

State Systems Constituent Group
Annual Meeting
EDUCAUSE99
Wednesday October 27 at lunch

VOLUME LICENSING

Ruth Robertson convened the group of more than 25 by outlining the major points of Maryland's enterprise agreement with Microsoft. The private-public-K-12 and higher ed consortium is summarized at <http://www.usmsc.edu/meec/meechome.html>. Among the questions were some about payments (license price paid in annual installments for three years; every eligible desktop must be licensed), media and other support materials (available through an education select agreement from an authorized reseller), and term of the contract (three years plus two options years). Maryland hopes to benefit from additional volume purchases. Someone mentioned that eAcademy.com will license software for the duration of the course. Network computing also makes possible a pay per use model for software that might be very useful in coursework..

NETWORKS

The University of Massachusetts manages a statewide network over an OC48 fiber backbone placed in conjunction with Massachusetts turnpike services. They have bid the services, offering options to each region. Community colleges are big users of video. Some K-12 schools and state agencies are connected, too. Internet services and a remote access program complete the array, with funding on a fee per service basis. Those present received a brochure; loads of information may also be found at <http://www.umassp.edu/miti/>.

SUNY University Information System manages a network <http://www.sunynet.suny.edu> with a chargeback system that they plan to use for economic development. Because the network is constrained to meet the needs of the state, participation is limited to commercial interests that have recognized links to the state's economic development initiatives. Management is tiered, with each institution (including private colleges and universities) defining its user base. The network acceptable use policy excludes purely commercial interests that are unrelated to the university. Reliability of the network is good because they use good diagnostic tools to locate problems on the network, and redundant ISPs. An advisory committee approves charges. They contract with each institution to cover operational costs (personnel, ISPs, and backbone lines) plus \$1200 per month per T1 to the Internet. Campuses pay access charges to regional hubs. The state subsidized the capital investment.

Is anyone providing a systemwide help desk 7x24? Georgia provides technical support, but not to end user. <http://www.peachnet.edu/peachnet/>

The State of Georgia is not doing charge backs because the system assumes responsibility for a standard level of use that includes access to the state library network.
<http://www.peachnet.edu/galileo/about.html>

LIBRARY NETWORKS

Richard Varn asked whether anyone outside Iowa is using the network to broker content. A consortium of librarians <http://www.silo.lib.ia.us> uses the network and associated infrastructure to order and store digital materials. Cal State <http://www.co.calstate.edu/irt/seir/sys.lib.init.html> has an electronic core collection that it is considering sharing with other colleges. Mississippi has a state-funded purchasing mandate <http://www.lib.usm.edu/~magnolia/magnolia.html> . They are identifying what they wish to buy and looking for corporate partners who can help them develop and maintain a collection.

A logical extension in the web-based learning environment would be for systems to fund the development of reusable instructional objects that could be catalogued and stored centrally. Such a library would permit instructors to make choices among the best and decline to reinvent the wheel.