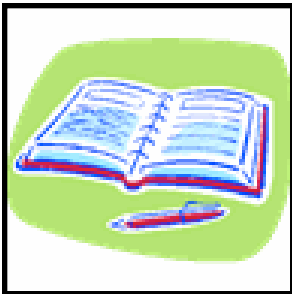




Whose Network is It?

The past two months have seen a heated debate over a concept known as network neutrality. It's a concept that has managed to unite such disparate forces as MoveOn.org and the Christian Coalition, both members of Save the Internet, an organization determined to preserve network neutrality.



What is network neutrality? It refers to the idea that the network should provide the same level of service to every user for every website they visit. So, whether you choose Google or Yahoo as your search engine, the speed of searching will be

the same. There are three principles of network neutrality: non-discrimination, interconnection, and access. These principles--which you can learn more about at Wikipedia--support the idea that every website should have the same level of service and connection, and every end user should be able to get to every other end user no matter who they use as an Internet Service Provider.

But, you ask, isn't that how it works right now? Yes...no matter who you are, the network treats you the same way. So, visitors to your school's website get the same speed of connection they get when they access Google.

There are no laws in place, however, to see that this neutrality remains in place. A bill recently passed by the House Commerce Committee, called the Communications Opportunity, Promotion and En-

hancement (COPE) bill, did nothing to preserve this Internet tradition. Opponents of the bill believe that it opened the door for large telecommunications companies to charge fees for faster service, thus creating a two-tiered system of Internet access, with large websites able to pay the fees and thus attract more traffic because of the speedy connection. In response, the House Judiciary Committee has passed the Internet Freedom and Nondiscrimination Act, and other bills are pending that would codify the practice of net neutrality.

The debate over network neutrality is taking place right now, and decisions made will influence all Internet users including schools and their teachers and students.

Learn More...

Wikipedia Entry for Network Neutrality:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Network_neutrality

Good overview [article](#), from ZDNet:
http://news.zdnet.com/2100-9595_22-6077007.html

Conference

Calendar

Upcoming Conferences

The best place to look for educational technology conferences is at <http://www.thejournal.com>. Their searchable calendar is a comprehensive guide to national and international conferences: <http://www.theconferencecalendar.com>. In this space, we'll be featuring conferences of particular interest to Virginia educators.

National Educational Computing Conference: San Diego, July 4 - 7, 2006. Thousands of educators come together once a year to talk about technology. Just amazing!
<http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/NECC2006/>

UVA Offers Summer Opportunity

The "Summer Institute for Educational Technology Leaders" will be held at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, July 24-27, 2006. This institute is designed for principals, technology coordinators, and teacher team leaders who are responsible for the successful integration and implementation of educational technology in their schools.

It offers participants an opportunity to examine best practices for leading technology efforts and to critically analyze the impact of a school's culture, structures, and policies on technology utilization. Participating leaders will examine their own beliefs about instruction and the role of technology in schools and will develop an understanding of the leadership

knowledge and skills necessary for effective technology integration and implementation.

This institute consists of an intensive three credit course, EDLF 589: Technology Leadership, taught by Dr. Sara Dexter. Attendance at all four days of the institute and registration for graduate credit are required. The cost includes an \$80 registration fee (which covers lunch, parking, and snacks) plus tuition for 3 graduate credits and a technology fee (\$612 for in-state residents and \$912 for out-of-state registrants). Enrollment is limited.

To get a registration form, which provides further information about the location and schedule of the institute, go to <http://etl.obiki.org>.

ITRT Summer Camps Announced

ITRT Summer Camp, sponsored by the Office of Educational Technology, is open for every ITRT in the commonwealth to attend. Participation at the summer camp is free to all attendees. Two camps will be held: July 26-28 in Radford City at Radford High School, and August 2-4 in Fredericksburg City at Lafayette Upper Elementary School.

ITRTs will have the opportunity to network with other ITRTs from around the state. Sessions will include collaborative work sessions, hands-on sessions, and concurrent sessions. Vendor sessions will be incorporated into the program with additional give-aways for those attending. Work sessions will be conducted during extended lunch periods. To learn more, visit <http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Technology/OET/ITRTcamp.shtml>

Technology and Reading

Reading is one of my favorite activities. One of my second favorite activities is reading ABOUT reading. There are plenty of great spots on the web where teachers and students can learn more about reading and talk to others about what they are reading.

International Reading Association

The International Reading Association's website is a portal for anyone involved in reading: teachers, students, parents and even just general readers. Here you will find, of course, lots of information about the organization itself. The website, however, is also full of reading-related resources including annual booklists, information on literacy issues, and lesson plans. A section specifically devoted to technology offers a free e-newsletter called Reading Online and links to several different articles and presentations related to reading and technology. <http://www.reading.org/>



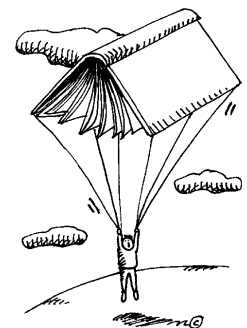
Early Elementary Reading

Starfall offers reading games and online books for pre-school and early elementary readers. The free online activities are based on research related to emergent readers. Each of the four sections is designed for a different level reader. The ABC section introduces letter sounds. In the Learn to Read section, students can create words, read stories and view videos that teach reading skills. In the It's Fun to Read and I'm Reading sections, beginning to advanced readers can practice their new skills. Free writing journals and worksheets are available for download to accompany the website. <http://www.starfall.com>



Reading is Fundamental

This organization has been around since 1966 when a former school teacher gave a bag of books to some young men she was tutoring. It was the first book any of them had ever owned. Reading is Fundamental (RIF) was born. The National Book Program is still going strong, and the RIF website has lots to offer parents, teachers, and students. There are lessons for the teachers, and games and activities for the students. Right now, RIF and Target are partners in a summer reading challenge for children ages 5 to 15. <http://www.rif.org/>



Good Reads



We can't be good technology ambassadors if we aren't well-informed. And with the Internet, keeping up to date has never been easier. Each month, I'll be highlighting interesting, relevant sources from research projects to government reports and ezines to bloggers.

The Pew Internet and American Life Project

A project of the Pew Charitable Trust, this project attempts to document the influence of the Internet on all facets of American life and includes reports about cell phone use, access rates, and teen access and issues. Next time you've got a presentation to

do, stop by here for some interesting statistics about the Millennials and the Internet. For instance, did you know that more than half of all teens have created some kind of content on the Internet from blogs to webpages to videos? <http://www.pewinternet.org/index.asp>

Just for Fun (and maybe some learning, too!)

Lego Online

"Video games are bad for you? That's what they said about rock and roll."

-- Shigeru Miyamoto, Nintendo General Manager

'Video games are a waste of time for men with nothing else to do.'

-- Ray Bradbury, Salon.com, Aug. 29, 2001

Remember Legos? Those plastic bricks and colorful characters that provided endless hours of creative fun? The website is lots of fun with pictures of kids' creations (one based on the Trojan Horse and that from an 8 year old!), critical thinking games that allow you to build virtually, discussion boards and more. <http://www.lego.com/eng/default.aspx>