



**Personal Digital Assistants Constituent Group  
Meeting Minutes**

**Session:** Wednesday, October 2, 4:55 – 6:10 p.m. (52 participants)

**Facilitator:** **Dan Burrows**,  
Manager of Systems, Networks, and Telecommunications  
University of Minnesota Duluth

**By show of hands, how many participants have:**

PDA's on their campuses? **All**

a formal PDA program for students? **3**

a single PDA standard for faculty/staff/students? **0**

wireless PDA's on campus? **16**

**What brand(s) of PDA's are being used on your campus?**

- HP iPAQ **15**

- Palm Pilot **18**

- Handspring Visor **12**

- RIM Blackberry **6**

- Others: **Thera (Verizon), Toshiba, Sony**

**What operating systems are being run on your campus PDA's?**

- Palm **16**

- Windows CE **14**

- Linux **0**

- Others **0**

**If you have a formal PDA program for students on your campus, what discipline(s) are involved?**

- Engineering **2**

- Medical **2**

- Computer Science **1**

- Sciences **0**

- Humanities **0**

- Education **3**

- Business **0**

- Arts **0**

- Others: **Dental 2, Vet 1**

**What general application areas are being used with PDAs?**

- Email 9
- Web browsing 12
- News and information (Avantgo, etc) 7
- Server-based calendar systems 22
- Administrative applications 2
- Specialized academic applications 5
- Class room setting

**If you are supporting wireless PDAs, what form of wireless are you using?**

- 802.11b 15
- 802.11a 1
- Bluetooth 1

**What wireless authentication, encryption, or other security are you using?**

- Radius
- MAC address
- VPN client 13 have it 2 heavily use it
- 6 wireless authentication users

**General Discussion:**

Anne Bishop – Wake Forest

Makes iPAQ a web server and can be used with PowerPoint presentations – students can use anything with a browser to view the presentation through 802.11. This is a Pilot program with 5 faculty using it. Awaiting feedback from students to determine if students have done reading via web form which can be synced to a PC later.

University of Minnesota

500 people using IPAQs - (wants to use Wake Forest software for TAs)

Lots of in house applications have been created in his area.

Angela Clip

Medical Students all 4 years

Dental Students 3 years

App Usage is being tracked for benchmark data.

Paul Star – Case Western Reserve

Developing for class participation software/tracking

Researchers in medical school using PDAs to eliminate paper

Chris Ferguson

Disaster plan via the Palm – teams/contacts/vendor list in PDA format

Colorado State

Developing field guides

Mary Ann Kingston

Response technicians get PDAs for inventory information with scanner and Ethernet card for network connectivity (iPAQ)

Other uses:

Development – database to set up contacts and meetings via access database.

Biology researchers collecting data on migration projects and GPS Expansion Packs for agricultural applications

### **Popular Software/Products**

- AvantGo and Documents to Go
- E-wallet – passport information
- Seiko smart pad (converts handwriting to PDA) runs about 159.00

### **What problems are PDAs causing on your campus?**

- Need to meet HIPPA requirements
- Arch Stream solutions – works with medical people for compliance

### **If you have a formal PDA program for students, what methods are you using for distributing PDAs to students?**

- Students purchase and bring their own
- Campus purchases and distributes in class
  - Certain days are designated to pick up PDAs and they must be signed for (accountability)

### **Questions:**

#### **Q: If you deploy handhelds – do you get push back from students who use another different device?**

- Some problems with syncing multiple types of devices
- Some schools have specific software/requirements only available on certain PDAs. (You can use whatever PDA you want but you may not get all the requirements)
- Minnesota mandates what the students can buy.
- Some offer an alternative: you can buy laptops instead of PDAs as long as they have wireless access.

### **Training and support:**

- No school has a support model – Survey at U of Minnesota said there aren't many problems.
- Resident Technology advisors are already using laptops and are doing support, so adding PDAs was not a big deal. Problems that cannot be addressed by the student help are then escalated to the professional support staff.
- Are there any policies for Faculty and Staff? **No**

**General comments on the session, ideas for next year, ideas for generating more conversation on the listserv, etc.**

- Ideas for next year's session: demos of software, projector for viewing demos, sound system
- Combo Devices – status update (cell phone/PDA)
  - PCSprint and Verizon have fast connection times cost per 2meg transfer about 80 dollars per month.
- Instant Message on cell phones – “new way to pass messages in class”
- Technology and tools for real time, trackable, and warehouseable data
- East Carolina University – for Blue Tooth research information contact:  
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