

techtimes@edbqhs



News You Can Use

STAFF TECHNOLOGY SURVEY

Thank you to all who took time to complete the technology survey. The results have been tabulated and the data is being used to provide technology related improvements for all of us. The workshops offered on streaming video, PowerPoint and digital photography are because of your requests. We are also offering a couple of summer classes (sponsored t by the ROE) because of your input. Watch for updates on these classes.

TECHNOLOGY ISSUES

I'm not sure where the saying related to problems of technology being referred to as "issues" originated, but it really doesn't matter.

There has been a lot of "issues" on the technology front at East Dubuque Schools. Some of which were transparent, some of which had a direct and immediate impact on you and your classrooms.

During the end of January we experienced a complete loss of network connectivity at the high school. Unfortunately, due to the nature of the network structure, the Internet connection at the elementary was effected as well.

The high school network is similar to some types of Christmas lights that are wired in a series circuit. When one bulb burns out, the entire string goes out. With the high school network, when one section (hub, connection or switch) goes down, the entire network fails.

We planned to "re-wire" the high school network during the summer of 2005 and replace the original coax mainline with a fiber optic cable. The coax cable was installed years ago when we first placed computers outside of the main lab.

The rewiring project was budgeted for summer, 2005, but we need to push up our time table to spring break so as to maintain network integrity and reliability.

The fiber optic cabling will allow us to establish network zones so if one section fails, no other section is affected be it at the high school or elementary. Fiber optic cabling will provide a much needed increase in band-width as well as greater reliability.

THOUGHT FOR THE MOMENT:

"Insanity is doing the same things over and over again and expecting the different results"
----Albert Einstein.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Yes, we lost our school website. No it was not our fault. And no, we did not have current backups of

our entire site, so in essence we failed as well.

Our Internet service provider was in the process of changing over to a new web server when the old server "crashed" and all data was lost. For whatever reason, all backups failed as well. This was a problem felt not only by us, but by many businesses in the area. We received many calls from the community wondering what had happened to our site. This is a good problem and indicates the school's website is a valuable contact medium with the community.

There always exist positives, so thanks to Kathy and Brian, the entire East Dubuque website is being given a fresh face and will be better than ever. As of Friday, 02/25/2005, a basic web presence was re-established. We will add content as quickly as possible, but it will take time.

I was glad to see that many of you, who currently maintain classroom websites, *did* keep backups. Once Brian and Kathy have the sub webs created, your individual web presences will be posted.

The lesson to learn is, "it's not if you will experience a system crash, but when."

Remember, if you need any assistance- hardware, software, finding web sites, etc., let me know (jambrosia@edbqhs.org). "Till next time...

Joe Ambrosia