

Title of Session: Administrator's Forum (SAFE-T)

Moderator: Jeff Cooper

Title of File: 20040928admin

Date: September 28, 2004

Room: SAFE-T Group Room

JeffC: Hi Michael... looks like just you and me so far. Thanks for coming.

JeffC: I think we're both suffering from adminmeetingitis... most admins are in so many meetings, that they don't come here.

JeffC: What if meetings are held and no one attends?

MichaelS: Is that a question like what if we give a party and no one comes? Ha!

JeffC: Cancel future meetings? Advertise more in advance? I did send a note out yesterday to the group.

JeffC: Tree falling in the forest.

MichaelS: Yep.

JeffC: Well... I've been reading the forums in TICAL, and there is a dearth of activity in the forums there as well.

JeffC: The thing is, people come during a staff development day (either here or there), sign up, post a few things, and then... never return.

MichaelS: that's for sure. We get waves now and then. It seems to work best when it's used in the context of a workshop or activity, as a complement.

JeffC: This exemplifies the main issue with technology and curriculum today in regards to staff development.

KarenL entered the room.

MichaelS: Hello Karen

JeffC: But what happens the *next day* Michael?

JeffC: Hi Karen

JeffC: Are you here for the SAFE-T meeting?

KarenL: Hi Jeff and Michael. Are you the same Jeff that conducted the advanced tips and tours?

JeffC nods

JeffC: I run Advanced Tips and Tricks, Math and Science Resource Groups, and Collaboration Community.

KarenL: No, I'm not. I'm looking for K-3. I believe it meets today. I need to resize a graphic for an icon. How do you resize?

JeffC: In addition to facilitating this group... and I'm not an admin either!

JeffC: Send it to me Karen and I'll send it back... unless you have Photoshop or an image altering program.

KarenL: I'm interested in the Collaboration Community. When do you meet?

JeffC: CC meets every other Saturday at 10a.m.

KarenL: Okay, Jeff I'll send it to you. Actually, it is a couple well maybe three or four. I want to rotate the icons.

JeffC: 1) Click the "Tapped In" tab 2) Click the "Calendar" subtab

KarenL: Is it 10:00 PDT?

KarenL: Okay, I'll check the calendar. I might miss the first one if it is this weekend. Now, I'm going to find K-3. Thanks! I'll email you!

KarenL left the room

Michaels: Interesting exchange!

JeffC nods

JeffC: She looks pretty savvy... she should be in SAFE-T and TICAL!

Michaels: Yes, but there's only so much time. Time is the biggest barrier to the effective use of technology, I think.

Michaels: There are many, but that is paramount.

JeffC: If you like we can continue this here, or in the SAFE-T room, or we can visit with the K-3 Resource Group. It's up to you.

Michaels: At the same time it makes more information and more possibilities open to us, it does not give us any more time to take advantage of them.

JeffC: Right... time is key. But what's also significant is that *no other educators found the time to attend this meeting*. That is significant.

JeffC: If educators took one hour a month to meet here... they would definitely learn time saving tips, in addition to a world of opportunities that they could pass along to their teachers, students, and parents, not to mention the community at large.

JeffC: They are passing up an opportunity to build a collaborative network, a community of practicing administrators.

Michaels: So that's a challenge we still have to overcome. I've been working on it for over 10 years. Still trying!

JeffC: By doing that, they limit themselves to the current patterns of behavior they currently find themselves in. And when tech is brought up, they usually think "overwhelming... can't handle it."

JeffC: They need to know that both of these sites act as portals for *solving problems*.

Michaels: Sometimes they are right. I spent nearly 4 hours yesterday trying to get a little application for my Palm installed and working well enough to evaluate it. It was a waste of time.

JeffC: If we actually had 25 admins in this room, we could jigsaw a discussion so that problems were raised, addressed, and solutions found all within one hour.

Michaels: Our conversation is out of synch, and we pretty much know how to use this medium!

JeffC: We're in synch well enough.

JeffC: They would have to get use to multitasking, in addition to flow of conversation and how text chat operates.

JeffC: Actions--> Detach would be one of my first tips.

Michaels: The administrators I know multitask like crazy, all day long.

JeffC: By Detaching and maximizing the text chat box, you can read more leisurely and comprehend more as a block of text.

JeffC: You wouldn't even have to participate, just have the window open.

JeffC: Right... and what are they doing? If they are spending 4 hours on a piece of software for a Palm... they might be better off dashing off a note on a Discussion thread. Did you know there is a Palm Group here?

Michaels: I just had an idea for a CUE article, like for OnCUE. Are you a CUE member? Or we could suggest it to ISTE. Wanna hear it?

JeffC: Well... there is... COP (it doubles as "Community of Practice") but it's a group for Palm Users.

JeffC: Sure... go ahead.

JeffC listens

JeffC: Catalyst Ohio Palm Users Grp is the Palm group here (you might want to post there).

Michaels: What if we took a topic and carried on a conversation like this, on the topic we're currently discussing... in other words a conversation, but one which would be edited a bit to make it more accessible.

JeffC: And posted it? It's done.

Michaels: The Palm problem was a bad piece of software. I was reviewing the application for possible recommendation on TICAL.

JeffC nods

Michaels: It was a good concept, but needs more development before common folks will want to use it.

JeffC: This conversation could start a discussion... the question mark is will it be read at all.

Michaels: Anyway, I'm thinking the conversation would be asynchronous, with each of us having time to give thought to each response, rather than pure stream of consciousness, yet it would be much more alive to read than your typical single-author article.

JeffC: For starters, let me add some grist to the mill:

<http://www.mybookmarks.com/public/coops> I have over 1700 links for K-12 Educators. The kind of thing you mentioned before (too much info, not enough time). Would that be likely to be ignored, or used, by admins if they knew about it?

JeffC: We can take this conversation so far, and post it to the Discussion thread of this group room. If I did that now, our conversation (synchronous) would be converted to asynchronous Discussion. It would also be immediately emailed to everyone in this group.

Michaels: It all depends on how easy to find exactly what they need. Often, they just call a friend on the phone and get what they need.

JeffC: But their friends are as limited as they are in many ways. They know how to network, but they really don't post to 100 people... just the few that they're used to collaborating with.

JeffC: There's always a "go to guy or gal" waiting in the wings. What I'm saying here is to increase the "venn diagram" of collaboration.