

Ed Council "Services" Task Group members: Ron Cone/Gordon Roethemeyer (leads), Jeff Johnson, Craig Pease, Kent Gydesen, Clark Chandler, John Dunning Report 3/4/2010

Here are our action items--

Services:

- 1) N4a Develop an appropriate catalog of services and bandwidth thresholds for Network Nebraska to serve all education entities.

Recent work on this action item: There has been work on this action item by the Network Nebraska Advisory Committee involving the identification of basic and premium services and we will defer to the co-chairs of that committee to give a report.

Basic Services for Network Nebraska Customers:

Intranet Ethernet connectivity to all Network Nebraska Participants including Wayne State College, Chadron State College, Peru State College (by end of year), Midlands Lutheran College, UNL, UNO and UNMC

Internet access

Internet 2 access

Collocation Space in College Park, Nebraska Hall and PKI

24/7 Network Monitoring

Network Abuse Monitoring

Video/Scheduling Troubleshooting/Support

Tier 2 Network Troubleshooting/Support

Contract negotiations, DL participation dollars and course sharing incentives

Optional Services that could be available:

Also looking into IPS and Packet Shaping on Network Nebraska Equipment.

- 2) N4b Charter a work group to research advanced network services for Network Nebraska customers. Should advanced be changed to optional? Wait for NITC Survey results?

Regarding Advanced services.....

By the end of the year we will have a DWDM network between UNMC and Nebraska Hall that will be connected to Network Nebraska where Disaster Recovery services could be offered at speeds up to 10Gbps.

Wish List: Some type of Directory Services Option,

Web conferencing,

Traffic Shaping

Audio and Video Bridging

- 3) N4c Implement a statewide on-line presentation and meeting software solution. Is RFP needed to more closely examine the costs.

Recent work on this action item: On Feb. 18th 2010 The Distance Education Advisory Committee, NOC and the Nebraska Distance Learning Association held the

Videoconferencing/Distance Education Idea Sharing Event at ESU #10 in Kearney. Invitations were sent to all post secondary institutions inviting videoconferencing and distance learning professionals from post secondary to attend. We had good participation from both K-12 and postsecondary with approximately 60 people in attendance.

Several online meeting/webinar solutions were demoed and discussed by the group. See the schedule for this event, which is attached for details on all the various things that were demoed and discussed throughout the day. It was also decided that the sharing session would become a Vendor Fair starting in 2011 and will continue to have a similar focus. SKC Smart Communications has offered to sponsor the event and handle vendor participation. The NDLA will take over the planning of the event with input from both the Distance Education group and NOC.

As part of the event John Gilliam presented –““Vision for Collaboration Technologies" and invited the group to explore ways that we could all reduce costs through collaborative efforts in this area. For example, the University could help facilitate a statewide contract for the use of Adboe Connect. It was also mentioned that the Partnership for Innovation has a license agreement with Elluminate that would allow statewide use. Many people in attendance did not know about this and therefore had not taken advantage of. The PFI will consider whether to continue its license with Elluminate later this spring.

April 2009 discussion: Adobe Connect, Elluminate, Netmeeting, GotoMeeting and WebEX are all popular meeting collaboration applications. I-MAT might be able to secure statewide licensing on one of these or other online meeting software. Questions of hosting privileges, features and concurrent users would all be important questions. The group had questions about whether the audio portion of meetings conducted using any of these applications could travel the network or whether a separate phone call would have to be made by each participant. If an application is deployed who could use it? How many simultaneous users would be allowed? How many simultaneous meeting facilitators could there be? Could it be used for distance ed classes?

4) D3 Develop an affordable plan to provide access to learning management system software for every teacher and learner who uses synchronous video distance learning and to also train teachers in effective instructional design to integrate synchronous and asynchronous technologies.

Recent work on this action item: Two topics are emerging that will have significant impact on synchronous distance learning efforts in Nebraska. They are the creation of a Nebraska Virtual High School and 2) the use of Open Education Resources (OERs).

Why? Because a virtual high school proposal was part of Nebraska's Race to the Top grant application. Although Nebraska will probably not receive funding in the first round of RTTT, the need for, and vision of, a Nebraska Virtual High School will continue to get a lot of discussion.

One component that was missing in the Nebraska RTTT application was a description of the development and use of OERs. Nebraska is a charter member of the National Repository of

Online Courses (NROC) and the NROC Steering Committee will work with approximately 45 high school teachers in the next several months to import, remix and distribute several NROC Advanced Placement courses. Omaha Public Schools has declared that their online classes are part of Creative Commons and will be available for others to use with full rights to modify and remix the content.

April 2009 discussion: K12 schools use Angel, Moodle or Blackboard. The Community Colleges are making the switch to Angel. MyeLearning.org serves 165 Nebraska schools and is the entity that DEC designated to provide LMS services for Distance Education, therefore their input and involvement in this effort is crucial. ESU #13 has been a leader in the use of Moodle and likewise has a stake in this discussion. The PFI has expressed an interest in helping ensure that all schools have access to an LMS but cannot fund the purchase of licenses for all schools alone. A work group could be created to look at options for reducing the cost of LMS licenses while still providing users with the choice to use either Angel or Moodle. Of course, increasing the volume of licenses purchased will also bring down the price per license. If a target price is identified the licensing agency can then negotiate with the vendor to determine how many user licenses would be needed and what the price would be.

Concerning training and instructional design: The DEC Advisory Committee's Instructional Design and Training workgroup co-developed a course called "Instructional Design for Teaching via eLearning" with the UNL Extended Learning and Outreach department. The first Summer Institute for the course was completed in June 2008 with 30 individuals completing the course. The course is currently undergoing revision based on feedback from participants and will be offered again beginning in January 2009.

5) D4 Encourage higher education entities to list all dual enrollment and concurrent enrollment course opportunities on the statewide clearinghouse and scheduling software system.

Recent work on this action item: Nothing to report on this item.

April 2009 discussion: An email was sent out to postsecondary institutions participating in Phase I and Phase II notifying them that the DEC would pay for unlimited codec licenses for their institution on request. It is the work groups understanding that NITC Policy requires all entities receiving state funding to have all of their codec devices scheduled and controlled by a scheduling and device control system that is compliant with NITC Standards. The NITC should determine which institutions are not in compliance and take corrective action.

More communication is needed with postsecondary about the benefits of the Renovo Scheduling and Clearinghouse services that available to them as a way to market dual-credit and college credit courses offered by their institutions. The only cost to entities participating in the use of Renovo is a small portion of the hosting costs that is billed to them in June of each year.