Volume 4.0

BRUSH RE-2(J) TECHNOLOGY

SEPTEMBER 2010 TECHNOLOGY NEWSLETTER

In This Newsletter:

MAJOR 21ST CENTURY UPDATING OF DISTRICT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONTINUES

THOMSON THIN-CLIENT LAB

During September 2010 the new lab at Thomson Primary School made its debut. A public Grand Opening will be scheduled at a future date. Thomson now has a state-of-the-art 24 seat PC and Thin Client lab. The term Thin Client means basically a PC without moving parts like hard drives, CD players, fans, etc. When a student uses a Thin Client the experience is just like using a traditional PC. They have a keyboard, monitor, headset, and a mouse. Thin Clients also save the district in other ways:

First, they are easier to manage. The Technology Department need only update one PC and then 4 lab seats are updated at that same moment.

Second, hidden savings exist in power consumption. The Thin Client uses approximately 75% less power to operate. These units pay for themselves in much less time than traditional systems.

Third, installation of a Thin Client lab reduces initial cost to build a lab by over 80% and puts 21st century technology usage into the hands of Brush students.

NEW PCS INSTALLED FOR TEACHERS IN 3 SCHOOLS

Technology wishes to thank the teachers and staff at Thomson, Beaver Valley and BMS for their patience during the installation of the new PCs within their schools. This was a successful endeavor and has alleviated both seen and unseen issues in our computing environment.

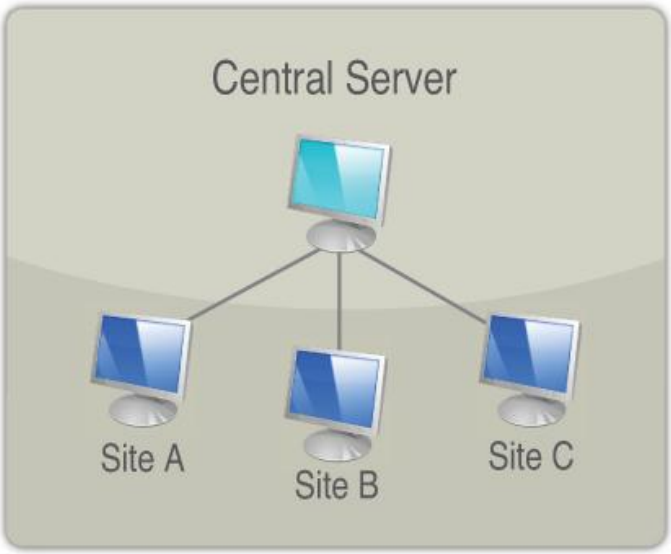
DISTRICT UNIFORMITY AND TECHNOLOGY STANDARS

A concentrated effort to standardize technology and thereby improve our district ability to

both use and teach the use of technology is underway. All staff are now using the same version of Microsoft Office and other applications such as the desktop version of Microsoft Outlook. These standardization efforts will continue. The district has moved from 5 computing architectures to now 3. The goal is to move to 1 major desktop architecture.

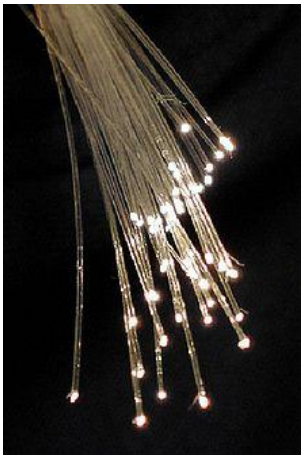
NEW LIBRARY CENTRAL UNION ARCHITECTURE DEPLOYED

The District libraries have been fitted with a new and modern application called Alexandria Central Union. A Centralized Union Catalog holds different library collections in a singular data file housed on a central server. All updates, upgrades, data backups, and other management procedures are performed for the entire district at a centralized location. Even though all data is centralized on a main server, patrons have the ability to search an individual library, a group of libraries, or the entire district at once, in real-time. As there is one central patron database, Central Union allows most convenient access for inter-library loans.



NEW DISTRICT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT LAB

As part of the CADI District Improvement plan Technology is building a 36 seat lab that will be the location for district staff training events. This will be a Thin Client lab similar to that installed at Thomson. This will provide a large variety of Technology and Teaching Professional Development opportunities and resources available to Brush District Teachers. The resources will assist staff in moving Technology Integration Skills forward for you and your students. It is a multi-purpose lab and may be used for any professional development educational opportunities, or scheduled by teachers for personal development and continued educational opportunities.



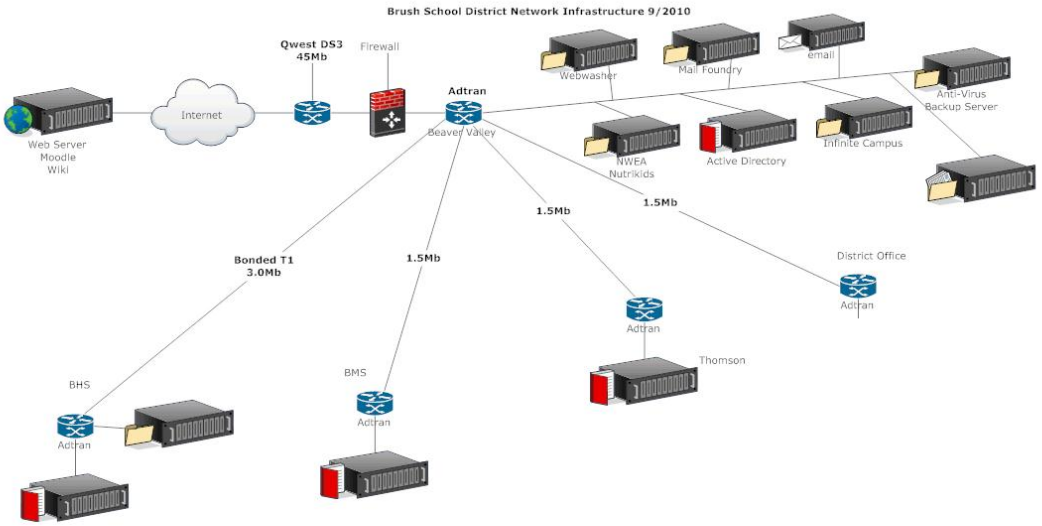
THE HUNT FOR 21ST CENTURY INTERCONNECTIVITY

Imagine a thimble of water. Now imagine a typical swimming pool. You obviously can imagine the great difference between the two. Now listen to the facts about our district interconnectivity as it stands now (the thimble): The connections between our buildings remains in a low bandwidth. Bandwidth is the transmission capacity of an electronic communications device or system; the speed of data transfer. Brush schools now run a theoretical bandwidth of 1.5 Mbits between Thomson, BMS, and the District Office to the location at Beaver Valley known as the Main Data Facility (MDF). Brush High School connects at double that speed at 3 Mbits to the MDF. These are insufficient speeds to maintain growth.

For your information one megabyte, MB is 1,048,576 bytes. Where we want to be is to build a 1 gigabyte (GB) or 1,073,741,824 bytes network. Look at the numbers again. This would be a huge jump in network performance, a swimming pool by comparison. You may hear us talk about Fiber. This is not dietary fiber but a state of the art network medium. We are exploring options and costs to move us forward into such a network. The benefits would become amazingly obvious once this transition took place.

This in combination with upgrades down the line which may transpire using the funds that Centennial BOCES received to connect rural districts using a fiber connection to the Internet would move us light years ahead.

THE FIGURE BELOW SHOWS THE CURRENT DISTRICT CONNECTIVITY (FOR YOUR INFORMATION)



"Out primary goal is to enhance the 21st century classroom experience through continuously working to upgrade technology."

Brush Technology Department