



MCCE NEWS

MONTANA COUNCIL FOR COMPUTERS
AND
TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION

Vol. 14, No. 1

October 2001

The Benefits of Post-1984 Technology

by Vince Long

It is not uncommon in our hi-tech world to hear the warnings of George Orwell echo with the release of some new technology that can threaten privacy, individualism, or the foundation of democracy. The proliferation of the “web cam,” tiny cameras distributed throughout the world, feeding their data to an international audience of voyeurs, easily bring images of “Big Brother” to mind. Today we now come to find various software applications tracking their user’s actions, reporting back to the creators for purposes ranging from targeted marketing to blackmail.

However, this technology, like all technology, is politically and morally neutral, and it is the use to which it is put that determines its ethics. A case in point is Virtual Network Computing (VNC) an application developed by AT&T Laboratories Cambridge, England. This incredibly useful application could be one person’s spyware and another’s teaching tool.

AT&T Laboratories developed this software to allow a user of one operating system, say, Windows, to view the desktop on another system, like Unix. Not only is it possible to view the other computer’s desktop, but the remote computer can actually be controlled, right down to the mouse movements.

Software of this type has been around for a while with commercial applications such as PC-Anyware and Timbuktu-Pro, however, VNC has a major advantage that will be of interest to those in the educational community: it is free. It is also small and available for the Macintosh, Windows, and Linux platforms. All you will need are two computers that are networked to give it a try. A “live” Internet connection is not required, though the presence of the TCP/IP protocol is.

Getting Started

The software is available for downloading at AT&T

Laboratories web site:

<http://www.uk.research.att.com/vnc/index.html>



Once there, you will find plenty of information about the software including online documentation and a helpful FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions). When you go to the “Download” link you will find a list of platform offerings including Linux, Solaris, Windows 98/2000, and the Macintosh. The Mac version requires a PowerPC processor though there is a “viewer only” version for the 68K processor family. For those techie-types interested

in modifying VNC, the full source code is available in a variety of versions as well.

(The following applies to the Windows version of VNC, but the process is similar for other platforms.)

Setting Up the Server

After downloading VNC to your computer it will have to be decompressed using something like WinZip for Windows or Stuffit for the Mac. This will yield a folder containing two more folders, one for the server and one for the viewer. The resulting folders will be about 1.2

(Continued on Page 5)

In This Issue

Benefits of Post-1984 Tech	Page 1
President's Corner	Page 2
MCCE Keynote Speaker	Page 3
Meet the Board Candidates	Page 4
Browser History	Page 6

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY SUZIE FLENTIE



Hello and Farewell!

Greetings to all of you and thanks for your support of MCCE. This will be my final newsletter as president of MCCE. I will be turning over the reins to the very capable hands of Cathy Stone for the coming year. Good Luck to you Cathy.

We hope to see all of you at the MEA-MFT conference in Belgrade Oct. 18th & 19th. Board members please remember that we will have a board meeting at the Hampton Inn at 7:00 PM on Wed. the 17th. Come hungry.....We'll eat pizza. ☺

We will also have a general meeting for all members at 7:00 AM on Friday the 19th. It is listed in the conference booklet. Please plan to come and eat breakfast with us. We're always glad to see new faces and get input from all of you. We will be presenting our Technology Teacher of the Year (Vince Long) with his award, electing new board members and officers, and discussing plans for the coming year. We'll also have a drawing for a gift certificate.

Please try to attend the MCCE keynote address. Del Siegle from the University of Connecticut is our presenter and I know he'll be fantastic! Del is also presenting two workshops for us.

Those of you who are presenting this year should find presenter ribbons and MCCE pins in your packets. Please check in with us at the membership table or at the general meeting so that we can give you a check for presenting.

Your soon to be PAST President,

Suzie Flentie



**Join ISTE, the national voice
for the Montana Council for
Computers and Technology in
Education.**

<http://www.iste.org>

MCCE Officers & Board Members

President

Suzie Flentie

Past-President

Sally Brewer

President-Elect

Cathy Stone

Secretary

Ron Gebhardt

Treasurer

Randa Siegle

Board Members

Bill Lee

Cynthia Denton

Bob Gunderson

Jim Gregg

Carl Elliott

Desiree Baisden

Staci Auck

Buck Buchanan

Brenda Koch

Newsletter Editor

Vince Long

Submit articles to:

Vince Long

Billings Senior High

425 Grand Ave.

Billings, MT 59101

longv@billings.k12.mt.us

Del Siegle Selected as MCCE Keynote Speaker at Fall 2001 MEA/MFT Conference

Del Siegle is an assistant professor in residence at the University of Connecticut. He is on the board of directors for both the National Association for Gifted Children, where he is co-chairperson for the NAGC Education Commission, and the Council for Exceptional Children--The Association for the Gifted, where is a member of the Publications Board and webmaster. He also serves as coeditor of The National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented Newsletter and editor of the NAGC Technology Division Newsletter. Dr. Siegle is past president of the Montana Association for Gifted and Talented Education. Prior to earning his PhD in gifted education, he coordinated and taught for eight years in an academically gifted program in Montana, where he was a Montana semi-finalist for U.S. West Teacher of the Year. He lectures on issues related to educational technology and gifted and talented education.



Joint MCCE/AGATE Keynote Address

Differentiating Curriculum in the Information Age ("Teacher, the Server Ate My Homework")

Differentiating the curriculum for learners of different achievement and interests levels can be a daunting challenge for classroom teachers. During this keynote we will explore ways to use technology to create differentiated learning activities in the classroom. Topics to covered included developing electronic learning centers and incorporating technology into student directed independent projects.

Dell will also present two sectionals of the following:

Helping Students Construct Knowledge with Technology: The Best Educational Software Begins with a Blank Screen -- (K-12)

While computer tutorial and drill and practice programs abound in educational settings, some of the best educational software begins with a blank screen. During this session we'll explore the hidden power of Microsoft's office suite. With it and similar programs, classroom teachers can provide opportunities for students to construct and share knowledge. Projects that are appropriate for a variety of grade levels will be shared.

MCCE NEWS

MCCE NEWS is published four times per year by the Montana Council for Computers and Technology in Education. The contents are Copyright © 2001, by MCCE and the authors of the individual articles.

Next Submission Deadline:
12 December 2001

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



www.Twang to Play at the MEA/MFT Dance

The band will be playing at the MEA/MFT all conference dance on Thursday night. \$2.00 on registration form, \$3.00 at the door. It will be at the Elks club on Babcock. Get a preview of the band by visiting their web site at www.twang.org

Meet the Candidates for the MCCE Board of Directors

At the MEA-MFT Conference in Belgrade we will be electing three new members to our Board of Directors. We have three candidates for those positions and we would like you to meet them.

Karla McCale

I was born and raised in Philipsburg, MT and graduated from the U of M. I have been teaching at Centerville Public Schools for 20 years. In that time, I have taught Business/English/Computer Literacy and most recently serve as part-time Technology Coordinator/Systems Operator.

I have written and received two TLC grants and have used the funds to build a network of over 120 computers with Internet access throughout the building. I am a Certified Cisco Instructor and encouraged Centerville to become one of the first local Cisco Academies. In addition, I serve as our Distance Learning Coordinator and was recently elected President of the North Net Distance Learning Consortium. I had an opportunity to work on the Business/Technology Standards Committee for the Office of Public

Instruction and am active in Tech Prep.

I enjoy presenting workshops on Technology Integration at conferences, conventions and to area schools. I truly believe that technology is our future and as educators, we have to be prepared.

Allen Severeid

I am the computer coordinator and library media specialist for the Big Timber Grade School District. This is my third year as the computer coordinator and library media specialist. I commute daily to Big Timber from Belgrade, MT where I live with my wife and two children.

I have been working with computers for several years now. It is my belief that technology is the backbone of education, and we should all do our part to learn as much as we can in technology.

I look forward to bringing all that I have learned about technology to you, and learning from all of you as well. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to tell you a little about myself.

Kathleen M. Sindt (Kathy)

Asst. Professor, Educational Technology, MSU-Billings since 1998 also currently Technology Coordinator for the MSU-Billings PT3 grant.

Ph.D. in Educational Technology from University of Northern Colorado, 2001

MS in Instructional Technology from University of Wyoming,

I have worked in the field of Ed tech since, 1985 in varying roles. I've been a technology consultant for an educational printing company, a district elementary technology specialist, and an instructional designer working to help create workshops for elementary and secondary teachers in the area of space science.

The Annual MCCE Members Meeting, Breakfast, and Awards Presentation will be held on Friday, October 19, 2001 at 7:00 am in Room 11 at Belgrade High School.

VNC Provides 1984 Technology

(Continued from
Page 1)

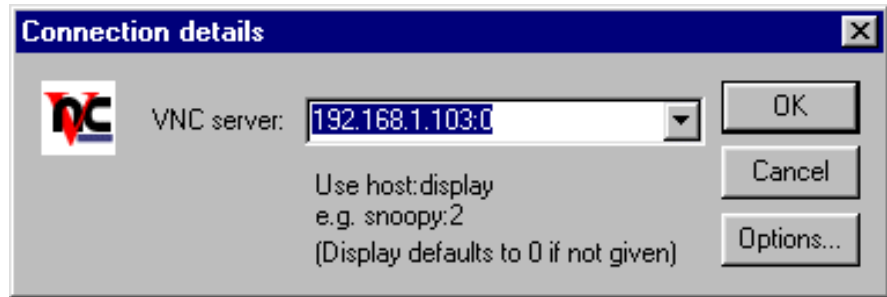
megabytes and can be easily copied to a floppy disk. Select the computer that you want to view/control remotely, the "server," and copy the files to it. Run the "setup" program in the "winvnc" folder to install the server and you will be walked-through a quick, typical installation process. Once the installation is complete, click on "Start->Programs->VNC->Administrator Tools->Install VNC as a Service." This will let VNC run every time the computer boots up.

The most important item that you will need to address at this point is to set a password for the VNC server. You will see the password box during the setup process in the "User Properties" dialog box. If you don't see this dialog box, double-click on the VNC icon in the task bar, near your clock. Give it a non-guessable password and click on "OK." This machine is now a VNC server.

While you are at the machine that will be the server, look up its IP address, which is needed to log into it remotely. You can find the IP address in several ways. The simplest is to click on "Start->Run" and type "winipcfg" and then click "OK." A dialog box will open. Make sure your Ethernet adaptor is selected in the pull-down menu and you will see your IP address displayed below it.

Setting Up the Viewer

Now copy the VNC software to another computer, the one that will be the viewer. If you are not going to



use this machine as a server you only need to copy the "vncviewer.exe" program, which is a small, 172K application. Launch it and you will be presented with a small dialog box. Into that box type the IP address of the server computer followed by a colon and a zero, for example:

192.168.1.215:0

and then click "OK." You will then be asked for the password. Enter in the password that you set for the server and, if all goes well, a new window will open and you will be viewing the desktop of the remote machine. Try moving your mouse in that window and you should be moving the other computer's cursor. Try opening something. You should be able to operate the remote computer just as if you were there, except that things will be a little slower due to the sending of graphical information through your network.

Uses in the Classroom

One obvious use for VNC is to allow you to access a computer across your classroom to see what the students are up to. You will not be anonymous as you do this though. When the VNC server is running there will be a small icon for it running in the taskbar on that computer's desktop. Double-clicking on it gives the user access to its setting, including the password setting. While this might seem like a

problem, VNC is not really surveillance software, although it does function that way. I have found it occasionally useful to "spy" on a student and the knowledge that you can usually remove your need to.

The best use that I have found for VNC is when I also have a video projector in the classroom. Picture a typical computer lab with a dozen or two PCs arranged in rows with the teacher's machine at the front or rear of the room. A video projector hangs from the ceiling (OK, so maybe this part isn't so typical) allowing the teacher to demonstrate software for all students to see at the same time. If we have VNC server running on all of the student machines and the VNC viewer running on the teacher's machine we have the set up for a great teaching tool.

During the class a student raises their hand and indicates that they are having a problem with some aspect of the software. As any teacher knows, one student with a problem means there are probably 2 or 3 more students with the same problem who have not asked for help. At this point, in the old way of doing things, the teacher can go to the student with the problem and assist them right on their computer with, maybe, one or two other students looking on. The teacher can repeat the same help session for a number of students.

With VNC, the teacher can, from the teacher's computer, which

(Continued on Page 6)

What's Left After You Dump Your Browser's History?

by Vince Long

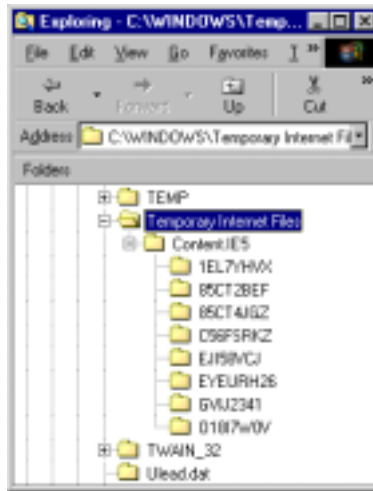
In and out of the classroom the “history” feature found in Microsoft’s Internet Explorer is a very handy tool. It allows you to look back to find that web page you visited several days ago and forgot to place in your Favorites, as well as letting the teacher, or parent, look through the listing of sites that their children have been visiting. The history file keeps a list of the sites visited for up to 999 days, though the default setting is 20 days.

Related to the history file is the Temporary Internet Files folder found in the Windows folder on the hard drive. In here you will find copies of the web pages that have been visited, at least the most recent ones. The size of this folder can be changed from 1 megabyte up to the amount of free space left on your hard drive. The theory behind this folder, or cache, is that it is generally quicker to pull the copy of a web page off the hard drive instead of downloading one from the Web. However, a fast Internet connection, T-1, cable, is DSL, is most likely just as fast and setting the size of this cache to the minimum does save hard drive space.

You can, through the Tools menu in Explorer, change the setting for the Temporary File size and the retention time for the history. You can also manually delete the Temporary files and clear the history file, essentially removing all traces of where the browser has been on the World Wide Web.

Or can you?

One of the hidden “features” of Internet Explorer is that it, in addition to the aforementioned cache files, saves the contents of web sites you have visited in a series of hidden System Folders. The contents of



these folders are not removed when you clear your Temporary folder, in fact, you cannot even view the contents by clicking your way to them through the My Computer icon on your desktop. If you want access to them you’ll have to start Windows Explorer, which you get to through Start—>Programs. Once there, open the Windows folder on your C: drive and then the Temporary Internet Files folder. In there you’ll find a folder named Content.IE5 and in it are the folders containing megabytes of data. You can delete the folders right there in Windows Explorer by right-clicking on them and selecting “Delete” in the pop-up menu. Windows will warn you that you are removing important system files but you can go ahead and delete them. New folders will be created the next time you browse the web.

Although, through Windows Explorer, you might see some of the contents of these folders, mostly cookies, it might be necessary to drop to the DOS prompt to view them all. You can move the files, using DOS, to another directory where you can examine them more closely. I recently cleared all of these files from my computer and found an additional 100 megabytes of free space on my

hard drive when they were gone.

Whether reclaiming disk space, doing some forensic snooping on the hard drive, the presence of the Content.IE5 folder is another one of those unexpected “features” of our Windows operating system.



VNC Provides 1984 Technology

(Continued from page 5)

connected to the projector, log into any of the student computers and have that student’s desktop displayed on the projection system. With this arrangement, not only does the student who asked for help get some assistance, the entire class can see that student’s computer and watch the problem solving take place. This capability can transform the way we teach with computers in a lab situation, as I can attest, having used this very setup in a computer camp this past summer at Rocky Mountain College where I taught a course in Flash animation to 5th- through 8th-graders.

While fears about “Big Brother” abound, we can certainly utilize this type of software for less sinister purposes and to great benefit for our students.



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

Mail the completed membership form and dues to:

Randa Siegle
 6480 Linda Vista
 Missoula, MT 59803



MCCE NEWS
 Vince Long, Editor
 Billings Senior High
 425 Grand Avenue
 Billings, MT 59101

To: