

# CUSD10 Technology Department



**July – October 2006 Technology Report**  
Submitted by Susan Homes, Director of Technology

## July - October 2006 Technology Report: Network & Hardware

- **Charter Business Networks** has completed the majority of the district's new fiber network. There will be a delay in adding Kreitner Elementary School to the new fiber wide area network. Kreitner is located outside the Charter franchise area. Charter has negotiated installation of fiber optic cable with AT&T. Once the fiber has been added to the public right-of-way near Kreitner, Charter will connect the school to our fiber network. In the meantime, we continue to provide Internet and district wide area network connectivity to Kreitner via our leased AT&T T-1 line. The district warehouse will also be added to the wide area network by the middle of October. This will be the first time the warehouse has been on the network. The DSL connection that currently provides Internet connectivity to employees at that location will be discontinued.

The network has been experiencing service interruptions for the past several weeks as programming continues to convert the network to the Charter fiber solution. We are continuing to monitor the network performance. Charter, 3Com and WJR Technologies has provided excellent support to our district during these challenging weeks.

During the week of October 2, we expect to complete the fiber link to the Illinois Century Network. This will increase our Internet bandwidth from approximately 1.5 Mbps to 14 Mbps. The ICN has changed the formula it uses to determine bandwidth for schools. Charter installed a 100 Mbps fiber connection to the ICN; we will be able to make use of 14 Mbps of the bandwidth at **no monthly cost** due to the new formula. Each year the ICN evaluates its formula and generally increases the amount of bandwidth districts are eligible to receive at no cost. Our 100 Mbps Charter connection positions us to easily accept additional bandwidth in the future. For comparison purposes, Eastern Illinois University receives 40 Mbps of bandwidth allocation from the ICN. The 14 Mbps bandwidth that we will receive will be a huge benefit to the district and should increase our Internet speeds substantially.

I received word late in September that the Universal Service Administration Company approved our 2006-2007 ERate application to help fund the new fiber network. This equates to a \$73,814 annual savings to the district. Applications for local, long distance and cell phone charges were also approved for an additional savings of nearly \$53,000.

## July - October 2006 Technology Report: Network & Hardware

- The district continues to benefit from its excellent relationship with 3Com Corporation. Last year, the district beta-tested the **Tipping Point X505**. This device provides firewall, IPS, and Internet filtering services on the district's network. I served as a panelist on 3Com's spring Webinar for the device. We have again been asked by 3Com to beta-test their newest version of the Tipping Point. The new device (X506) will be installed and configured by a 3Com engineer before October 13, 2006. The value of the device is \$5,000.
- 188 **new computers** were purchased and installed at Collinsville High School in late July. Computers were installed in classrooms, offices and two labs—the *Video Production* lab and the *Cisco Networking* lab. Computers pulled from these locations (Windows 98) were repurposed to help replace older Windows 95 computers at the high school and elementary schools.
- Instructional technology improvements were completed for the **new science labs** at Collinsville High School. Each science classroom received a ceiling-mounted projector, new projection screen, wireless laptop computer, DVD/VCR player and GTCO wireless SchoolPad. Wireless access points were installed in the hallways outside of the science lab classrooms to provide wireless network access to the entire science department.
- Several **audio systems** at Collinsville High School were improved or repaired during the past several months. The sound board and one of the main amplifiers were repaired in the CHS auditorium. The CD player from the football stadium sound booth was replaced. The CD player for Fletcher Gymnasium was repaired. Transformers were installed in the floor jacks in the CHS auditorium to allow for better sound quality during computer presentations.
- Corporate Interiors and Guarantee Electric completed a site survey at **Collinsville Intermediate School** and presented the district with a cost estimate for installing an updated **digital surveillance system** at that location. We currently use the same digital system at Collinsville High School, Collinsville Middle School

## July - October 2006 Technology Report: **Network & Hardware**

and Kreitner Elementary School. The existing surveillance system at CIS is outdated and no longer functions properly. The plan has been forwarded to Dr. Craft for his review.

- **Surveillance improvements at Collinsville High School** will be completed by mid-October. The existing CRT monitors in Room 114 are being replaced with low-profile flat panel monitors. The new monitors will offer higher resolution and clarity for building administrators and monitors. This new equipment will also take up far less room and will bring the high school system in line with equipment at CMS and Kreitner. In addition, we are awaiting the installation of three replacement surveillance cameras to cover the renovated science department.
- The Technology Department is working with the Buildings and Grounds Department to help facilitate the new **computerized access control** system for portions of CMS and CHS.
- A new **data backup system** for the district has been ordered and will be installed by the end of October. Thanks to the building data link speeds offered by the fiber network, data backup can now be centralized. The new backup system will be installed in the server room/main distribution frame (MDF) at Collinsville High School. The new backup system will have 9TB (terabytes) of data storage. Programming will be completed that will process nightly backups of all district data with the exception of CHS. The existing backup system for Collinsville High School will be relocated to Collinsville Middle School and CHS data will be backed up remotely to CMS. This will insure every district location has off-site nightly backups.

# July - October 2006 Technology Report: Software & Information Systems

- **Online service subscription renewals** have been processed for CHS and CMS libraries, including:
  - **EBSCO** - "Approximately 200 full text and secondary databases are made available via EBSCOhost®. According to *Library Journal* (February 15, 2005), "The EBSCOhost system continues to be one of the best interfaces on the market because it is so simple yet so powerful."
  - **ProQuest E-Library** – Pictures, maps, magazines, books and newspapers (see attached)
  - **Grolier** – Online Encyclopedias and reference works with links to the Internet and periodicals
  - **First Search** – Journal and magazine articles
  - **InfoTrac (Galenet)** – *Discovering* collection, *Twain's Writers Series*, *Scribner's Authors Series*



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- The annual subscription to **United Streaming** has been processed for all district schools.

*“Discovery Education unitedstreaming is a digital video-based learning resource from Discovery Education. With Discovery Education unitedstreaming, educators gain on-demand access to 50,000 content-specific segments from 5,000 full-length educational videos. Today, educators at more than half the schools across the United States use unitedstreaming to integrate vibrant digital content into the curricula of more than 30 million students.”*  
([www.unitedstreaming.com](http://www.unitedstreaming.com))



- The annual subscription to **Turnitin.com** has also been renewed for Collinsville High School. This service is used frequently by the CHS English and Social Studies Departments. Students submit written papers through the service, which automatically checks papers for plagiarism.



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- The subscription to **Edline** for Collinsville High School and Collinsville Middle School has also been renewed. Last year, CMS piloted Edline with one team of teachers. This year, the entire school is using Edline. This product has been extremely helpful and successful for our parents and staff.
- Several additional **athletic software products** have been purchased and installed including Golf Statistics and Hytek Track and Field programs.
- The **Finale software** used in the Piano Lab at CHS by both Melissa Gustafson-Hinds and Lisa Neal has been upgraded to the 2007 version.
- Access to **ScheduleStar** has been purchased for Collinsville Middle School. CMS athletic events can now be accessed through the [www.highschoolsports.net](http://www.highschoolsports.net) site. Collinsville High School has used this service for over five years. Middle school teacher and AD Josh Hunt is maintaining the online schedules for teams at CMS.
- A meeting was held with Discovery Education's ThinkLink Division to discuss piloting the **ThinkLink Predictive Assessment Series** with two 7<sup>th</sup> grade teams at CMS this year. Students would participate in two series of tests (the first test in December; the second test one month before ISAT). Teachers can immediately check results and student mastery online. Results assist teachers in determining content that needs to be reviewed and/or retaught. This predictive assessment series was studied by the University of Illinois during the 2005-2006 year. Results found the assessment series predicted ISAT outcomes at between an 85% and 90% accuracy rate. From the [www.thinklinklearning.com](http://www.thinklinklearning.com) website:  
"Success in the classroom does not necessarily indicate performance on your state's high-stakes test. Our research-based Predictive Assessment Series matches diagnostic assessments to each state's high-stakes test. Teachers can see student results before they actually test. "

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- The **district's new website** was launched in mid-September. The reviews have been very positive. We are continuing to complete several other areas of the site, including:
  - Online job application process and resume submission
  - District history narrative link
  - Facilities scheduling link
  - Electronic notification system for parents
  - Records request information link
  - PreK and EC information link
  - Curriculum and Instruction narrative links
  - Special Education narrative links
  - District contracts and teacher salary scale links



## July - October 2006 Technology Report: Professional Development

- During the past four months, the following professional development activities have been implemented:
  - Midwest Conference on Differentiated Instruction (July 2006)
    - Participant: Susan Homes and Julie Brown
  - WIU Technology Conference (July 2006)
    - Participants: Susan Homes, Sherry Murphy (Renfro), Geneva Cushing (CMS), Sharon Putz (CIS), Karen Schemerhorn (Caseyville and Hollywood Heights), and Ruth Hawkins (Jefferson and Summit)
  - Networking Conference sponsored by Area 5 LTC and Microsoft (July 2006)
    - Participants: Mike Kunz (Network Manager), Wil Ross (Assistant Network Manager) and Derek Turner (CHS Technician)
  - Internet Safety Workshops conducted by Illinois High Crimes Bureau (September 2006)
    - CMS 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Assembly (September 14, 2006)
    - CMS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Assembly (September 14, 2006)
    - CHS 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Assembly (September 14, 2006)
    - CHS 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Assembly (September 14, 2006)
    - Parent/Community Workshop (September 14, 2006)
    - Superintendent/Administrator/Technology Coordinator Workshop (September 15, 2006)
    - CUSD10 Staff Workshop (September 15, 2006)
  - Connecting with Today's Youth – Technology Presentation for CUSD10 Staff conducted by Mike Bryant of Discovery Education (September 15, 2006)
  - IASBO Educational Support Professionals' Conference (September 22, 2006)
    - Advanced Excel – two sessions conducted by Susan Homes
    - Intermediate Word – conducted by Susan Homes
    - Introduction to PowerPoint – conducted by Susan Homes

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- Illinois Century Network annual meeting (October 18, 2006)
  - Participant: Susan Homes
- ISBE Technology Plan Update meeting (October 6, 2006)
  - Participant: Susan Homes
- ISBE E-Rate Form 470 Planning meeting (November 9, 2006)
  - Participant: Susan Homes
- ISBE E-Rate Form 471 Planning meeting (January 11, 2007)
  - Participant: Susan Homes
- Illinois Education and Technology Conference (November 16, 2006)
  - Internet Safety Presenters: Susan Homes, Lynn Huntley, Geneva Cushing & Sherry Murphy
- Schoolmaster Conference (October 12 & 13, 2006)
  - Participants: Karen Muller, Lisa Langenstein, Angie Griffin, Geneva Cushing
- RSA Conference (February 5-9, 2007)
  - Panel Presenter representing Tipping Point/3Com  
– Susan Homes

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