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Computer Network Solutions and Management Services

AxiNews

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Teacher Rules Late 1800s

1. Teachers each day will fill lamps and clean chimneys.
2. Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's session.
3. Make your pens carefully. You may whittle nibs to the individual taste of the pupils.
4. Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly
5. After ten hours in school, the teachers may spend the remaining time reading the Bible or other good books.
6. Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.
7. Every teacher should lay aside from each pay a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his declining years so that he will not become a burden on society
8. Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a barbershop will give good reason to suspect his worth, intention, integrity and honesty.

Tech Briefing: Cloud Computing—Misconception #2

Moving some of your business computing services to the cloud may save you money and simplify your computer infrastructure. But, cloud computing is a new trend and with it there are many misconceptions. This misconception is the second in the series. If you would like to read the first misconception in the July 2013 newsletter, visit our website and to the Resources tab where you will see our past newsletters.

Misconception #2 - The Cloud is Cheaper or Free

Cloud costs are a variety of expenses whether your application is cloud-hosted or on premise.

Setup costs - When you move to the cloud, you will probably incur some large out-of-pocket expenses such as setup charges, data migration, user account setup.

Monthly subscription cost - monthly cost per users will be higher for a business with a small number of user than for a business with a large

number. To compare costs, calculate the cloud costs over a 3-year to 5-year period which is the useful life of an on-premise server. Typically for small business of less than 25 users the cloud computing costs will be higher than having an on-premise server. But savings will be had by lower server administration costs.

Administrative cost of doing things like managing backups, applying security upgrades, and adding/removing user accounts. If you are using a hosted application such as Salesforce, then the application updates and security patches are applied by the service provider. But if you are using a hosted Windows server, you may be responsible for application updates, security patches, data backups and user administration. Make certain these roles and responsibilities are outlined with your service provider before entering into an agreement.

Physical space savings - By moving to the cloud, you may be able to free up some usable office space for storage or staff. Even though
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Bring Your Own Devices?

We need technology in every classroom and in every student and teacher's hand, because it is the pen and paper of our time, and it is the lens through which we experience much of our world." – David Warlick

David Warlick is a writer, programmer and technology expert of over 30 years. His com-

ment is prescient and relevant for today. One of the questions is, do students bring their own devices or do schools provide them? With diverse socio-economic situations in the United States, certain school districts will have distinct advantages over others. And, if schools allow students to bring their own devices, there needs to be some well-structured policies in place to
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Cloud Computing

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cost of physical space may be cheaper in a data center than the cost of office space, the cost saving may be negligible. The real savings will be in reclaiming usable space in your office.

Electrical and air-conditioning costs - You will lower your electric bill by moving applications to the cloud but those costs will be rolled into part of your cloud-computing bill. In other words, you will have to pay for the electricity somewhere.



Bring Your Own Devices ...

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monitor the usage of these devices.

Many schools are now adopting BYOD policies to align with the reality of the fact that corporations are increasingly realizing and supporting the fact that employees bring their own devices to the workplace. An advantage of allowing devices in the classroom is that the academic experience can be continued without disruption or having to re-acquaint to another device between school and home.

While schools might be lauded for being attune to workforce realities, schools also need to be cognizant and aware of the dangers of students bringing their own devices. One of the obvious dangers is the potential for lack of security and protection. Do these devices have adequate anti-virus, anti-spam and appropriate filters installed?

Call AXICOM to discuss BYOD policies for your school or office. 818.865.9865.



Fun Facts About Education!

- * Think eight weeks of summer vacation is too long? In Chile, summer vacation lasts from mid-December to early March, meaning Chilean children are off for about 12 weeks.
- * Everyone's favorite coloring utensil, the crayon, ranks #18 on the list of most recognizable scents, according to a study done by Yale University. In the Color Census of 2000, blue was voted the favorite crayon color. The worst? Tan, tumbleweed and spring green.
- * The biggest school in the world (in terms of pupils, not area) is the City Montessori school in Lucknow, India. The school was set up by the Ghandi's in 1959 and has more than 32,000 students! That's more than a lot of universities (not to mention a lot of towns...)

Online Higher Education

Online higher education is becoming more popular as parents and students recognize the high cost of traditional college courses is prohibitive and that the format might be a bit archaic. These online options have had some interesting journeys, not all of which were successful, but all of which have contributed to the development of education.

In the world of online academics, just as in traditional academics, there are for-profit and non-profit organizations. Those that provide free online courses have been named **MOOCs** for Massively Open Online Courses which embrace the idea that education and knowledge should be shared without a cost.

One of the original online education endeavors is **Alison** which was started in Ireland and focuses on practical certifications for vocational training. Courses include health, languages and business. The majority of students are either from the UK or the US.

One of the more recent partnerships is **Coursera**, a collaboration of over 75 universities and academic institutions and founded by two Stanford professors. Original members include Stanford, Princeton, Penn, and Michigan. More recent partners include Yale, Rice and the California Institute of Technology. All of the current 39 Coursera courses are offered free to participants. There is a broad array of course offerings from languages to business to technology and much more.

Udacity is another MOOC option with a focus on science and technology. Course offerings include Introduction to Physics, Tales of the Genome and Mobile Web Development, for example. This too was originally started by Stanford professors. Obviously there is an appeal of MOOCs as there were 90,000 enrollees in the first two courses offered by Udacity in March 2012.

EdX is the other fast-growing MOOC, founded by MIT and Harvard University. Offering 62 courses currently, it truly is free to anyone. Students can choose to audit the course or obtain a "Certificate of Mastery." Course topics range from Quantum Physics to Ancient Greek Heroes.

Fathom, a for-profit collaboration, recently folded

due to the undeveloped nature of online education despite its reputable members such as Princeton, the London School of Economics and others.

Despite the failure of Fathom, there is a new venture, that sees for-profit online higher education as a viable alternative to the traditional undergraduate experience. This venture called the **Minerva Project** is the creation of Ben Nelson, former CEO of Snapfish. The Minerva Project will charge tuition and is aimed at attracting students who would otherwise apply to Ivy League schools but balk at the steep price tag. In fact, Nelson projects the annual cost to run about half of what the regular Ivy Cost tuition would cost. Instead of attending classes at an established campus, students would be living six months in one city, for example, and then move on to another for another 6 month stint, utilizing coffee shops and public libraries as needed. There are, of course, critics of The Minerva Project. They question how students would develop school spirit or be able to participate in band or a sports team. Nelson's response is that Minerva would not be for those students. In fact, his aim is for Minerva students to be global citizens. Other prominent educators have joined the advisory board including Larry Summers, former president of Harvard University and former Senator Bob Kerrey of Nevada and former president of the New School in New York.

No doubt these are all worthy endeavors with lofty goals attached. The question will be how students fare in such environments and how students benefit from the free MOOCs or the for-profit online schools.



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*Make all of my computer problems go away
without the cost of a full-time I.T. staff*

*Ask us about our fixed price service agreements and kick off the
new year with computer support at a flat monthly fee you can
budget for just like rent!*



AxiGuard

Our website has been re-vamped!
Check it out at www.AXICOM.net.

Inquiring Minds...

Fun Educational Apps With hundreds of thousands of apps available, check out some of these designed to help with learning, organizing, and more! Some are available for Apple products, others for Android, some free, some for purchase.

Math—**Math Bingo** teaches basic math using the Bingo format, **Yushino** is the math version of Words with Friends **RocketMath** is a perennial favorite, **Math Ref Free** has graphs and equations

Foreign Language—**Word Lens** captures signage and translates the words, **Spanish Smash** teaches Spanish the fun way

English—**Shakespeare in Bits** includes plot summaries, analysis, translations and more. **Dictionary.com** is an at-your-fingertips dictionary with a Word of the Day, a Slideshow and

the Hot Word. **Grammar 3000** gives quizzes from basic to advanced.

History/Social Studies—**Oregon Trail** is a mobile version of the popular online game, **History: Maps of the World** provides maps old and new; **AP US History: 5 Steps to a 5** is a great resource for the AP US History student, **Mystery Me** teaches vocabulary and general knowledge through a quiz game.

Science—**Science360** is a radio and news program about science, **Molecules** shows the 3-D versions of molecules, **Star Walk**—hold up the viewfinder to where you're looking and constellations will be highlighted

Organizing and Study Aids —**myHomework Student Planner** helps students keep track of assignments.

Winner of the Summer Photo Contest!

Thank you to Julie Ferman for participating in the AXICOM photo contest! Here is her prize-winning photo! Clearly, Julie's dog, Biscuit, has unbridled joy!



"I have never let my
schooling interfere with
my education."

-Mark Twain