NSW GOVERNMENT | Education & Communities

Technology News for Schools

Information Technology Directorate

Welcome to the fourth edition of Technology News for Schools. There have been some significant developments in the T4L Program since the last edition. Here is an update for you.

ET4L SERVER & SERVICES

The eT4L Server and Services provide schools with a standardised, managed solution which allows them to build a sustainable and supported ICT environment. This supports both teaching and learning and school administration.

Primary School Server Migration

The migration of primary schools to an eT4L environment is 99% complete, 1751 schools have been migrated. The retrofit of configurations and permissions to the file structure are also 99% complete. It is anticipated that this project will be completed late in October 2013.

Primary School LAN Remediation

By the end of 2013 all eT4L primary schools will have a Local Area Network backbone infrastructure that will ensure that they can run data bandwidths at a minimum of 1Gb and outlets to run at a minimum of 100MB. All learning areas within scope will be connected and all non-standard switches in data cabinets will be replaced by supported HP switches.

Secondary School Servers

School registration materials will be sent to schools early in Term 4. Regional staff will be contacting principals to discuss the eT4L Server and Services and what is provided when a school opts-in.

Servers will be delivered to all schools over a 2 week period in Term 4 with deliveries expected to be completed no later than mid December. Standard Installation of the eT4L Server and Services will commence mid Term 1 2014.
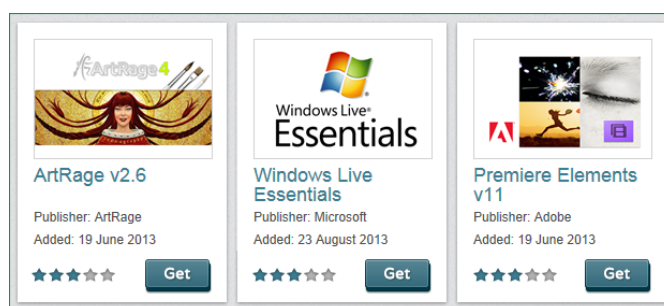
A pilot of 4 schools will be conducted close to the end of Term 4. The rollout will commence in 2014.

Secondary School LAN Remediation

Secondary Schools who opt-in for the Full eT4L Server and Services will be assessed. Where appropriate, remediation will be done so that the Local Area Network infrastructure will ensure that data bandwidths can run at a minimum of 1Gb and outlets to run at a minimum of 100MB. All learning areas within scope will be connected and all non-standard switches in data cabinets will be replaced by supported HP switches. The DER and existing school campus distributors will also be converged.

Software Catalogue

Phase 1 of the eT4L Software Catalogue is complete and field testing will occur in October. This will provide eT4L schools with a user centred interface over the existing Universal Desktop Management (UDM) deployment tool. Schools will have access to a wide range of software titles. The process of requesting software, entering licensing information and initiating the availability of software will be within the UDM.

ArtRage v2.6	Windows Live Essentials	Premiere Elements v11
Publisher: ArtRage	Publisher: Microsoft	Publisher: Adobe
Added: 19 June 2013	Added: 23 August 2013	Added: 19 June 2013
★★★☆☆ Get	★★★☆☆ Get	★★★☆☆ Get

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DEVICES

Communications for the *T4L Computer Equipment Rollout* will be sent to schools early in Term 4.

This year there will be a new tablet device which will be available from March 2014. The following devices will be available:

- Desktop (Win 7) *

- Advanced desktop (Win 7) *

- Laptop (Win 7) *

- Tablets (Win 8.1)

- Wireless Access Points

* All Win 7 devices can be upgraded to Win 8.1 later in 2014 from an eT4L Server.

Apple has advised the Department of Education and Communities that they will no longer install a Department Standard Operating Environment (SOE) on their equipment. Information Technology Directorate is working on a solution for schools. The T4L computer rollout order form will allow schools to flag their preference for Apple devices. Those school orders will be moved to a second order/rollout phase early in 2014.

Further updates will be provided when they become available from the following link:

https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/it/t4l/rollout/t4l_models.htm

Any questions or inquiries can be sent to the following mailbox: **T4L@det.nsw.edu.au**

School Owned Discretionary Purchased Devices

Under the Local Schools, Local Decisions purchasing reform ICT devices such as computers, servers, software, telecommunications and imaging devices are on the list of contracts **excluded** from local purchasing arrangements: https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/procurement.

Schools should only be purchasing approved ICT devices from contracted vendors. Obtaining advice from your local IT support team prior to purchase is highly recommended.

For further information refer:

https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/it/equipment/hardware_stds/standard_pcs_schools.htm

Windows 8 Tablets

There is great anticipation about the potential of tablet devices in the classroom. Windows 8 tablets provide a standard windows desktop environment with a tablet experience.

Before the end of 2013 a list of ITD supported tablet devices will be published. This will correspond with the release of new models early next year when the new Intel chipset and Windows 8.1 is available, providing faster processing, easier management and longer battery life.

Student Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

Many schools are considering whether to implement a student BYOD strategy. There are a lot of issues which need to be considered by the school community before embarking down this path:

Community Consultation. Consult widely and extensively with your school community to assess school readiness. Remember BYOD is optional.

Device Options. Which model suits your community?

- *Model 1: Determined by the School*. The school decides on device model/s that families can purchase.

- *Model 2: Minimum Standard*. Must run specific software or operating system. Must be a certain type of device eg laptops only.

- *Model 3: Anything that Connects*. Students can bring any personally owned device provided it connects to the schools Wi-Fi.

Wi-Fi. Does your school have Wi-Fi that devices can see?

Other Device Considerations. Ability to connect to the schools Wi-Fi network, battery life, screen size, durability, insurance, warranty, camera, microphone, RAM, storage and affordability.

Preparing the Policy/school documents/informing the community. It is anticipated that DEC policy, guidelines, sample user charter and support materials will be available for schools later this year.

Teaching and Learning preparation. What support will be required for teachers, students and parents?

Technical Support. As these devices belong to the students they will need to maintain them. The school will be responsible for providing advice and troubleshooting the connection to the Wi-Fi.

There will be numerous vendors approaching you with products that you might consider endorsing. It is recommended that you seek guidance from local IT Support before making any recommendations.

32-bit vs 64-bit devices

There has been some confusion regarding 32-bit and 64-bit devices. When purchasing new devices it is recommended that they are 64-bit with at least 4GB RAM and 8 hours battery life. This will ensure devices can run software such as the Adobe Creative Suite. 32-bit devices can not be managed so schools will be responsible for updating each device. Please consult with your local IT Support regarding your older 32-bit devices or if considering buying new ones.

MICROSOFT STUDENT BYOD & STAFF WORK AT HOME SOFTWARE

The NSW Department of Education and Communities has negotiated the following agreements with Microsoft :

Staff will continue to get access to Microsoft software on school computers. Staff can also use the software on their home computer under '*Work At Home*' rights from the intranet Website:

https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/it/software/softwareinfo/agreements/microsoft.htm

From early 2014, **school and TAFE students** will be able to install **selected software** for free on their BYOD device including Microsoft Office.

Details of the new agreement and the included software will be posted on the following intranet page when available:

https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/it/software/softwareinfo/index.htm

All DEC staff continue to have access to Work At Home software through the Work At Home website for a nominal charge

A contract has also been signed with Adobe for Student BYOD software. See Technology News for Schools Bulletin 3:

 https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/it/t4l/t4l_projects/news/tnfsaugust2013.pdf

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR SCHOOL IS RUNNING OUT OF IP ADDRESSES

Some Primary School sites are reporting that they do not have enough IP addresses. This is usually due to increased demand created by mobile devices in their school environment. Schools will know that this is happening when a device cannot connect, logon, or connect to network resources e.g. Internet, File or Print.

To resolve this issue, Principals or IT delegates will need to log a call with the ICT Service Desk. This call will serve two purposes:

1.   Clear all current mobile device IP addresses.

(*This is an interim solution.)*

2.   Enable all the available IP addresses at your site.

(*This is the long term solution)*

Contact ICT Service Desk: 1800 338 483

Depending on your needs, suggested requests could be:

"Could the Windows and Citrix technologies Operations Team please clean up the Mobile Device IP addresses in our subnet?"

"Could the IP addresses for our allocated subnet be released to accommodate increased demand from our users?"

DER-NSW

The blue Year 12 laptops (Mini 10, vintage 2010) have started to be unlocked ready for Year 12 students to take with them at the end of the year. It is estimated that approximately 18,000 laptops have already been unlocked. The remaining devices can go through this process any time before the end of Term 1 2014. It is advised that school based TSOs unlock all pool and school blue laptops and as many of the year 12 devices as possible before the end of the year.

Users of the My Locker system on the DER laptops will need to migrate their data from the My Locker folder in readiness for when the eT4L Servers are installed in schools. The new system will replace the My Locker storage folder that has been available for DER laptops since 2009. It is advised that schools prepare for this migration as early as possible and inform students who are using My Locker to copy and backup their data on a USB drive or another folder on their laptop.

Further information for schools regarding school based TSOs and the end of the DER program will be circulated during term 4.

TRAINING

Intel® Teach Elements Program

To help teachers explore 21st century approaches to integrating technology in the classroom, the following courses have been developed by Intel®. The Intel® Teach Elements Program is a series of three complementary courses, which have been registered by the Department with the NSW Institute of Teachers.

- Collaboration in the Digital Classroom
http://collab.elementscourses.com.au/

- Project Based Approaches
http://pba.elementscourses.com.au/

- Assessment in the 21st Century Classroom
http://asst.elementscourses.com.au/

These courses can be completed entirely online, at your own pace from school or home. Courses can be undertaken in any order, and include offline action planning as well as online modules and resources. To enrol through MyPL@Edu search 'intel' in the course name field.

In addition the DEC has a dedicated community to discuss and share during and beyond your Intel® Teach Elements journey.

To access this community use the following link:

http://bit.ly/DECIntelTeachElementsCommunity

The eT4L team is now seeking expressions of interest from teachers and school leaders who would like to become

trained facilitators in the delivery of this program to infuse 21st Century technology integration across the state. The expression of interest information leaflet is located here: https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/it/learnsyssupport/intelteach elementsprogram/intel_teach_elements_facilitators.htm

Student Email

Are you making the most of student email? These powerful accounts provided by the DEC give students the opportunity to take their first steps into active and productive digital citizenship in a secure environment. Student email accounts come with 30 gigabytes of storage for photo, video, audio and document attachments. Now all those photos from the excursion can be attached and sent home. DEC student email can support student learning through simple communication, document distribution as well as providing access to a variety of online resources.

The student email account can be thought of as a passport or a travel document that gives students both online rights and responsibilities to travel through the rich diversity of learning experiences found on the internet. To get the most out of this asset teachers are encouraged to explore email with their students.

For other important reasons to teach junior students how to use their email account download the poster below by accessing the following link: http://bit.ly/StudentEmailTop10

LEARNING TOOLS

eBackpack is live for schools with an eT4L server

eBackpack is an application that provides:

1. A facility for teachers to create online shared workspaces.

2. Teachers and students with online personal file storage.

Where do I find eBackpack?

School students: Through the student portal (or Kidspace) via a link in the eBackpack portlet.

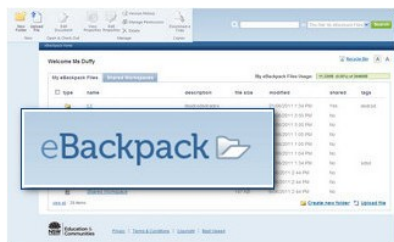*School staff:* Through a link in the My Learning Tools tab in the staff portal (DEC Insight).

What can teachers use eBackpack for?

Sharing of files – Upload files you wish your students to access. Students can submit work from school or home for review or marking. Teachers can share or collaborate on the creation of programs or worksheets with other teachers.

Collaborative Documents – Users can collaborate in real time using the browser version of Microsoft Office which is included with eBackpack.
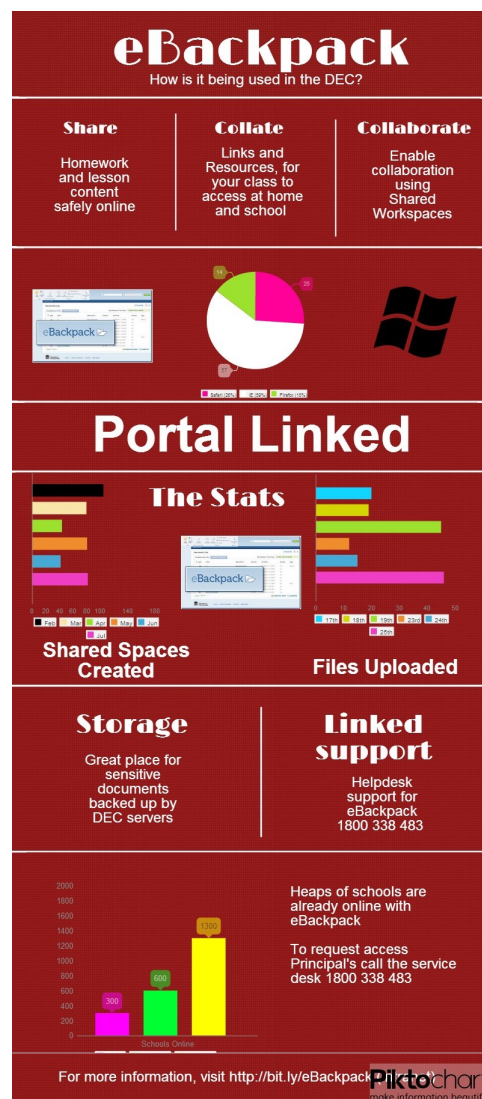
One Teacher's Success Story with eBackpack:

"I teach music by distance education so eBackpack is a really valuable tool for both me and my students. I have used it in a number of ways, but the way I use it most often, is as a repository for files that students need in a hurry. It may be an audio file or mp4 as part of a lesson or study they are undertaking or a CD to accompany a revision exercise.
It enables me to tailor my teaching program to suit individual interests and abilities, and to provide material for extension activities.

At the moment some of my students are adding a soundtrack to an excerpt from a silent movie. If they want some feedback or assistance, they put it in eBackpack. I can make some adjustments for them and then they can continue on, it means I can solve problems for the students before they become frustrated and throw in the towel!

> - Julie Montague, HT Administration, Sydney Distance Education High School

Don't forget eBackpack is fully supported by the ICT Service Desk. For more information and links to support materials check out the eBackpack support page on the intranet. http://bit.ly/eBackpack

Link to info-graphic: http://bit.ly/eBackpackIdeas

Google Apps for Education

The Google Apps team is working hard on the release of Google Apps for Education. This broad set of collaborative tools, will revolutionise the way in which students can investigate, collaborate, present and organise information.

To begin your Google Apps Journey why not explore the possibilities by:

Joining our Google Apps collaborative community on Google

http://bit.ly/DECGooglePlusCommunity

Visiting our constantly changing PL site http://bit.ly/GoogleAppsPL

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

BlogED Blasters

BlogED is a customised blogging tool available to the students and staff in DEC schools across NSW.

During the first few weeks of term 3, a group of passionate blogED users got together to inaugurate the official blogED community, and to share their passion for the tool.

We named them our *blogED Blasters*.

This was an inspiring session both for the participants and the T4L team. Examples of some of the innovative ways that blogED is being used:

"I have student's blog book reports, daily happenings in class, photos and work they are completing."

"Students use blogED to consolidate their learning of History and Science."

In addition some of our Blasters have agreed to share their blogs and ideas with you. They have posted examples of web tools that they have successfully embedded in their blogED posts. These ideas have been used with students and have been found to engage their readers.

 If you take a look at the web links you can find ways to use audio files, photos, slideshows, polls, posters and much more.

Please add your own ideas to make this an interesting and productive resource for all blogED users.

Details on how to contribute are in the first post.

http://bit.ly/blogEDBLOG

Inspired to learn more about blogED?

Intranet page: http://bit.ly/blogEDLearningSupport

Community: http://bit.ly/blogEDMaang

Case Study:
In addition, one of our Blasters, Collette Trad, has written a case study of how she uses blogED in the classroom. Have a look at her inspirational story here on the Blasters intranet page: http://bit.ly/blogEDBlasters

BlogED is fully supported by the ICT service desk so technical help is just a phone call away **(Ph 1800 338 483)**

Apple iInnovators

On a Friday and Saturday in late August a crew of twenty inspired educators came together to learn more about Apple devices. They looked at how to incorporate them into their classroom practice and spent time exploring the concept of "challenge based learning. "These are our newly crowned DEC Apple iInnovators.

 The group explored tools such as iTunes U and iBooks Author and experimented with the latest devices. Some of the future plans for our new inspired iInnovators include:

- Developing an iTunes U course to up skill staff in the use of iPads

- Creating a showcase series of iBooks for use in the classroom

- Working with students to create iBook records of overseas visits to Space camp and Japan

For details on your local iInnovator, links to further information on iTunes U and Challenge Based Learning, access our iInnovators intranet page, or why not join the DEC Apple Community on Google +.

Community: http://bit.ly/DECiInnovatorCommunity

Intranet page: http://bit.ly/DECiInnovatorsIntranet

eBackpack Engagers

Are you an eBackpack user? Would you be interested in leading eBackpack usage across the state? Express your interest in becoming an eBackpack Engager today by accessing the information pack on the intranet page:

http://bit.ly/eBackpackEngager

Google Champions

In need of some inspiration and assistance to plan for the incorporation of the Google Apps for Education toolset at your school or in your classroom? Tap in to the expertise of our Google Apps for Education experts in the DEC, and participate in the Google conversation.

Community: http://bit.ly/DECGooglePlusCommunity

Intranet page: http://bit.ly/DECGoogleApps