



The BlendEd Initiative: How does it impact Network Nebraska

Network Nebraska Advisory Group

January 31, 2013

- ESUCC has restructured its distance education, e learning, and digital media projects into the BlendEd initiative.
- BlendEd also was partly described in a plan to the NITC to encompass
 - LDAP/Federated Directory Service
 - Learning Object Repository/Media & other content
 - Development of LMS system/systems
 - Professional Development supports
 - Parallel Evaluative System
- BlendEd is not “just technology” as it requires a whole level of human coordination and cooperation from multiple partners



What is BlendEd?



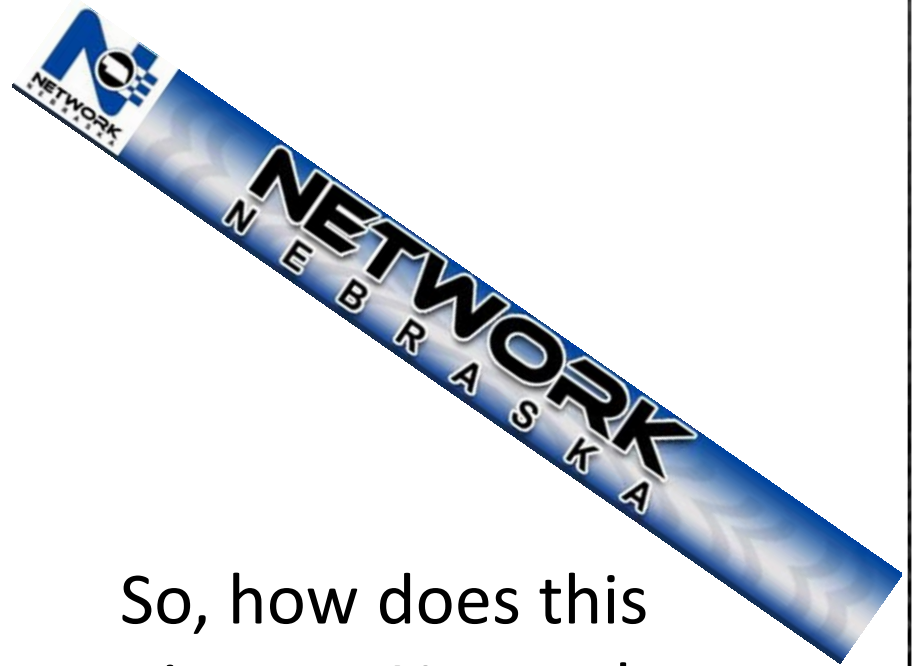
- Started with conversations about Race to the Top and eventually the Nebraska Virtual Partnership.
- ESUCC, while considering its own organization structure sought to build and propose systems intent on improving education and engaging partners.
 - That includes Network Nebraska...
- Started working toward a Nebraska Virtual Partnership and ESUCC continues to work with those partners and toward those goals
- NITC provided a vehicle to vet ideas and engage additional partners.
- Still work to do...



How is BlendEd Building Partnerships?

- There may be several ways...
- Network Traffic
 - Impact on bandwidth: The intent is to push more digital media and use the
- Network Services
 - Expands services over the network
 - Highlights the importance of the Network in a structured set of services in addition to internet
- Network Structure
 - Proposes to start a process to create a “services layer” where projects like BlendEd are sponsored by educational partners.

So, how does this
impact Network
Nebraska?



- **Bandwidth Requirements:**
 - BlendEd is seeking to design services that make the most use of available bandwidth but anticipate a growth in classroom and student level use of digital resources.
 - ESUs continue to work closely with the Network to estimate use.
 - Services such as streaming content and video conferencing already consume resources.
 - BlendEd would likely expand that demand on the Network

Network Traffic:



- ESUCC has worked closely with Network Nebraska Staff to “build out” services hosted on the Network.
 - Started with the initial roll out of Renovo with the CIO’s office
 - Special Education Student Records System
 - ANGEL/Bb hosting
 - Career training resources with NDE/Labor
 - Additionally, ESU level services across the state ultimately run on the network including Learn360 and other digital media
- Physically locating servers on the Network hubs is advantageous
- Is there a next step? Are there other services?
 - BlendEd raises some of those possibilities but there are many other opportunities

Network Services:



- Is there a way to add services to the Network?
- Can we use the Network structures to build out and bill for services?
- Does it change the Network to host and run services? For instance, would the network provided hardware infrastructure for future services allowing other partners to focus on building and maintaining services rather than hardware? More of a private cloud environment?
- How do we engage other educational partners? Can the Network help pull together similar interests for meaningful service development?

Network Structure:



- What are your thoughts?

I don't have all of
the answers but I
bet you have
questions.

