



MCCE NEWS

MONTANA COUNCIL FOR COMPUTERS
AND
TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION

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Time for schools to join “The Cloud?”

by Vince Long

In the earliest days of computer use, the standard model was to use of a “green-screen” text terminal connect to a “terminal server” that was in turn connected to a network that allowed the user to interact with software on a remote machine. Over time, the text terminal became a computer in its own right and ran “client” software that worked with programs running on a remote server. This “client-server” model has come to dominate computer network architecture in commercial, business, and research applications.

In the late 70s, the emergence of the personal computer brought a new technology into homes and small businesses. These new machines accomplished what they did without the “client-server” model since network access was either unavailable or extremely expensive. Instead of utilizing programs run from a centralized location, the programs ran right on the host computer, however all of this began to change once access to the Internet became ubiquitous.

Today we run a hybrid model, using some software applications installed on our personal computers and using others built on the “client-server” model. There are a variety of clients people use such as email clients, newsreaders, chat clients, but the universal client of choice is the web browser. Whether that browser is Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari, or Opera, each of these has become a Swiss-army knife in the world of clients.

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Keep In Touch with iGoogle

by Kathi Hoyt

When I first joined MCCE I knew that it was a curriculum group that I wanted to be a part of because I was interested in technology and wanted to learn more about integrating it into my classroom. The sessions at MEA conference were always useful and I found myself wanting to share and learn more throughout the whole year instead of just in October. As I bemoaned the fact with Desiree, she reminded me (with a smile) about the MCCE newsletter, website, and blog. What I realized, was that all of these resources were available to me and I just needed to remember to use them. I knew that there were additional blogs that I wanted to follow, but I always seemed to be busy and



never thought about accessing them. iGoogle homepage to my rescue!! When I personalized my iGoogle homepage I found that I could put an RSS feed on my page. (RSS is an abbreviation for Really Simple Syndication which is a form of Web feed formats used to publish frequently updated works such as blogs, newspapers, etc). I no longer miss posts on my favorite blogs and I find that it only takes a minute to keep updated with what is new in technology.

If you don't have an iGoogle homepage you can create one by going to the Google homepage. Right below the “search” box you will see where you can create your own Google page. Once you get started you can add “gadget’s” (current weather, timer, news headlines, etc), change your theme, have instant access to your Google docs or Google mail. Go ahead, give it a try... just one more fun and useful tool from Google.

by Mark Jenkins

I suppose that an introduction is in order for most of you. I am John Mark Jenkins, President for this year and next. I go by Mark as my father was John. My certifications include BroadfieldScience, Industrial Arts, Biology, and General Science. I have taught and coached since 1980 in Montana and Alaska. In that time I have taught a wide range of subjects including: Math, Art, Industrial Arts, Science, P. E., Social Studies, English, and Computers. My first computer was a Commodore64 and then an Apple II. I have worked in DOS, hated it. I really got hooked on computers and what they can do in education when Big Sky Telegraph started. Remember when? Since this early time I have been integrating in all of my classrooms. This is such a marvelous method of hooking into kids and creating a positive and vibrant learning environment.

I took on this job as there seemed no one who was willing 2 years ago. If I was to be a member then I needed to step up and become a working part. I also figured that if I was going to step up I should also present at MEA and did so at Missoula. I look at what is being done in school classrooms by the members and feel that we not only need to continue to move ahead with our technology integration, but really need to share and promote what we do.

As the president I want to promote our organization, enhance what we do, help others to incorporate technology in their classrooms, and upgrade our membership. MCCE is such a wonderful organization and does such remarkable things that we need to let others know. Each of us has information we need to share through the MCCE Blog and the newsletter.

I hope to make this a wonderful and growing year and hope to meet you one and all.



Joining ISTE

MCCE is the Montana affiliate of ISTE, the International Society for Technology in Education. The

International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) is the trusted source for professional development, knowledge generation, advocacy, and leadership for innovation. A nonprofit membership organization, ISTE provides leadership and service to improve teaching, learning, and school leadership by advancing the effective use of technology in PK-12 and teacher education. Home of the National Educational Technology Standards (NETS), the Center for Applied Research in Educational Technology (CARET), and the National Educational Computing Conference (NECC), ISTE represents more than 85,000 professionals worldwide. We support our members with information, networking opportunities, and guidance as they face the challenge of transforming education.

The MCCE affiliate # for ISTE is: 189252. If you reference this number, you receive a discounted member price for ISTE.



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

"The Cloud"

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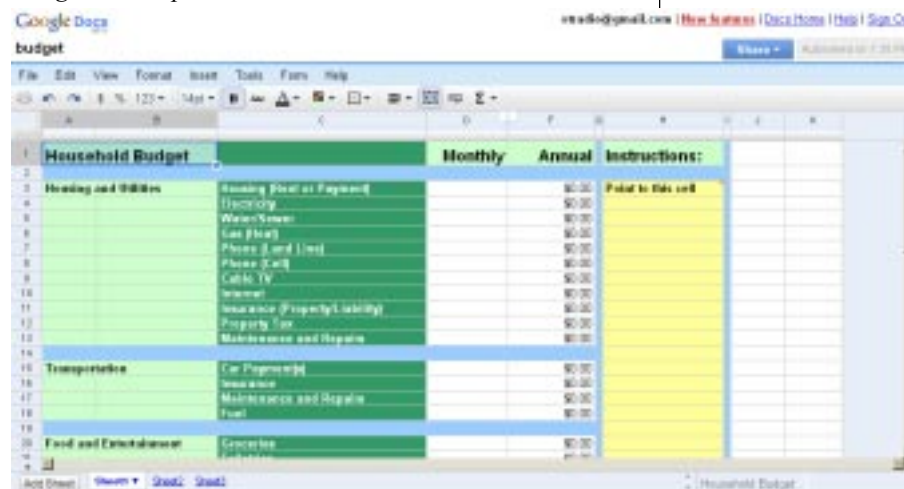
They can be used to perform many of the specialized functions that required separate programs in the past. Firefox, notably, does this utilizing user-installed add-ons created by the open source development community.

The Internet, this vast network-of-networks, has been referred to as "the cloud" for many years, however, "cloud computing" has taken on a specific meaning in recent technology dialog. It describes a reliance on the the client-server model where applications run on the server but delivered through a web browser. While this in itself is nothing new, what is new is that these services are replacing applications that were previously installed on the personal computer, applications such as word processing.

This change can be thought of as another step in the evolution of the Internet called "Web 2.0," which is not a change in hardware, software, or structure, but a change in how we use the technology. Web 2.0 refers to the transition of a World Wide Web made up of static web page created by "webmasters" to a network of dynamic content created by anyone. Examples include the world of blogs and social networks but also includes a new array of online tools for managing online content.

So, where do schools fit into this new cloud? In the past they have utilized the web as a source of information,

GoogleDocs Spreadsheet



GoogleDocs Word Processor

gleaning content from web sites much the same way brick and mortar libraries were used in the past. They also used the Internet for email and to host their school web sites. Many deployed school management systems online that provide grading and attendance solutions and a few have even dabbled in online classes. However, "The Cloud" is now offering applications that can not only expand tools available to students, but can possibly save school districts money in the process. Replacing applications installed on individual computers with online alternatives is one way to accomplish this.

Online applications are provided using several models. In one, software as a service (SaaS), customers subscribe to the service and only pay for what they use. Think of it as "software on demand." The cost saving can be significant when factoring the reduced need for local storage, server, and support. A disadvantage to this model is that the cost of software becomes a variable instead of a fixed cost, something that budgeting committees do not like dealing

with, however, for schools there are some no-cost options.

One of the leaders in this field is Google with their GoogleApps (<http://www.google.com/apps>). For example, their GoogleDocs (<http://www.google.com/docs/>) is an online application that functions as a replacement for traditional, locally-installed programs such as Microsoft Office. GoogleDocs features a

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Static vs Social Bookmarking

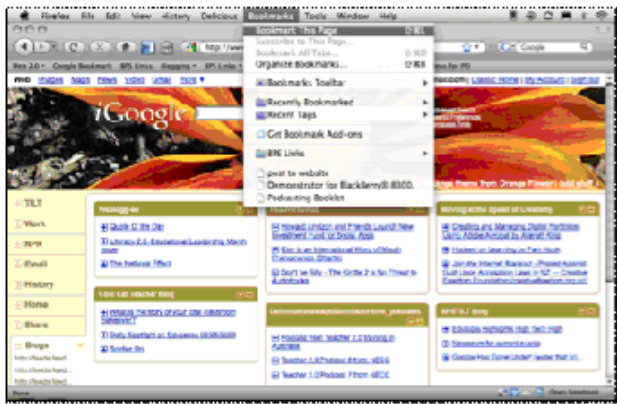
by *Desirée Caskey*

Teachers are always grumbling that they bookmark a website to visit later, then can't find it again...oh yeah...because they bookmarked it at home or on a different computer. So one of the things I try to teach them is static vs social bookmarking.

Static Bookmarking

The easiest way to understand static bookmarking is to think, when you bookmark a website, you are bookmarking it for one browser, for one computer, for one location. If you use a different browser or visit a different computer, you will not be able to access your bookmarks. You could export all your bookmarks and carry them around with you on a flash drive, but you would have to update this file each time you create a new bookmark – not very efficient. If you want to share a website with a colleague, you need to copy and paste the website address into an email message.

Static Bookmarking in Your Browser



Social Bookmarking

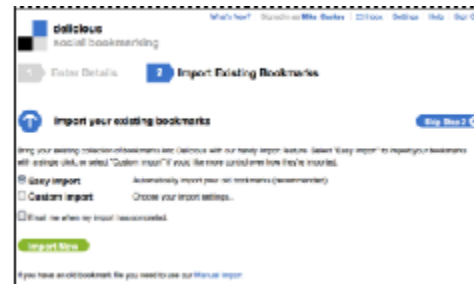
So we know that static bookmarking ties us to our computer. If we want to be able to access our bookmarks from any computer, in any browser, we can do that with the use of social bookmarking. There are several aspects of social bookmarking that set it apart from static bookmarking. First, you can save your favorite websites to a common website – which you can access from any computer that has Internet access. Second, you can organize your favorite websites by using a tagging system. Finally, you can share your favorite websites with anyone you choose. Know that you can also choose not to share a website. There are

several good social bookmarking websites, but my favorite is delicious. (Some others you might want to explore are Magnolia, Digg, or iKeepBookMarks)

Starting with Delicious

Delicious is a social bookmarking site that allows you to store your favorite websites online, share them with others, and organize them by using a tagging system. To get started with Delicious... create an account, import bookmarks if you want, and start saving your favorite sites.

Setting up a Delicious Account



Saving To Delicious

Delicious has bookmarking tools to help you save your favorite websites with just a click. You can add the bookmarking tools when you save a new bookmark (see Save a new bookmark illustration above) or you can use your browser extensions to add specialized bookmarking tools(see Firefox illustration on the next page).

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Social Bookmarking

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Firefox Add-ons



Making Delicious Social

In Delicious, you not only save and organize your favorite websites, but you also share them. You do this through your network. Your network consists of other Delicious users with which you might share similar interests. Many well-known education gurus have Delicious accounts, and it is awesome to access websites they have bookmarked

and find valuable. If you know a person's username, you can access their favorite websites and add them to your network. My Delicious username is caskeyd, so to access my favorite bookmarks, you would go to delicious.com/caskeyd. Add me to your network!

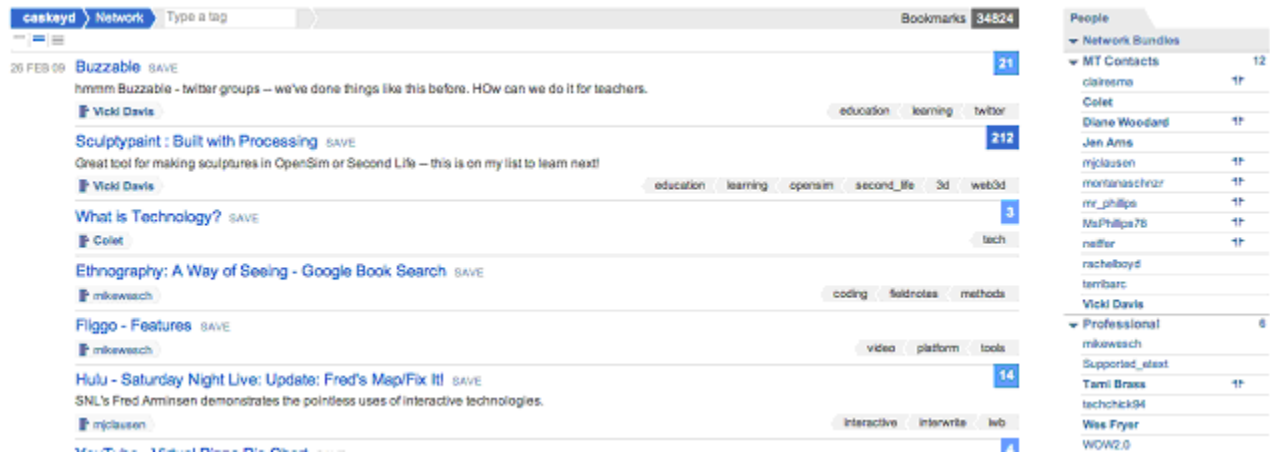
Classroom Impact

Many teachers have been using social bookmarking as a way to share valuable websites with colleagues and students. For example, I have teachers setting up tags for specific topics, like Solar_System or WWII. The students can then access a collection of relevant websites to research these specific topics. When I have a group of teachers together who teach the same grade level or same subject, I make sure that they are networked in Delicious, so that each one benefits from the others' research. It is amazing how quickly and effortlessly we can gather a large collection of valuable resources by using this tool.

Share and Share Alike

Do you have a Delicious account? Why not share your favorite websites with us? Send an email to mcce@billings.k12.mt.us with your Delicious username. Let's see how many people you get in your network!

Viewing Your Network in Delicious



Donor's Choose

For those of you with creative ideas about how to use some sort of technology in your classroom, but have been disappointed because you can't seem to get your hands on it, this site is for you!!

Donorschoose.org allows teachers to make a proposal that they would like to see funded for their school. Then, other people around the country read your proposal and decide to help you fund it. It is an amazing system. I was able to get an ELMO funded for my classroom. Other teachers have received projection systems and cameras. I am very excited about this website because I see it as a way to gain and give back to the education of students around the nation. Check it out!

Abbie Hansen, Meadowlark Elementary



Montana EdTech Summit

This year's Montana EdTech Summit will be held in conjunction with the Montana Institute on Educational Technology June 8-12, 2009 in Great Falls.

Montana EdTech Summit 2009 is accepting applications for workshop session proposals.

Presentations selected for workshops will be Tuesday, June 9, 2009.

Here's the link to present!
http://www.nr-es.org/2009/ettech2009/2009call_for_presen.htm

Those who present will be eligible to attend Monday's keynote and afternoon sessions for free in addition to being paid \$46 per hour for your teaching session.

Hope to see you all here in Great Falls!

Katie Kotynski
Instructional Technology, Great Falls Public Schools

The Poor Man's Document Camera

Can't afford a \$2000 document camera? At Broadwater School in Helena we are using our new Epson DC10S, available for under \$400. Released last April, this folding camera has not yet been reviewed by CNET (December 2008). We know we like it, though!

Folded down for storage the camera is about the size of a box of chocolates. The folding arm pulls up to adjust for height, and the lens can be rotated for portrait or landscape view. The control panel on the base is easy to use and an SD slot can display photos. Live and captured images can be displayed side-by-side with the split screen function. The camera has 128 MB of internal memory.



Our teachers carry it from room to room easily and set it up anywhere they want within reach of a projector. Kindergartners watched with rapt attention as the teacher showed them how to draw; fifth-graders learned from an origami expert how to make paper cranes.

Other companies are producing similar products. Look for the Aver Media CP130, under \$550; Elmo TT-02S, under \$600; and the Toshiba TLP-C001; under \$500.

By Marla Unruh, Library Media Specialist
munruh@helena.k12.mt.us

Editor's note:

For the DIY (do-it-yourself) crowd, there are even less expensive alternatives. Your quality may vary but sometimes it might just be good enough.

Making a document camera using the Macintosh iSight

<http://learningcurves.blogspot.com/2006/10/afternoon-craft-project.html>

Cheap document camera using standard digital camera

http://www.instructables.com/id/Document_camera_for_art_teachers/

The Cloud

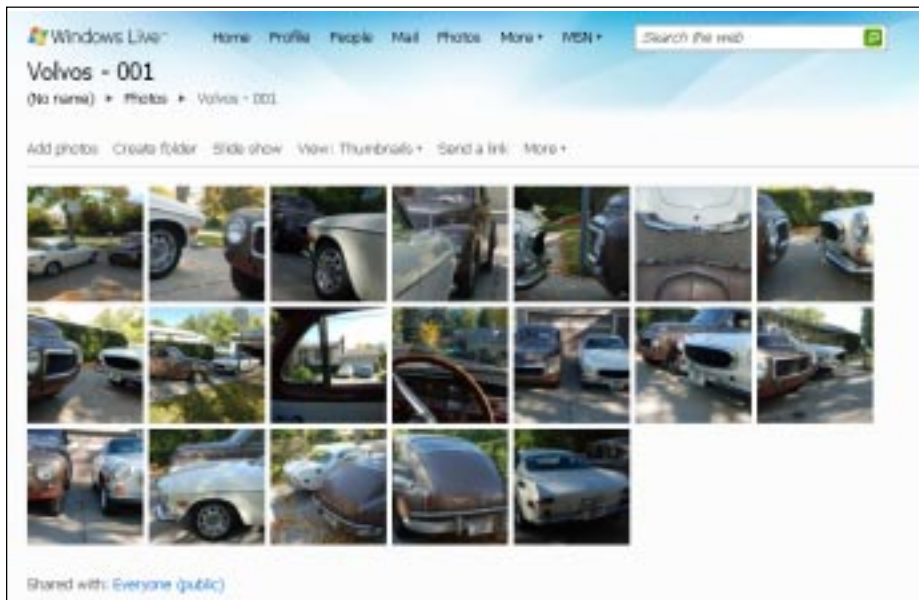
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word processor, spreadsheet, and presentation application, all of which are accessed with a web browser. This approach offers many advantages over the way we have been creating documents. Not only is storage and backup taken care of somewhere else, but the documents can be opened to other users for collaboration without the need to deal with local networking issues.

While Google does charge a fee for "Premium Edition" users, providing them additional file space, that tier of service is free for the education community. Individual users can set up free accounts.

Not to be left behind, Microsoft had deployed its own online applications through its Microsoft Live initiatives. Microsoft Office Live Small Business provides tools to get small businesses online and gives them various applications including contact management, web site development and hosting, project management tools, and e-commerce and e-marketing services. Currently under development are a slate of new online tools, some of which are already available under the Windows Live banner.

Live - Photo gallery



Pixlr Image Editor

One Microsoft Live application that is handy, and free, is SkyDrive (<http://skydrive.live.com>). This functions like an external hard drive that is accessed from anywhere using a web browser. Once a free account has been set up, users can upload up to 25 gigabytes of content. Folders can be created and marked for sharing or not. A similar tool is Windows Live Photos, a photo sharing site where users can upload gigabytes of photos for sharing with others. Google provides a similar service called Picassa.

While the biggies, Microsoft and Google, are rushing into this new arena, they are not the only ones forging "The

Cloud." A Swedish group has deployed Pixlr (<http://www.pixlr.com/editor/>), an online, Flash-based photo editor that is amazingly feature-rich. Users upload their photos, either from their hard drive or imported from a URL, and then can apply a myriad of tools to that picture, all without installing an application.

Of course, it should probably be mentioned that the 1,000s of online Flash-based games are part of the browser-based applications world. Some of these fall into the "edutainment" category and may be useful in the classroom.



**Montana Council for Computers and Technology in Education
Membership Form**

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ E-mail _____

New Member _____ Renewal _____

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: _____ \$15.00 per year _____ \$35.00 for 3 years

Mail the completed membership form and dues to:

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Billings, MT 59101