Title of Session: NECC 2007 Follow-Up
Moderator: David Weksler
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Room: NECC 2007 Group

DavidWe joined the room.

DavidWe: Hi, Midge

MidgeF: Big crowd....

DavidWe: well, wasn't sure if anyone would actually come

DavidWe: I just wanted to get it on the calendar to mostly make me go through this big box of stuff I mailed to myself from Atlanta

GaryG joined the room.

DavidWe shows off his NECC2008 (San Antonio) baseball hat

BJB2: hi, Gary

DavidWe: Hi, Gary. Welcome

MidgeF: Hi, Gary

GaryG: hello

MidgeF: I sorta recorded NECC with my camera

DavidWe: Gary, Midge and I were at the NECC conference at the end of June in Atlanta

DavidWe: She has pictures

MidgeF: We met ftf for the first time

DavidWe: should we start with introductions?

MidgeF: Sure

BJB2 . o O (Midge is presenting a discussion during the Tapped In festival, Gary!)

MidgeF: I am a technology consultant, author and genealogist. I live in MA.

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler. I'm in New Jersey, near New York City and I'm a HelpDesk volunteer and I also lead a math education + technology discussion here in Tapped In

BJB2 . o O (and leads the monthly Frazel Features ;-))

GaryG: Gary Grant, SDSU graduate student, living in Charlotte, NC and an Instructional Designer at TIAA-CREF

MidgeF: Makes me sound important.

BJB2 . o O (you are, Midge! Every member of Tapped In is important!)

MidgeF: Is it a masters or a doctoral program?

GaryG: masters

DavidWe: Do you know about NECC (the conference) and ISTE (the organization), Gary?

GaryG: I'm still learning about Tapped In

GaryG: No

GaryG: I have to report back to Wendy Parcel on the usefulness of this site

DavidWe: okay

GaryG: do I need to exit this room?

DavidWe: well, NECC (National Educational Computing Conference) is the annual meeting for ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education

DavidWe: www.iste.org

DavidWe: next year's NECC conference will be in San Antonio, according to my hat

DavidWe: http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/NECC2008/

MidgeF: Does usefulness mean to you or to your graduate class?

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe . o O (or an ABSOLUTE usefulness)

GaryG: to me, each student has to do a report.

MidgeF: Good. I'm all for what works for the teacher

MidgeF: I guess if you live in NC this must be a distance program?

GaryG: This is part of our online professional development then we do a WebQuest. Yes, this is a distant program.

DavidWe: Midge, if you don't mind me picking on you, would you highlight one interesting thing you learned/discovered at NECC this year?

MidgeF: Sure

DavidWe: I thought we could take turns - maybe some things will be of interest to Gary and Bj

MidgeF: For the first time, I saw teachers actually using computers to take notes and visit the resources talked about LIVE on their computers

DavidWe smiles

MidgeF: There were always a few but this time the rooms glowed electronically

DavidWe: Last year, at NECC (in San Diego), during my presentation (one-hour talk) a participant (actually a nun) created her TI username and logged in during my presentation - that was very cool

MidgeF: I also saw teachers learning new things that wasn't about Office (or WebQuests)

DavidWe is glad of that

MidgeF: For the first time I didn't go to Bernie's presentation (but I still love him)

DavidWe: Any new company, teacher use of technology, web site that you would like to mention, Midge?

MidgeF: I have joined Second Life and a group of female bloggers

MidgeF: The exhibit hall was AWFUL

DavidWe: Gary, let us know, also, any particular area of interest you have - it may jog my memory of things I saw at the conference

DavidWe: Jeff and I did a 6 hour workshop on Tapped In and other, typically free, online resources, Gary

MidgeF: Do you have any thoughts on your topic for your Webquest?

DavidWe: Jeff did most of the work by video-conference from Portland, Oregon

DavidWe: I mostly went out for coffee and donuts in Atlanta

DavidWe . o O (our typical division of labor)

MidgeF: I have authored a few. Some I have changed into newer technologies

GaryG: Yeah, my group thought doing a "career choice" web quest intended for 11th graders would be worthy

MidgeF: Oh, I didn't know you were really alone there David

DavidWe: Well, I was with the participants, Midge

MidgeF: So, you have to make a group WebQuest? Hard

DavidWe: Jeff was live and in living color on a big screen in the room

JeffC: kinda like "Big Brother."

GaryG: Yes, I'm not a good group person when it comes to work

JeffC is really big.

MidgeF: Kathy Schrock calls that the Big Head on the screen

DavidWe: Jeff woke up at 4am to get ready for the workshop which began at 8:30am EDT in Atlanta

MidgeF: Collaboration doesn't come easily to everyone

JeffC still wants to set up a debate with Kathy on Wikipedia some day.

DavidWe smiles

MidgeF: You'll lose

MidgeF: She's my best buddy but she's still a librarian

DavidWe: What's Kathy's take on Wikipedia?

JeffC: she hates it... she's wrong... I'm right.

DavidWe tends to side with Jeff on this one

MidgeF: NO Wikipedia unless it is a topic of no real student research

DavidWe: Why does Kathy hate it?

MidgeF: Love that LOL

JeffC: dunno specifics... but she prefers EB.

DavidWe moves on to another topic

MidgeF: Uninformed teachers are using it incorrectly. On this I agree with her

MidgeF: They don't get the user created concept

JeffC: well... uninformed students (and teachers) use EB incorrectly as well.

JeffC: even more so

DavidWe: I'm not sure exactly what these guys do, but one participant in our TI Workshop was a very nice guy from Oklahoma who works at this interesting K-20 center at the University of Oklahoma

MidgeF: But, who wrote the science books I used is a big mystery to me

DavidWe . o O (Mary P. Dolciani wrote EVERY high school math book at one point)

DavidWe grins

DavidWe: Here's the web site for the K20 Center

DavidWe: http://www.k20center.org/

MidgeF: So, we agree there are uninformed teachers. That's good. We don't want Gary to be one!

DavidWe: I've asked Quyen to lead a discussion in Tapped In. He said he would be glad to

JeffC: cool

GaryG chuckles

DavidWe smiles

MidgeF: I have been thinking about what is going to happen to the Web pages that Gary will need for his WebQuest if people abandon them?

DavidWe: I forget when he said he would have time - maybe in September

DavidWe: I was very impressed to learn about this project - they have a LOT of money and they have collaborated with almost every school district in Oklahoma

MidgeF: Gary, you should be brainstorming the types of products the students will have to create in your WebQuest

DavidWe . o O (NSF, HHMI, Gates Foundation, etc.)

JeffC: Well Midge, my main argument in favor of Wikipedia against EB is that both sites should be *starting points for further research*. Students *should* enter WP with a skeptical eye (this is where your argument about "uninformed teachers" is true, since most won't advise students that not everything there is necessarily true). However, many use EB as the first and last stop... and take everything there as gospel, which also isn't true. In fact, there are a similar # of factual errors on *both* sites.

MidgeF: singing Oklahoma

MidgeF: Nods

GaryG: well, I'm thinking resume, college profiles, research on future trends

MidgeF: I think you should read The Cult of the Amateur

MidgeF: Be sure to put in video creation

MidgeF: Interviews via podcasts

MidgeF: a wiki on job skills needed

GaryG: good ideas

MidgeF: One of my friend and fellow Masters sufferer teaches in a Voc Ed HS so he teaches with that purpose

MidgeF: Designing business cards

MidgeF: Got lots of ideas today

DavidWe gives Midge a bigger pad of paper

GaryG: I really like the development side Frontpage or Dreamweaver, my colleagues are more of the thinkers

MidgeF: They don't make paper big enough....

MidgeF: Well, that's good since they most likely will get that part done faster

MidgeF: I heard that Frontpage is going to change

MidgeF: Do any of you use the new Office 2007?

DavidWe: not me

DavidWe tries to avoid Microsoft products

GaryG: it can't be any easier so it has to bring more bells and whistles, no, I still use 2003

GaryG: I love MS products

DavidWe smiles

MidgeF: I can <smell> that

GaryG: very easy to use

MidgeF: You should investigate Google docs for a bit since so many schools are using it

DavidWe growls

MidgeF: Even dedicated Microsoft people hate the new office

DavidWe finds he uses Wordpad (very simple free word processor that is built into Windows) more than Word on Windows machines

JeffC: that's because it's changed!

DavidWe: file format is different, too

MidgeF: Well, I was a Mac person once and now I use Windows so I have mush for a brain

DavidWe: Midge, you've gone over to the dark side?!?!

DavidWe will be right over to let you use a 4 year old iBook

MidgeF: A long time ago..... 1996

MidgeF: That's what you had there at NECC. I used it, right?

JeffC: btw... I hear that Vista has improved "speech to text"... which is what I'm really interested in now... I want to put a grant together for using it in K-6, SPED, and site and hearing impaired students.

DavidWe: new Macs can run Windows - kind of cool, actually

MidgeF: I have a clamshell indigo ibook

MidgeF: Yes, I do love that so I could be both.

MidgeF: I have more computers than people living here

DavidWe smiles

MidgeF: I am using one of the four laptops I own (four handhelds, an Alphasmart, 3 iPods...)

MidgeF: Gary, be sure to investigate PhotoStory for your WebQuest. I adore it.

JeffC: feel free to ship your extras over here Midge!

GaryG: I will look into it

MidgeF: They are all old except for this one I am using

MidgeF: Photostory is so easy everyone can use it.

MidgeF: I hope this gave you some ideas for your report

DavidWe: Midge, did you hear the closing keynote talk by Tim Tyson?

MidgeF: http://www.midgefrazel.net

MidgeF: Yeah, I ran away from you to get to it.

DavidWe: Fantastic, didn't you think?

DavidWe: Gary, Dr. Tim Tyson just retired as the principal of Mabry Middle School in suburban Atlanta

MidgeF: Yes, but a bit long. He's very polished. Awful tie and a minister-type speaker.

DavidWe: He's been having a student film festival (covering VERY tough issues: organ donation/child slavery in Africa/stem-cell research

DavidWe: http://www.drtimtyson.com/

DavidWe: He's apparently going to be a consultant and he hopes to work with school administrators to encourage them to look at technology use in schools in new ways

DavidWe: Midge, he's wearing the same shirt and tie on his web site

MidgeF: Well, it's memorable

DavidWe: I was very impressed by his talk - I also really appreciated him having two students on stage with him for a bit

MidgeF: They were cute.

MidgeF: I'll bet they are bored in high school

MidgeF: High school in this country needs a big overhaul.

DavidWe: What does that mean, Midge?

DavidWe: depends on the school, the teachers, the administrators

JeffC agrees with Midge.

MidgeF: High school teachers need the MOST help! Many would love to learn new things

DavidWe: We were doing videos for history, biology, etc., in high school in the mid-70s

MidgeF: Massachusetts is in a big mess.

MidgeF: in the mid70s I was a parent and working in medicine LOL

GaryG: I think bigger cities have bigger problems

MidgeF: Yes, because of the student population too. Jobs are hard to get for many kids

JeffC is watching "Oklahoma" on the David Letterman show on YouTube...thanks a lot Midge!

GaryG: I was impressed with the elementary schools in Denver, CO. they had more computers in the classroom than New York City schools

JeffC: how were they using them Gary?

MidgeF: Midwest schools are doing great. I have a friend in Omaha

GaryG: these were elementary school kids, using CD-ROM software for reading, math, and colors

MidgeF: Wow

JeffC: what was your impression of the software they were using, Gary?

JeffC: my own opinion is that software (no matter how good) gets boring after a while and tends towards "drill and kill" technology because of the emphasis NCLB places on high stakes tests... that's what students end up using when they use computers. However, with support, I believe that the Net offers a much more fertile ground for K-12 students. Unfortunately, it just doesn't happen for the most part.

MidgeF: Well, I've got to run. My pjs are calling me.....

MidgeF: Nice to meet you Gary

MidgeF: You too Jeff,

GaryG: yes, I can probably ask someone to get more information, I relocated a few times, now I'm in Charlotte where middle school kids come to my job to learn MS products

GaryG: nice to meet you all