Title of Session: NECC Plus Two Weeks
Moderator: Jeff Cooper and David Weksler
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Room: NECC 2006 Group

BJB2: Welcome to the NECC Plus two Weeks Discussion everyone

BJB2: Jeff and David are leading this event

JeffC: OK... this session is about following up the NECC conference in particular... but is more about sustaining professional development over time in general.

DavidWe seconds Jeff's point

JeffC: David and I presented a workshop at NECC two weeks ago, and David also presented a paper.

JeffC: My workshop was about Tapped In, and delivered through Tapped In and videoconferencing.

JeffC: In addition to the workshop, I offered pre-NECC tours of Tapped In and also post conference support.

JeffC: I strongly believe that without sustained support, little change will happen.

JeffC: However, support isn't enough to get buy in.

RogerMG joined the room.

DavidWe waves to Roger and listens to Jeff

JeffC: People need to be willing to *change their routine*. Roger here will probably tell you how difficult that is to do.

RogerMG: Absolutely.

JeffC: I popped into Roger's session too early my comment about having a sense of humor as being important for professional development.

JeffC: If you don't keep your audience... you'll lose them.

DavidWe smiles

RogerMG: Humor also helps maintain mental health and sanity.

JeffC: And even though I had great success pre-conference, and most of the people seemed to really enjoy the session... you can see for yourself who has come back since.

JeffC: Click the "About Us" link on the left of the top frame to see when people last logged in.

JeffC: It's impossible for you to know who was a workshop participant, but the workshop was held on July 5th.

DavidWe: Jeff and I are very hopeful that we can encourage people to be more comfortable as discussion (topic) leaders and not simply participants

JeffC: Now... we've gotten a number of new members to this group.

DavidWe wonders how many at last count

JeffC: And... the hopes for this session is to get you a bit acclimated to this room... and also really start participating here (and elsewhere).

JeffC: I'm not planning on being the "sage on the stage" here for more than a couple of more minutes.

JeffC: Please click the "Welcome" link and read what I have posted.

JeffC: At any time, feel free to write anything on the Whiteboard in reflection of NECC.

JeffC: OK... I've added a lot of resources to this room, especially in Links right now.

JeffC: How many of you attended NECC?

DavidWe raises his hand

GailH shakes head no.

SherryLC: Lucky!

RogerMG: no

BridgetM hand raise

JeffC: anyone besides David and Bridget?

JoshG: no

SherryLC: no

JoshG: couldn't on other side

JeffC: Well... the rest of us are not alone... 99% of educators didn't.

DavidWe: Well, there were about 10,000 people there (plus/minus)

JeffC: lol... Josh is a 9th grade student btw.

DavidWe believes Josh knows more than over 9,000 of those folks

JosephU joined the room.

DavidWe: I had 60 or more people in my one hour presentation...

DavidWe: Only one person had heard of Tapped In

DavidWe waves to Joseph

DavidWe: Hi, Joseph. Welcome

JeffC: the point is... most of us remember the term "I'm Wired, Now What?" My question is "NECC-- What Next?"

JosephU waves

JeffC: Hi Joseph... we're just getting started.

JeffC: If you click the folder in the Welcome page for NECC Links... you'll see about half a dozen.

JeffC: I'd like you to take a look at Jeff Scofer's blog: NECC all over but the fight.

JosephU: great. I didn't make it to NECC this year (although San Diego is my home town and the visit would have been nice)

DavidWe: Next year it will be in Atlanta

JeffC: Sounds like you'll be traveling some next year Joseph!

JeffC: Jeff Scofer raises some issues for me regarding NECC in particular, and staff development in general.

JeffC: Bottom line is that without sustained support, you're not going to truly facilitate change. But as Roger raised in his session, there are many obstacles to overcome in becoming change agents.

DavidWe waves to John

BJB2: welcome, John. We've just started

JeffC: Even continuing the dialogue here won't be enough. I think it's a great start... but if you look at Scofer's blog... you'll see my comment at the end... I think maybe the greatest change agent for tech is the K-12 student.

DavidWe: Sustained and on-going teacher professional development (life-long learning) should be as much a part of school life as student learning

Maggi joined the room.

DavidWe waves to Maggi

JeffC: I'd like people to reflect a bit about Scofer's points (and the comments on that page) and add something to the Whiteboard here.

JeffC: You may also type directly into chat... because I'm going to type less and less as the hour proceeds.

JoshG: didn't know it was possible

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe . o O (lots of things are possible)

JeffC: Didn't know what was possible Josh? Josh btw is our resident 9th grade Helpdesk Volunteer.

JeffC . o O (and hope for the future imho)

DavidWe smiles

JoshG: that you could talk less

JeffC: LOL!

DavidWe laughs

DavidWe: Way to go, Josh

JeffC: My plan is to walk around the block a few times... fortunately I don't have a wireless keyboard.

SherryLC: I had a feeling that was where Josh was heading!

DavidWe is happy, at some point during the hour, to talk about some of the stuff he encountered at NECC in San Diego

JeffC: Feel free also to post on Scoter's blog, or Warlick's response (also in Links in the NECC folder). And yes, please do David.

Maggi: no feedback on the conference?

DavidWe: Some of you may have heard about Nicholas Negroponte's project of creating a $100 laptop

DavidWe . o O (Negroponte is head of the Media Lab at MIT)

DavidWe: He gave the keynote address on Thursday, the 2nd day of the conference

DavidWe: The web site for the project (One Laptop per Child) is:

DavidWe: http://www.laptop.org

JeffC . o O (also one of the links here in the NECC Link folder)

DavidWe: Jeff did have people fill out an online survey, Maggi

JeffC: The link to the results for the survey is also in the folder: http://snurl.com/tiresults

DavidWe: The goal is to produce laptops in such large numbers (100s of millions) that they are priced more as commodities with the volume bringing the price down

DavidWe: They will debut in 2007 in 4 countries

JeffC: For the archive: Scofer: http://jeff.scofer.com/thinkingstick/?p=261 Warlick: http://davidwarlick.com/2cents/2006/07/13/in-defense-of-necc/

DavidWe nods

DavidWe: Here's the FAQ page for the laptop project if anyone is interested in the basic questions:

DavidWe: http://www.laptop.org/faq.en_US.html

DavidWe: But, more importantly, I believe (as does Negroponte, I think) is the SOCIAL networking that will happen when the technology shows up

DavidWe: Children will teach parents, expertise will develop and all of these things will happen in a social milieu

DavidWe: In many parts of the world children have teachers who simply don't have much educational background themselves - that's the real problem

JoshG: Children teaching parents let me guess that will happen when I'm a adult I can see it now

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe: Your children will be lucky, Josh

JoshG . o O (Lucky they will have to teach me)

DavidWe nods

DavidWe: Gail, do you know about TableTop - the software for data manipulation developed at TERC?

GailH . o O (I grew up with technology -- the slide rule!)

DavidWe smiles

BridgetM: As a new untenured teacher I was clueless about the computer in class. It used cassette tapes. I didn't want admin to know I knew nothing so my students taught me

GailH: I have seen Table Top, but never used it.

BridgetM: 20 yrs ago

DavidWe: The Inspiration people have re-named it Inspire-Data and are now distributing it - very cool

DavidWe: They announced that a week before NECC began

DavidWe: Josh may not believe that some of his elders actually had to use typewriters and white-out in 9th grade

Maggi: we had no white out

SherryLC: Are you talking about me?

DavidWe smiles

JoshG: I believe it

JoshG: lol

JeffC: Well... I still use white out... and it really makes a mess of my monitor sometimes.

DavidWe doesn't know how old Sherry is....32?

SherryLC: My manual typewriter worked just fine

SherryLC laughing very hard

SherryLC: Yeah, let's go with 32

DavidWe: 35?

DavidWe smiles

SherryLC: Stop!

DavidWe: When is your birthday? Not year, just month and day

JeffC: OK...

SherryLC: May 18

DavidWe knows for a fact that Gail has taught in the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s because she has said it many times

DavidWe thinks

DavidWe . o O (26 March for me)

SherryLC paying attention to Jeff

JeffC: I did want people to know that this room acts as a sort of hub for many other groups here... click Welcome and look at the Featured Passageways.

JeffC: Inspiration/Kidspiration is but one of them.

GailH: My oldest two kids (when they were in 3rd grade) and typing their papers on our Commodore 64 to turn in were required by their teacher to also turn in a hand-written copy so "she would know they had done the work". I know that makes no sense.   But it is true. My youngest never had that trouble. They are now 27 - 34 years old.

DavidWe believes Gail implicitly

JeffC: In a sense... the ideas raised at NECC need to germinate... and flourish rather than wilt and die. I think that every year a lot of educators get worked up, and then let down.

JeffC: One idea I talked about with Bj was really ramping up the K-12 student participation here, getting many more students to login to Tapped In.

SherryLC: Conference syndrome?

Maggi: ideas get popped

JeffC: Because if we can, then perhaps we could get more educators to take notice of what works.

JeffC: I think you're right Sherry... "conference syndrome" is what people have. They're definitely a lot of fun to attend, but to me they are basically a place for vendors to sell, and a lot of ideas to be raised, but not always followed-up on.

DavidWe: What I WOULD REALLY LIKE TO FIND OUT, for example, is how Tapped In is working for the Milwaukee Public Schools folks who paid for MPS to have their own TI building

JeffC: Blogs are great, but after a few weeks they disappear as well... anything a month old seems to be forgotten.

RogerMG: Depends on purpose doesn't it?

DavidWe agrees

Maggi: not if you keep it alive

JeffC: Good point David. The tenant organizations here don't get regular support from the regular Tapped In Helpdesk, but it does have its own Helpdesk manning their Reception regularly. However, I've spent a good deal of time talking one on one with them, and their teachers aren't logging in.

RogerMG: <---Uses RSS News Reader and takes things from there to link in 2blogs. Has another blog that only students use.

JeffC: Indeed, I sent out a number of invitations today to people to come to the Festival, and this session in particular, but haven't had much feedback.

DavidWe: That's what I would have guessed, Jeff

HeatherAB joined the room.

DavidWe waves to Heather

JeffC: Hi Heather

DavidWe: Hi, Heather. Welcome

RogerMG: Hi Heather . . .and belatedly to David.

HeatherAB: Hi

JoshG: hi Mrs B

JeffC: My opinion is you can lead an educator to technology but you can't make them think.

DavidWe: The big question is - and it doesn't pertain to technology only - HOW/WHY do teachers change their current practice?

SherryLC: That is sad. I need to make my teachers think this year

JeffC: Roger pointed out that you really can't *force* it on them.

RogerMG: Some of us like to think . . .maybe we need to find more of that type.

SherryLC: I am the building technology leader and I need to make them integrate technology

HeatherAB: I don't think we can "make" them, Sherry

BridgetM: need to make them want to integrate tech

SherryLC: I am going to try to make it easy enough to "encourage" them!

DavidWe smiles

RogerMG: We can make them paper hats . . .throw a party!

GailH: I think that most people have a limit (of three or five things) that they can really juggle at a given time. And when something else comes in and takes the place of something they were gung-ho about, unless and until something happens to get technology (or anything else) back into the primary set of balls that are being juggled, it just gets left to wilt. (I am not really a pessimist.

JeffC: Even if you can prove that you have a route to doing something they already do, and make it easier, more efficient and cheaper, they still will resist change.

JeffC agrees with Gail and Howard Johnson.

BridgetM: I like the juggling metaphor, Gail

SherryLC: That is true, I guess. There are a few teachers I am not even going to tackle this year.

RogerMG: What works for the more recalcitrant ones is some form of cognitive dissonance.

DavidWe . o O (suction-cup-tipped arrow shot at the middle of the forehead, Roger?)

JeffC agrees also with the pizza bribery method... sometimes you really have to pay teachers to learn and try new things. I think that a focus for grants now (as I understand it) focuses on professional development.

RogerMG: All the attention on 'results' in the classroom may create dissonance for some.

JeffC: That's another focus as I understand it Roger, if you can show that you will raise test scores, you'll do much better in getting a grant now.

BridgetM: in my district if teachers are not paying college tuition online courses, let alone discussions are not valued

RogerMG: That's true Jeff.

HeatherAB: Bridget, that's truly sad.

BridgetM: you betcha!

RogerMG: Actually, writing skills may improve with online practice, for instance . . .and that is directly observable. . . better evidence then any test.

JeffC: Yes Roger, that's true.

BridgetM: how about improving understanding of diverse groups & real world problem solving?

Maggi: works for mine with email assignments

HeatherAB nods

BridgetM: yea, **Maggi**e!

JeffC: Global Project Based Learning, blogging, keypals, etc. are all excellent *ideas*.

JeffC: But how many are putting them into practice.

HeatherAB: Josh, do you think your writing skills have improved since you started using the computer?

JoshG: yes

HeatherAB . o O (leaving out the spelling skills   )

BJB2 laughs and hands Josh a dictionary

RogerMG: I like that Bridget.   There is some evidence that providing real world problems to solve that have no obvious solution improves critical thinking.

SherryLC: This is what he needs to use spell check for!

JeffC: Will Richardson this morning talked about how wonderful blogs, podcasts, etc. are. But how many have used them in their classes? Indeed, many districts *ban blogs*... my own district filters Wikipedia.

JoshG: hay thats improved to I hear people make fun and imparesses and now my dictionary skills is alot better

JoshG: lol

JeffC: Relevant work = enjoyable tasks and will get kids thinking... but is that happening?

RogerMG: raises hand . . .but I'm on a university campus.

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe . o O (Land O' Goshen!)

BridgetM: but I think the "problem" has to come from the kid & the teacher has to know the collaborative tools available

JeffC hands Josh an online dictionary.

JoshG: I have one in my hand right now

Maggi: I'm in Germany

JeffC: For all the focus on student centered learning, how much input do students have in curriculum creation today?

DavidWe has one other organization/web site he would like to share

RogerMG: <----loves those German words that have 15 English ones in one German one.

DavidWe . o O (kindergarten?)

JeffC: There is a K-12 class here entitled "21st Century Skills" (K-12) where students are actually designing future course curricula.

JoshG still haven't joined

Maggi: like Oberdonauschiffskapitän

JoshG: ?

JeffC: OK... I lied... I haven't stopped typing... but then again... I'm not seeing anything on the Whiteboard or in Discussion either

DavidWe: 10 days before NECC, I went up to Boston with Ihor Charischak to attend a small conference focusing on one-to-one laptop projects

RogerMG: I'm trying something with a research blog this year. Leaving last year's students comments in there for this year's students to build on.

JeffC: cool Roger... how did it go David? and Roger... what's your blog url?

Maggi: upper Donau ship capitan

DavidWe: The former governor of Maine, Angus King, who was instrumental in negotiating for 30,000 iBooks to be distributed to middle school students in Maine, spoke

DavidWe: It was a very high-level conference

DavidWe: The organization that has been formed, recently, that ran the conference is called the "Anytime, Anywhere Learning Foundation" AALF

DavidWe: The web site is:

DavidWe: http://www.aalf.org/

DavidWe smiles

SusanR: won't every student be issued a laptop filled with curriculum materials within the next few years..cheaper than rewriting, updating textbooks and handing out new textbooks each year

HeatherAB: Not with Congress cutting the EE funds to nothing, Sue.

DavidWe hopes Susan is right on that one

HeatherAB: that is going to have a HUGE impact on tech spending

JeffC: The $100 laptop initiative is for laptops in third world countries as I understand it... not the U.S.

DavidWe: Yes, Jeff, that's right

BridgetM: the equity issue remains - you can't only have textbooks on cd's unless you supply each student w/ a computer

JoshG looks to the sky and ask why not the US

RogerMG: The student weblog for my research student (6 honors students) is at: http://odchange.blogspot.com/

SusanR . o O (the computer goes back to the school district each year and is updated and handed out again)

DavidWe looks at the clock on the wall and notes that it is 5 minutes until the hour

JeffC: because the U.S. is too rich Josh.

HeatherAB: What age are your students, Roger?

JoshG looks to the sky and says rich people!

BridgetM: textbook publishers have been instrumental in regs on textbook adoption. So if you only replace one series every year the cost is less than looking at 5-6 yrs of new textbooks vs 1:1 computers

RogerMG: 18 - 20

DavidWe believes Roger teaches those young adults who are out of high school

RogerMG: This is true.

HeatherAB nods

RogerMG: Having taught HS there are not as many restrictions here.

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe: Anything you would like to get folks thinking about as a wrap-up, Jeff?

GailH: Great session, Jeff and David.

DavidWe smiles

SherryLC: Thank you. This was great

HeatherAB: thanks, guys

RogerMG: Super Jeff!

DavidWe: Thanks, Gail

BJB2: thanks, Jeff and David

DavidWe: We appreciate you all joining us today

KeikoSc claps

JoshG: thanks

GailH applauds and runs.

RogerMG: And . . .tip o' the hat to David.