Technology News for Schools

Information Technology Directorate

Welcome to the Information Technology Directorate's (ITD) second edition of the *Technology News for Schools* bulletin. We hope you all had a wonderful and enjoyable school break. This edition is jam packed with news and updates on the latest events within ITD.

NEW WEBSITE FOR ITD

We are busily working on establishing a yet to be named interface - a 'one-stop-shop' for information, updates, support and training for all of the Department's Information and Communications Technology (ICT) platforms, programs and initiatives. The website will have dedicated sections for staff, students and parents.

eT4L UPDATE

eT4L Primary Schools project

In the past few months we've witnessed significant progress in the eT4L primary school project. Just under 1400 schools have now been migrated to the new eT4L server and services, representing more than 77 per cent of all NSW primary schools.

During March, the team successfully rebuilt the 100,000th device in the state. The official school to receive this honor was Bathurst West Public School. This represents a huge milestone and is evidence of the scale of the work involved.

March also saw the introduction of a new file structure, which has further improved the security and management of school files and data. Schools migrated to eT4L from 8 March will be operating on the latest file structure. An exercise is underway to ensure those schools migrated before this date receive the latest folder permission updates. Schools will be contacted by the regional IT teams who will be coordinating this activity.

Exciting new material and resources are being created through the eT4L project and other Program initiatives to further support schools through the changes eT4L brings.

Service improvement will also see the trial of a new browsing experience on the Internet with a change of sign-on through the portal on eT4L devices, providing access to all DEC accessible web pages and relevant online services. More information about this feature will be available following the trial.

Discussions are underway on issues concerning storage space and back-up of student data. These discussions will involve schools to determine their future needs.

The DEC Software Catalogue will also be launched mid-year, which will provide all eT4L schools access to a range of software via a user friendly interface.

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eT4L Secondary Schools project

The eT4L Secondary Schools project will begin in Term 2. The eT4L secondary server, like the primary solution, aims to provide schools with a stronger, more flexible technology platform for them to develop their own vision of ICT in education.

There are three main components to the project:

1. **The eT4L server**: The eT4L server, which will replace the Digital Education Revolution (DER) DIP server in schools, is capable of delivering on-site quality assured and remotely managed foundation services for devices while maximising the use of the Department's wide area network. It will also provide a managed desktop environment for schools.

2. **The LAN Health Check:** This part of the project aims to help support schools in developing their ICT network. It will bring the DER wireless network together with a school's existing computer network. This will be aided by the implementation of the eT4L server.

http://www.flickr.com/photos/darcymoore/8619022282/sizes/m/h/

Undertaking a network health check will be essential in making sure that all secondary schools can be provided with a strong foundation for their ICT infrastructure. This will also assist with the development of longer term ICT plans and investment.

3. **The Software Catalogue:** *See Software Catalogue on page 4 for information.*

The eT4L secondary schools project are keen to hear your views and welcome any feedback. Please send your comments to eT4LFeedback@det.nsw.edu.au

STAFF PASSWORD MANAGEMENT

Each year the ICT Service Desk receives approximately 30,000 requests for password resets from staff. Staff are often unaware of the self-help options available to reset their own password or seek assistance within their workplace, saving them valuable time and effort.

Additionally, staff are often unaware of the password expiry period, how this affects them and what they can do to manage password expiry to ensure access to systems is not restricted.

Here are some useful tips for saving time with password management:

- Your DET User ID password expires every 60 days and requires resetting.

- If your password expires, access to the DEC portal, staff email and other systems will be locked until your password is reset.

- It is important to know that you can reset your password yourself or with assistance from your Principal without needing to contact the ICT Service Desk and have to wait in queue.

How can you save time and manage your DET user ID and password (for portal, email and network login for eT4L schools)?

1. Set-up and use the "*Secret Question and Answer*" facility. This allows you to reset your DET User ID password anywhere and anytime, even if you have forgotten your current password or if it has expired.

http://www.flickr.com/photos/60648084@N00/2462966749/

2. View the DEC portal regularly. You will receive a message at the top right hand side when your password is approaching expiry.

3. Reset your password via the password reset feature within the DEC portal prior to expiry. This will ensure you have a further 60 days of access.

4. Reset your password prior to taking leave, particularly during the Christmas break. This will ensure you retain access when returning to work.

5. Ask your Principal for assistance. They have access to reset your password for you via the online tool, Staff Management Utility (SMU).

Further information is available via the staff portal. Login to the DET Insight Staff Portal at https://staff.det.nsw.edu.au. Click the *Change Password* link in the top right corner, providing you with useful information on *Password Management* and *Secret Questions and Answers.*

ACCESS FOR RELIEVING PRINCIPALS

The Access Management Utility (AMU) is an application that allows authorised users, namely a Principal, to allocate and revoke rights to staff members for specific Department applications.

Relieving Principals need to complete a 'Relieving Principals Access Request' form, found on the ICT Service Desk's website at https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/it/ictservicedesk/forms/Relieving_Principals_Form.pdf . Once completed, relieving principals will be included in distribution lists and can access applicable AMU functions. After a relieving Principal's appointment has ended, he or she is removed from the site.

DER-NSW UPDATE

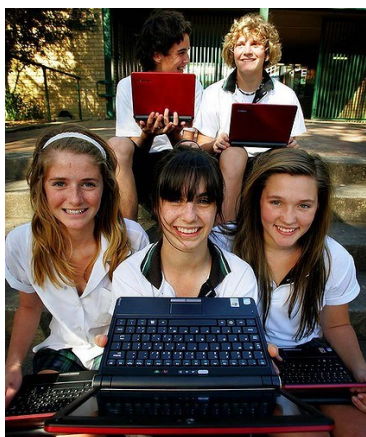Here is some information to help clarify ongoing DER-NSW arrangements:

Software - Existing software will continue to work on all DER-NSW devices. There are different arrangements for students graduating in Year 12. For more information visit https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/deptresources/majorprojects/dernsw/policies/index.htm

Wi-fi network - DER-NSW wi-fi networks will continue to work in all secondary schools in 2014 and beyond.

Resources - All DER-NSW Professional Learning and Curriculum Support Resources are available through http://bit.ly/dernswcollection. These resources will remain open to further support teaching and learning in 2014 and beyond.

2009 red laptops - Any 2009 red laptops left by students at school will continue to operate as normal as long as they're in the Pool. Any laptops still allocated to last year's Year 12 students will be removed from DEC systems. Eventually all laptops will need to be re-built with the latest versions of software and systems. However, schools can continue to utilise 2009 DER laptops as needed. Your school TSO will have further details on this and will be able to ensure that the laptops still in use have a status of Pool (Class Set) within the RMU system.
Teacher laptops are not affected.

*Devices -*There will be no rollout of laptops in 2014. For more information visit https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/media/downloads/deptresources/majorprojects/dernsw/policies/densw_2013_factsheet2_final.pdf

Further details are available at https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/deptresources/majorprojects/dernsw/tso/procedures/index.htm

LIBRARY MANAGEMENT SOLUTION

The Department has issued a Request for Tender (RFT) for a new library management solution for schools. Interested parties have until 3 May 2013 to respond. Responses will be evaluated by an expert panel drawn from schools and ITD and overseen by Internal Audit.

The RFT describes a range of requirements that must be met in terms of library management functionality, support, integration and technology. Importantly, the integration requirements will facilitate connectivity to services such as e-book providers and internal/external resource repositories, and staff and student portals.

It's anticipated that the new solution will begin being deployed from mid-2013 to some 300 schools. It's expected that all remaining schools will be migrated to the new solution by September 2015. This will involve migrating all existing data from OASIS library to the new solution.

Please be aware that vendors who have registered with the RFT have been asked not to approach schools directly during the RFT process.

DATA CENTRE REFORM

The Department has commenced detailed planning for relocating its data centre activities to a Whole of Government shared facility. Key considerations in planning include minimising service disruptions when migrating ITDs technology services to their new home and leveraging the relocations to provide agile, new technologies and processes.

The Data Centre Reform (DCR) commenced in 2012 and will continue utilising a carefully staged approach until 2015. The DCR team is currently working on the design of the future data centre architecture and migration approach.

DEVICES UPDATE

Windows 8 Tablet Trial

Currently, eight schools are trialing a range of tablet devices. An evaluation of the trial will commence in Term 2

to ensure that a competitive and reliable tablet is available to schools through procurement. It is anticipated that the preferred tablet will become available for purchase through procurement during Term 3.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

The policy and guidelines to support schools who choose to move into the BYOD area is nearly complete. In the coming weeks a working party will be established, policy and guidelines will be finalised and support resources created.

A BYOD Literature Review has been commissioned to learn from the experiences of others.

It is important to tap into the knowledge that our schools have already developed to support others who are starting their journey. Therefore, any schools that have adopted BYOD and have resources they would like to share, can contact Phillippa.Cleaves@det.nsw.edu.au or Joachim.Cohen@det.nsw.edu.au

ONLINE SERVICES UPDATE

Software Catalogue

We are in the process of cataloguing hundreds of software titles that will soon become available to schools via an online software catalogue in the new eT4L environment.

The online catalogue will give teachers access to thousands of approved applications from a central location.

Plans are underway to establish a governance body and technical educational evaluation process to review current software titles and additional future applications.
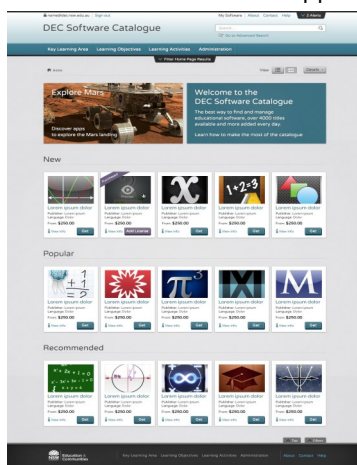
Microsoft Partners in Learning Innovative Teacher Award

The *Microsoft Partners in Learning Teachers Awards* competition is about recognising great teaching using ICT in the classroom. Everyday, teachers are combining teaching with innovative and very simple uses of technology.

The award is not based on how much Microsoft technology you have used but the way you have used the simplest technology to motivate and encourage learning with your students.

To be in with a chance to become Microsoft Australia's Innovative Teacher of 2013, submit your entry by 31 May 2013 at http://bit.ly/pilsit2013

Adobe Education Exchange

The *Adobe Education Exchange* is your online hub to help ignite creativity in the classroom. With instructional resources, professional development, and peer-to-peer collaboration, you'll find the support you need by visiting http://edex.adobe.com/

Google Apps

One of the best things about *Google Apps* for Education in the Department will be the ease of access to it for teachers and students.

Whilst we had hoped to release *Google Apps* to schools in Term 1, a technical bug has prevailed. We are now aiming for the service to be rolled out in the first half of Term 2.

Online Tool Tips

In each edition of *Technology News for Schools* we will share two online tools - one for use in the classroom and the other for administration use.

ThingLink - www.thinglink.com - add hotspots and links to images to explain concepts and images. **ThingLink** is useful for labelling diagrams, creating presentations, researching further information about a

http://www.flickr.com/photos/darcymoore/8617915931/sizes/l/in/

famous image, creating interactive greeting cards and embedding links from a variety of sources into one space.
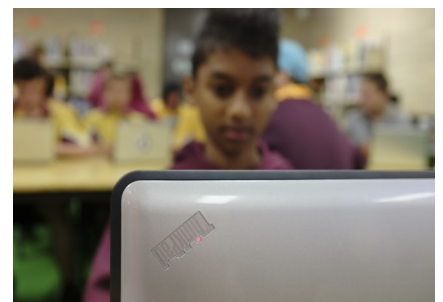
Smore - www.smore.com - Create one page flyers to share student work, create a list presentation or class links, create an agenda for School Development Days or other school events. **Smore** is easy to use and share among your school community. Check out the sample on **Smore's** website to see many Department examples.

Contact Details

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