine with a massive amount of storage space is not required to accomplish our goal and the only piece of hardware that you might have to add is a network interface card. The bottom line is that any machine capable of surfing the net can be used as a basic web server. While you can use an existing computer in your classroom that serves double-duty as a web server and your workstation, you are likely to see a degradation in performance unless the computer is fairly robust.

Now that we have the hardware side of the server dealt with we need to select web server software and, again, we will look at obtain the least expensive options available to us. There are commercially available server packages that will handle all of your needs and them some, but these products are generally targeted at businesses community and their needs for electronic commerce, something that schools, for the most part, will have little need for. In the world of free server software the most popular is likely Apache (www.apache.org), which runs on both Unix (Linux) and Windows platforms. It is part of the open source movement, and while it is quite robust, it does take a bit of techie-type fiddling to get properly configured.

A simpler, in my opinion, solution is to obtain Sambar Server from www.sambar.com. Not only is it fairly compact, full of useful features, free to educational use, but

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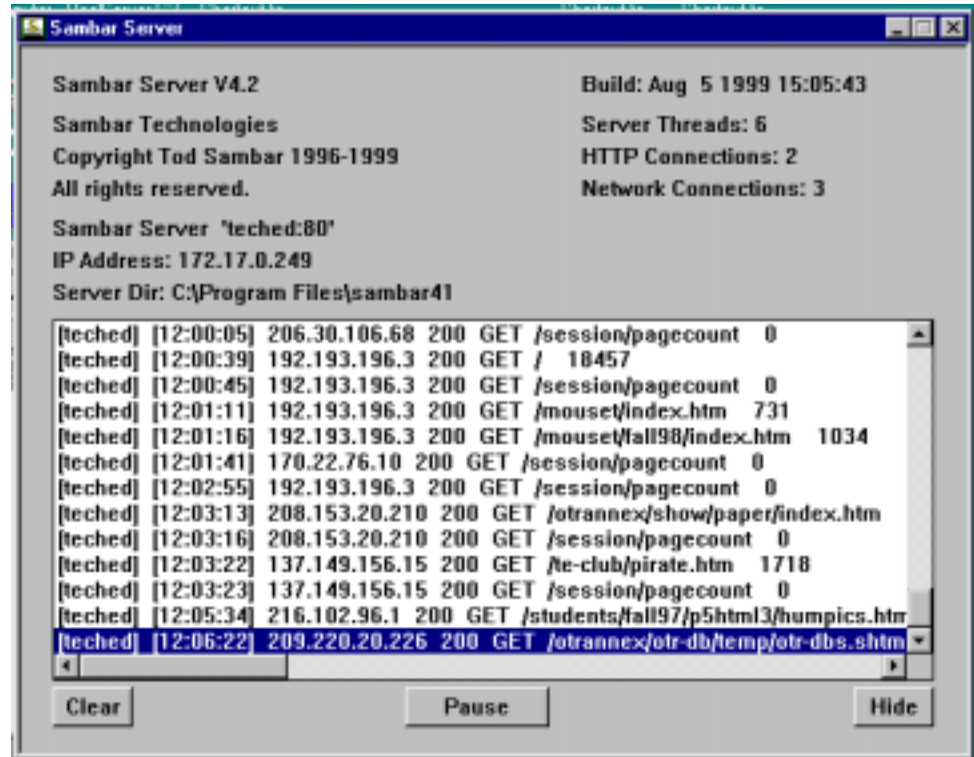
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you can subscribe to the free mailing list that puts you in direct contact with other Sambar Server users and Todd Sambar, the programmer behind this product. A few years ago I noticed that visitors to one of our school's web pages were attempting to resume broken downloads, a feature not supported by the version of Sambar I was using at the time. I e-mailed Todd about this issue and, sure enough, the feature was included in the next version. Try getting that type of service, at any price, from software sold by any mega-corporation.

OK, so let's go through the installation process with Sambar. Go to the Sambar web site and download the latest "production" version, which should be listed at the top of the first page. As I write this, the current version is 4.4 and is in the .ZIP format, which means it is a compressed file, the digital world's version of freeze-drying, a technique that makes the file smaller for transmitting through the network. To reconstitute the file after you have it on your computer you will need WinZip (www.winzip.com/) or similar tool to convert the .ZIP file into the Sambar installer. Just unzip the file into a new folder and the result will be about a dozen new files in that folder. Double-click on the Setup.exe file in that new folder.

Follow the instructions during the install process to do a "typical" installation. When the process is complete you should be left with a Sambar window open on your desktop. You can start the server by



double-clicking on the Sambar icon or by going to the Start menu and looking for Sambar under the Programs menu. Once you launch Sambar an icon for it will appear in the lower-right corner of your task bar, next to your clock. A monitoring window might also appear on your desktop and if it does not, double-click on the Sambar icon in your task bar. This window shows who is logging in to your server and what pages they are viewing.

I am assuming that the computer you are using for this has a "live" Internet connection. If so, you will see your computer's IP address in the Sambar monitoring window. Now launch your web browser and once it gets loaded type your IP address in the address bar and press the Enter key. Sambar Server will answer and present the Sambar default startup page, which is similar

to their web site's page. Scroll down and click on the System Administration link and you will be shown a login box. Type in "admin" for your user name, leave the password blank, and then click on "OK." You will be taken to the Sambar Server Administration page.

At this point take some time to read the Server Documentation by clicking on its link. Pay specific attention to the security features and requirements. The most important thing to do is to set a password for your administrator account. To do this, click on the User Management link in the Server Administrator page. In the left frame, click on the "admin" link under the "root" group. The "admin" account information will appear in the right frame. Type in your new password in the empty

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Integrating Technology: Ideas & Views

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vide more opportunities for student-centered learning and can cover more information. Children are not becoming socially isolated; rather, instructional activities that use technology tend to encourage more student teamwork and collaboration.

Computers are not the end-all and they certainly could never take the place of an effective teacher. However, our students are growing up in a digital age. If we don't use technology, we are not preparing students for today and tomorrow.

Preparing our children for today and tomorrow means...

Planning for Technology Integration - not just buying hardware and software, but creating a plan that addresses your schools' educational goals.

The content of the curriculum needs to be developed first and then the discussion will lead to the best strategies and methods to improve teaching and learning. These strategies need to include the use of technology. In this plan, a strong community connection needs to be established so that educators are made aware of what employers expect from their future employees.

Staff development needs to be seen as a priority in this planning process. But, it is not just enough to say "We will do staff development." Plan and create meaningful training for teachers that they can immediately put to use in the classroom. Allow them to work on current lessons while they learn the technology. Also, providing training is nice but if there is never any follow-up or support after the initial exposure to new technology, the teachers will tend to ignore what they have learned and go back to traditional teaching methods.

Hal and myself are fortunate enough to be involved in a staff devel-

opment grant called MT TALES (Technology And Learning in Every School) that emphasizes an effective staff development program. Teachers are given incentives, time, support, equipment and training. In return they are asked to reflect on their learning practices, teaching approach and contemplate the idea of delivering information to students in a different manner. The idea is to transition the delivery system. In order to prepare our students for the future we need to move from:

Teacher-Centered to Student-Centered Activities

Whole Class to Small-Group Instruction

Structured to Exploratory Learning

Competitive to Cooperative Environments

Classroom to Whole-World Interaction

Preparing our students for the future used to mean providing them with a solid foundation of academic and social skills. Today, with the workplace embracing the digital revolution, employers expect workers to possess basic technology literacy skills, understand teamwork, and to have strong communication and problem-solving skills. Fortunately, the same technology that has changed the workplace has the potential to transform education, enabling schools to truly prepare students for the workforce today and tomorrow.



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box and then scroll to the bottom of that frame and click on the "Update User" button. Activating this password will prevent anyone from having access to your server's configuration files, except you.

Your next question is probably, "Where do I put my web pages?" You place them in the "docs" folder in the "Sambar44" folder. To get there, open "My Computer" -> "C:" -> "sambar44" -> "docs." The files and folders you find there are the default pages. Rename the "index.htm" page to something like "admin.htm" and then you can save your main web pages right in this folder. Just make sure to name your main page "index.htm." To log back in as the system administrator you will type in your IP address, a forward slash, and then your administrator page name. For example: <http://192.162.98.34/admin.htm>

Again, take the time to read through the user documentation as it contains more information than I can cover here. In our next issue, we will look at setting up the FTP server in Sambar, which allows you and designated users to login to the hard drive of the server remotely for updating the web pages. We will also look at reports that Sambar can generate that show statistical information about your site usage.



Webserver Site Reference

Servers

Apache
www.apache.org

Sambar
www.sambar.com

File Compression

Winzip
www.winzip.com

For Everything Else
www.tucows.com



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Fundraising Opportunity

Open an Online Bookstore on Your School's Website

Amazon.com, the online e-tailer, has an associates program that will bring your school cash for books visitors to your site buy through Amazon. You feature books on your website with links to Amazon. You'll be paid up to 15% for individually linked books that you feature on your site and 5% for other products you might feature on your site like books, CDs, videos, DVDs, toys, consumer electronics, and home improvement items. You will also be paid 5% for any incremental purchases your visitors make after following one of your links to our site. For any sales generated through search box, home page links, or subject page links, you'll be paid 5% in referral fees. Referral fees for products other than books, music, videos, and DVDs are limited to a maximum of \$10 per item.

For more information, visit:

www.amazon.com/associates/

2001 Outstanding Technology Using Educator

Nomination Form

Return to: Suzie Flentie
702 W. Farewell
Lewiston, MT 59457

The following Montana teacher is nominated as an Outstanding Technology Using Educator:

Nominees Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City / MT / Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

School: _____

School Address: _____

School Phone: Voice: _____ FAX: _____

E-mail Address: _____

District / System: _____

Current Teaching Assignment: _____

Years of Teaching Experience: _____

Signature of Principal / Supervisor indicating support of nominee:

Signature

Date

Please Print Name

Montana Council for Computers and Technology in Education
Membership Form

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Mailing Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ E-mail _____

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Area of Interest: College _____ High School _____ K-8 _____

Please be an active member by indicating your area(s) of interest:
 willing to be an officer
 willing to submit articles for the newsletter
 willing to be on the Board of Directors
 willing to work on MCCE committees
 willing to be on a committee for a convention

Dues: _____ \$12.00 per year _____ \$30.00 for 3 years

Mail the completed membership form and dues to:

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