

Interagency Meeting 2009

Interfacing with IT

Fred Baker, Coos Bay SD

What do IT people need to know & understand about AT/AIM?

What's the best way to approach communication with IT?

Solutions:

Look at ways to level the playing field

Look for solutions that IT will buy into, e.g. applications that can run on a network, where licensing can be handled at the district level, for example Kurzweil 3000 (server-based application, imaged on all computers in the district. Students at any school can access via any computer. 6 licenses in district, 6 students at a time can use it. If a 7th student tries to log on, can't get in.)

Web based applications are easy for IT folks because easy to deploy.

Professional version of Dragon is networkable, with profile that can be accessed from any networked computer. \$800 for the professional version, but can have multiple licenses(?)

Roaming Profiles:

In a windows-based environment, can pull down personal profile from any computer on network.

Coos Bay SD:

The AT user has a specific login which brings specific icons to the desktop, screens out other applications

Remedial Reader has a profile that works in the same way

Thin Client Technologies: Take an old computer that works like a drone when connected to a server, can run applications which are run from a server. Works as a way to leverage hardware for OAKS testing, etc. Can save work to a flash drive. Office works well for this, they're trying AutoCad, which seems to work.

How to approach IT folks:

- Approach IT Director
- Keep requests reasonable
- The Hillsboro team meets twice monthly with their IT dept. They have very conservative security measures, but getting better
- Help IT dept know what you're trying to do:
 - Share what projects students and teachers are doing to help them understand why you want to load something like Garage Band. Take pictures, take them on a tour, show examples, etc.
 - Bring a student to demonstrate who knows how to use it well.
 - Umatilla-Morrow did a demo for their IT team, showed free applications, talked about an image that could include open source applications, helped them understand UDL concept, why they want it. They're asking all districts

what they want individually so ESD IT gets a “stamp of approval” from the district.

- Don't ask for something that needs to be done “yesterday”
- Oftentimes, something you're wanting them to do, like assigning individual logins, is something they want to do and will be happy to try piloting.