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DCP Today

Volume 3, Issue 1
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Welcome to DCP Today, CENIC's twice-monthly electronic newsletter detailing the latest news about the Digital California Project.

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Quote of the Month

"I understand taking tests aren't fun. Too bad."

-- President BUSH, before signing a landmark education bill that will require new student tests in reading and math.

Source: CQ Daily

Digital California Project News

Program Steering Committee Meets

At its regularly scheduled meeting in Sacramento on January 10, the DCP Program Steering Committee featured a presentation from Bridget Foster of the California Learning Resources Network (CLRN). CLRN is a statewide education technology service of the California Department of Education listing K-12 supplemental electronic learning resources on the CLRN web site (<http://clrn.org>) based on successfully meeting the State Board of Education approved CLRN criteria. The process includes: a review for compliance with the Standards for Evaluation of Instructional Material with Respect to Social Content (E.C. 60040-60044), verification of alignment with California's State Content standards, and verification that the CLRN minimum requirements are met. The DCP Applications Coordination team and CLRN work closely together so that the resources of both groups are well used.

Van Wilkinson, who has been coordinating efforts for the CENIC DCP Last Mile Cost Relief Program, reported that the e-Rate applications have been filed successfully. In addition, the PSC heard reports from the Network Installation, Applications and e-Content teams for the project.

Future meetings of the Program Steering Committee are scheduled for March 14, April 25, and May 6, 2002.

New Digital Applications Coordinating Team Info on Web

Following the November 14th meeting of the Digital California Project Applications Coordinating Team (DACT), the Team's work products were added to the CENIC DCP website. You can now find more complete information about the team, the DCP applications plan, the DCP applications framework, the DCP applications team, and the terms which describe levels of network use for applications.

As the introductory page at http://www.cenic.org/DCP_ac.html points out: "There are hundreds of curriculum-based, teacher preparation, teacher/staff professional development, and student outreach and support initiatives underway at all levels of California education that focus on improving K-12 education via electronic

learning. While not developing new applications, CENIC will focus on identifying applications and facilitating making them accessible on the network." The work on these new Applications Team pages traces those efforts.

Future meetings of the DCP Applications Team are set for 2/20/02 and 6/12/02.

The list of Applications Coordinating Team members can be found on the CENIC website at http://www.cenic.org/DCP_team.html.

Source: Lori Musick (lmusick@koce.org)

NETWORK INSTALLATION UPDATE

Thirty-three node sites have been installed and are connected to the Digital California Network. Two additional sites are pending, so by the time you read this update, 35 node sites will have been installed. Of the installed sites, about 50% have their local area networks connected to the DCP router. The feedback from the sites using their DCP connection has been overwhelmingly positive. The word most often used by the sites to describe their DCP experience is "excited".

The Sunnyvale hub site is nearing completion and it is expected that nearly all of the sites being served by the Sunnyvale hub will be installed in February. The Reno hub site is still pending. The Sacramento hub is still waiting for connectivity to the DCP backbone, but is expected to be ready very soon. Pacific Bell has their equipment in place and is ready to deliver circuits out of the Sacramento hub.

There is good news for some outlying sites in the Northeastern part of the state: DCP Project Management is awaiting quotes and due dates for several node sites formerly identified as needing a microwave connection. It now appears CENIC will be able to serve the sites sooner, rather than later.

The regional network planning liaisons are all busy holding meetings and evaluating their options for expansion of the Digital California network with Round 2 funding. Plans with recommendations for either additional node sites or enhancements to existing county or regional network infrastructures are due by the end of February.

We hope to have all but a few of the Round 1 node sites installed by the end of March, and to begin work on Round 2 expansion immediately thereafter.

Wishing you all a great 2002!

Source: Edwin Smith, Network Implementation Project Manager (smithew@csu.net)

National Education Technology News

Commission on Education and Technology Proposed

On November 2, 2001, United States Rep. Mike Ferguson (R-NJ) and Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL) introduced House Resolution 295, a resolution urging the establishment of a commission on technology and education. It was referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. The Commission would be charged to

- (1) provide clear and focused goals for the future of classroom educational technology and make recommendations to efficiently implement technology to accomplish these goals;
- (2) make recommendations to improve and expand programs that train both educators and students to use educational technology;
- (3) to promote local control over the implementation of education technology in local elementary and secondary schools; and
- (4) be comprised of education and technology stakeholders, including educators, academics, parents, industry leaders, and policymakers.

Techs4schools.com website launched

TechCorps and Compaq have launched a new website aimed at "connecting" information technology professionals with schools. The website, <http://www.techs4schools.com>, serves both schools and volunteers. The service is free.

Source: K-12 Techwatch

About CENIC

CENIC is a not-for-profit corporation formed by the California Institute of Technology, the California State University, Stanford University, the University of California, and the University of Southern California to facilitate and coordinate the deployment, development, and operation of a set of seamless and robust advanced network services. The CENIC Associates program offers qualified companies the opportunity to collaborate with CENIC in pursuit of the goal of providing the most advanced network services for research and education. Cisco Systems, Nortel Networks, Pacific Bell, and the University and Community College System of Nevada are CENIC's Partner Associates.

More information about CENIC is available at: <http://www.cenic.org>.

About DCP

The Digital California Project is a project of CENIC. A multi-million dollar effort funded by the State of California, the DCP was designed to build the necessary network infrastructure needed to prepare California's schools to take advantage of tomorrow's advances in network technology. In essence, CENIC is developing an advanced-services network to serve the entire California K-20 education and research community.

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