

Networking 101

West Virginia Network (WVNET)

West Virginia Statewide Technology Conference 2017 Wrap-Up



The West Virginia Statewide Technology Conference was a great success! Held on July 18-20 at the Morgantown Marriott Hotel at Waterfront Place and the Morgantown Event Center, the conference was attended by nearly 500 educators from throughout West Virginia. 176 representatives from 79 different companies also participated in the event to demonstrate the latest educational technologies.



Judge Dan O'Hanlon

Many people attended the WVSTC as an opportunity to learn about some new tools and techniques, and to network with their fellow educators. The conference also offered formal training during the early part of the week, on subjects including Coding with Apple, Office Mix, Library Media Specialist, Certifications and 1:1 Initiatives. County Technology Integrations Specialists took a bus trip to Coopers Rock State Park where they participated in training from Apple on a variety of outdoors-based projects using iPads and other innovative technology.

The main WVSTC started with a general session on Tuesday. Judge Dan O'Hanlon of WVNET and Senator Bob Beach delivered greetings and introductory comments. Keynote speaker Shannon McClintock Miller kicked off the conference with an inspiring history of accomplishments at Van Meter School in Van Meter, Iowa where they formed a community in the library to help students get what they wanted – to be connected, to have a voice, to collaborate, to create, to have experiences, to have access, and to make a difference. Using technology, they achieved these goals. With Skype,



Senator Bob Beach

they were able to collaborate with other schools across the country and interact with famous authors such as Mercer Mayer and Seymour Simon. They used Minecraft to make a simulation of Little Big Horn, opening the minds of school administrators to allow Minecraft as a tool on school computers. As many students were making and trading rainbow bracelets, they found a way to send them to children in Africa resulting in web groups Banding Together and Noble Kid which provide opportunities for students to collaborate with other schools and people. Shannon showed that kids are anxious to learn and accomplish things when they can have a voice in how they want to learn.



Shannon McClintock Miller, Keynote

On Tuesday through Thursday the WVSTC offered 120 Concurrent Sessions exploring a wide range of topics such as teaching and learning techniques, collaboration tools, coding, 1:1 implementation, security, networking, gamification and using new technologies. These sessions played a large role in the WVSTC, offering training opportunities from peers and experts. Some conference attendees were also presenters, and this was an opportunity for them to pass their ideas and experiences to the learning community. Non-degree credit was offered for a low registration fee from Concord University to all attendees who completed the assignments based solely on the conference. These courses can be used for renewal of teaching certificates and advance salary classification.

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On Tuesday evening, the West Virginia Department of Education hosted a STEM Playground where people could get their hands on the latest educational technology products that can be used to create meaningful learning experiences. People enjoyed playing with robotics, racetracks, breadboards, virtual reality, and green screen photography, while enjoying snacks and other entertainment. Fun and education were hand-in-hand.

Vendors are a key part of the WVSTC! Each of them offers a different array of products and services that contribute to the technology used in schools. There were many opportunities to interact with vendors at the conference. Some of the meals and snacks were held in the vendor area. There were games and prizes involving vendors. Product demos were available throughout the conference. Educators found new products that will help in their schools, and vendors grew their customer list. Win-Win!

The conference ended with a closing luncheon and keynote presentation. Steven Paine, Ed. D., West Virginia Superintendent of Schools, delivered some opening remarks where he invited all West Virginia educators to share their innovative ideas with his office. Dr. Robbie Melton followed with a lively presentation about the Internet of Things. Dr. Melton brought a large collection of technological toys and tools to bring everyone up to speed on what is available, or will be available, since companies send her samples to evaluate and enhance. While some technologies are astounding and compelling, such as contact lenses that monitor regulate insulin for diabetics or smart phones with holographic displays, others seemed silly such as diapers that notify you when they need changed. Dr. Melton has a contagious sense of humor when she debates the ramifications of new gadgets, but she also is skilled at finding value in applying tools to a different function.



Dr. Robbie Melton, Closing Keynote



The West Virginia Statewide Technology Conference offers a low-cost in-state opportunity for educators to meet, train and network. It's a yearly event that just keeps getting better! We encourage you to join us at next year's conference, on July 17-19 2018 at the Morgantown Marriott Hotel at Waterfront Place.

(Guest article by WVNET Manager Media Services Mike Karolchik)



FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dan O'Hanlon, Director

It has been a year of storms for WVNET and for West Virginia. Budget storms and thunderstorms!

Now we are in a tech storm because August is often the best month for WVNET to do technology upgrades on many programs. August is a rare time when most students are gone and we have a small window to update to the latest version of critical software.

So, we are all hard at work, rushing to beat that 'back to school' deadline. It's like that every year here and we have dropped into the rhythm.

Every year, we work hard to give our customers the latest and the best technology to run their schools. We thank you all for your patience while we rush to get it done.

Maybe it's the time of year or maybe it's something in the air, but all of a sudden we have lost several very talented WVNET employees. They have all left for greener pastures and higher salaries elsewhere. In some ways, this is a tribute to the great employees we have here at WVNET.

But at a time of budget crisis in West Virginia and difficulties in getting open positions filled, it has been a real challenge. Many current employees have had to step up and fill in while we seek permission to hire replacements and then go through the process of advertising and interviewing candidates.

So, things change and we move on. I wish each and every one of them much good luck as they start their new careers. I thank them for all they did for us and for you, our customers. And soon I will be welcoming the new employees — life goes on!

WVNET CELEBRATES SYSADMIN DAY

System Administrator Appreciation Day is an international celebration of sysadmins across the globe on the last Friday in July, an official recognition of geekdom and of the time and effort these device doctors and tech-therapists sacrifice as they work their magic at unsocial hours.

In appreciation of their workplace contributions, system administrators are to be spoiled rotten on Sysadmin Day, or SAD, as they like to call it. At WVNET, a lunchtime celebration was held during which system administrators were treated to pizza and dessert. Mark your calendars now for next year's special day which will be on Friday, July 27, 2018.



(Guest article by WVNET staff member Fran Barnes)

WVHETC 2017 CANCELED



Regrettably, the **WV Higher Education Technology Conference 2017** scheduled to be held on October 2-3, 2017, has been **canceled**. Surveys and direct communications with past attendees indicated that many people were unlikely to register due to budgetary uncertainties at their institutions. WVNET strives to offer the best possible conference experience and felt that a small attendance would dramatically impact the outcome in an unfavorable way. We apologize for the cancellation, especially to those of you who made travel arrangements.

Plans are underway to hold this conference in November 2018. We hope that you will be able to attend. Keep in mind, we rely on your response to our surveys, emails, Call for Proposals and registrations as a way to measure interest and gauge attendance. When you see these communications in 2018, please take a moment to comment so that we may know your plans.

(Guest article by WVNET staff member Fran Barnes)

KASPERSKY CYBER SECURITY SOFTWARE THREAT

Kaspersky Lab sells security software, including antivirus programs recommended by big-box stores and other U.S. PC retailers. However one big-box store, Best Buy, just announced that it will no longer sell security software from the Russian internet security company after concerns that the company could be unduly influenced by the Russian government.



The FBI has been briefing private sector companies on intelligence claiming to show that the Moscow-based cybersecurity company Kaspersky Lab is an unacceptable threat to national security. The U.S. intelligence community says there appears to be deep and active relationships with Kaspersky and Russian intelligence. FBI officials point to multiple specific accusations of wrongdoing by Kaspersky, such as a well-known instance of allegedly faking malware.

In July, the US Senate Armed Services Committee specifically proposed prohibiting the Department of Defense from utilizing Kaspersky Lab products, "due to reports that the Moscow-based company might be vulnerable to Russian government influence." The Committee on Science, Space and Technology for the US House of Representatives requested that all 22 government agencies share their documentation and communications regarding the company, according to a [report from Reuters](#).

Kaspersky has long denied ever helping any government with cyber-espionage efforts saying that it is caught in the midst of an international geopolitical battle, and that it "has never helped, nor will help, any government in the world with its cyberespionage or offensive cyber efforts." The company launched a free, global version of its antivirus software, saying in a blog post that it would help "secure the whole world."

For more details, see: https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/us-to-ban-use-of-kaspersky-software-in-federal-agencies-amid-concerns-of-russian-espionage/2017/09/13/36b717d0-989e-11e7-82e4-f1076f6d6152_story.html?utm_term=.662c5848376f

(Guest article by WVNET staff members Steven White and Randall Long)

THE MINDSET LIST FOR THE CLASS OF 2021

Beloit College faculty posted their list of things common to their fall 2017 freshmen. The full list from Beloit is available here: <https://www.beloit.edu/mindset/2021/>

I have a child who will be in the class of 2022, so I started to think about what she has experienced and came up with a few things most of us can identify with.

This fall's freshmen class were mostly born in 1999 when many people were concerned about what might happen on January 1, 2000. They lived to tell the Y2K tale and are much more dependent on computers than those who entered college in 1999. They have probably carried a smartphone since their middle school years and have never needed to remember phone numbers or wear a watch.

It's unlikely that this year's freshmen have ever leafed through an encyclopedia or Christmas catalog. Many of them have probably never been in a classroom with a chalkboard. Some of them lightened their backpack in high school by downloading their textbooks to their ipad or kindle. They might already have a semester or more of college credits taken in high school.

They don't remember a time when you couldn't get a hybrid or electric car. They may have been born during Hurricane Floyd in September of 1999 or be part of the baby boom after Hurricane Georges.

Haley Joe Osment has always been associated with the phrase, "I see dead people." The Mummy has always been scaring people. SpongeBob has always existed.

Vladimir Putin has always been the president of Russia.

The year they were born, Internet Explorer was at version 5, Napster and MySpace were released, and Bluetooth was announced.

A few more interesting facts about 1999:

- ⇒ The Dow-Jones industrial Average went over 11,000 for the first time.
- ⇒ The average cost of a new house was \$131,750.
- ⇒ The average household income was \$40,810.
- ⇒ The average cost of a new car was \$21,050.
- ⇒ Federal Minimum Wage was \$5.15.
- ⇒ A gallon of gas cost \$1.22.
- ⇒ The interest rate was 8.5%.
- ⇒ You could buy a loaf of bread (\$1.49), a dozen eggs (\$0.89), and a pound of bacon (\$2.59) for \$4.97.

(Guest article by WVNET staff member Dianne Sisler)



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ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE —
POWERFUL EXERCISE FOR EVERYONE!



Walk 100 Miles in 100 Days began on April 17 and ended on July 25. This year during 'The Ultimate Challenge,' walkers turned in unlimited miles per day and per week.

WVNET had 7 participants (6 staff members and 1 spouse) who walked a whopping 1862.7 miles!

The goal of Walk 100 Miles in 100 Days was to get participants excited about exercise and walk at least 1 mile (about 2000 steps) every day for 100 days. Walking is a great form of exercise that is easy to do and can be done almost anywhere.

According to the Mayo Clinic, physical activity doesn't need to be complicated. Something as simple as a daily brisk walk can help you live a healthier life.

For example, regular brisk walking can help you:

- Maintain a healthy weight
- Prevent or manage various conditions, including heart disease, high blood pressure and type 2 diabetes
- Strengthen your bones and muscles
- Improve your mood
- Improve your balance and coordination

The faster, farther and more frequently you walk, the greater the benefits.

(Guest article by WVNET staff member Fran Barnes)