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...a service of [The Point](#) - a classroom blogspace from [fcps.net](#)



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TIPS - The Technology Feed Vol 6, #8 (Apr, 2007)

...maintained by Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin, last updated 3/30/2007

TIPS - the Technology Office newsletter - moved to a blog feed in the fall of 2005, delivering ideas and instructional support for Fayette County teachers through blogs maintained by Technology Resource Teachers in the Office of Instructional Technology. For a look at this e-zine before the fall of 2005, look to <http://teach.fcps.net/tips/>.

Sharepoint - Content Management in Fayette County

A discussion of the district roll-out of the [Fayette County Intranet](#) using Microsoft's Sharepoint Services



...from the desk of Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin

Tuesday, February 27, 2007 12:56 PM: SharePoint Scheduled Outage

SharePoint Services will be taken down Thursday, April 5th, 8:00 a.m.

for upgrades to the software. It will be unavailable for use until the upgrades are complete. We hope that this process will only take a few hours, but to be safe, assume it will be unavailable through Friday. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience - we're hoping that since this is the end of spring break, the impact will be minimal.



Email details: When the old email addresses go away on March 31st, any email address listed incorrectly in SharePoint will no longer receive alerts.

- **If this is you:** You need do nothing if you wish - when bounces are received, we'll correct your email address, and notify you.
- **If you are a site administrator:** You may receive bounce notices from bad email addresses for the sites you administrate. Simply forward them to jeffrey.jones@fayette.kyschools.us, and we'll fix things.

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=1621>

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...from the desk of Paula Whitmer

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=52>

STLP in FCPS

A discussion of STLP activities, issues, and projects in Fayette County Schools.



...from the desk of Paula Whitmer

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Wednesday, March 28, 2007 2:38 PM: Technology Fair 2007 was awesome!

The Technology Fair 2007 has come and gone and it was awesome! We had about 80 booths set up and lots of fun was had by all. Students and teachers showed the public what they have been doing with technology this year and they were all impressive! Here's a listing of the school topics alone:

- Arlington STLP in Action! (Arlington Elementary)
- Revisiting Our Past: The History of Ashland Elementary (Ashland Elementary)
- Power of the Image (Athens-Chilesburg Elementary)
- Beaumont's New Technology - Moving Forward (Beaumont Middle)
- Breckinridge STLP Kids in Action! (Breckinridge Elementary)
- UberGeek: Student Based Enterprise (Bryan Station High)
- Bryan Station Bearcats (Bryan Station Middle)
- School Services (Cardinal Valley Elementary)
- Serving Our School Community (Cassidy Elementary)
- Internet Safety 101 (Clays Mill Elementary)
- A Day in the Life at Crawford Middle (Crawford Middle)
- STLP at Deep Springs (Deep Springs Elementary)
- Mentoring Younger Students Using Technology (Dixie Elementary)
- Mods (Eastside Technical Center)
- Game Design (Eastside Technical Center)
- Garden Springs STLP: Serving Better Together... (Garden Springs Elementary)
- The Producers (Harrison Elementary)
- Lena's Gallery (Henry Clay High)
- Blue Devil Radio (Henry Clay High)
- i-SAFE i-PARENT i-S Your Child Safe? (James Lane Allen Elementary)
- WJCM Morning News (Jessie Clark Middle)
- What Do You Want to Know About Technology? (Johnson Elementary)
- J.R. Ewan's Tiger Tail Publishing Company (Julia R. Ewan Elementary)
- JME-TV Presents: The Green Screen Video Machine! (Julius Marks Elementary)
- What's Up with TSA and STLP! (Lafayette High)
- S.T.L.P. @ Lansdowne (Lansdowne Elementary)
- Technology at Linlee (Linlee Elementary)

Educational Enhancement through Technology (LTMS)
 News, Announcements, & More: Daily Movie Making at MLK (M. L. King Academy)
 Punch the Right Button (Mary Todd Elementary)
 Better to be Safe than Sorry (Mary Todd Elementary)
 Maxwell Morning News (Maxwell Elementary)
 Mousing Around at Meadowthorpe (Meadowthorpe Elementary)
 Technology @ Millcreek Elementary (Millcreek Elementary)
 What Life is Like for Me (Morton Middle)
 Northern Knights (Northern Elementary)
 Sports Information System (P. L. Dunbar High)
 LAMB: Leaving a Mark Behind (P. L. Dunbar High)
 Visual Learning in Technology (P. L. Dunbar High)
 MATTS – Making All Teachers Technology Savvy (P. L. Dunbar High)
 Teaching with Technology (Picadome Elementary)
 Rosa Parks Radio Program (Rosa Parks Elementary)
 Morning News/Yearbook (Russell Cave Elementary)
 Digital Video and Digital Art (SCAPA)
 Splashing for Success (Southern Elementary)
 Technology Student Association (Southern Middle)
 SMS STLP (Southern Middle)
 Pictures in Plastic (Southside Technical Center)
 Squires STLP (Squires Elementary)
 Technology at Stonewall (Stonewall Elementary)
 TCE STLP POWERS ON (Tates Creek Elementary)
 Podcasting in the Physics Classroom (Tates Creek High)
 Computer Construction & Application (Tates Creek High)
 Bringing Video to TCMS (Tates Creek Middle)
 4th Grade Newspaper (Veterans Park Elementary)
 Winburn Student Podcasts (Winburn Middle)
 Yates STLP (Yates Elementary)

We were also joined by the following community partners and vendors. They were very busy with both students and adults experiencing new technologies and others!

eInstruction
 CREATIVE IMAGE TECHNOLOGIES
 Dell
 Explorium
 Girls in Research
 Girls in Science
 Governor's STEM Task Force
 IMMEX
 Kentucky American Water
 Lexington Public Library
 LexMark
 SmartEd Services
 Spencerian College
 TRY-IT
 UK Engineering

Thanks to everyone for participating! Check out the [Technology Fair website](#) for pictures!

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=131>

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 ...from the desk of



...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=14>

Podcasting on The Point

Use this blog to post media (sound, video, etc.). Be sure to use the scaffold!
 ...from the desk of *Leanna Prater*

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Thursday, March 29, 2007 1:54 PM: Podcasting, Movies and Blogging at TCHS

This month, teachers have had students rapping in Spanish, having students listen to each others stories, and studying different topics in the world of Fashion and Design. We've had fun learning to create podcasts and have posted some for your listening pleasure on the Podcasting...on The Point. Movie Maker is being used heavily as a culminating activity for students to show what they have learned in classes. Students are interacting with their teachers on the BLOG and on SHAREPOINT through the Discussion Boards and by questions posted for their response. The Podcasts are posted on PODCASTS...on The POINT for your listening pleasure.
 Rosemary McFarland
 TRT, TCHS and BSHS

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=2267>

TIPS - The Editor's Desk

Friday, March 16, 2007 7:03 AM: The top 10 reasons why teachers avoid online tools in instruction:



10: Spam – Email has become the default professional communications tool for teachers and educational professionals, and as such, it is impossible to understate the impact that constant Viagra and “enhancement” ads has on their attitude towards electronic communication in general.

9: The “close my classroom door and the world goes away” syndrome - Teachers view their responsibility as being self-contained: teaching a group of 30 students directly in front of them a fixed curriculum.

8: The faces aren't familiar - The popularity of spaces like MySpace, YouTube, and FaceBook owe a lot to the fact that users can create, even fictionalize (rather than simply represent) their own persona there. Not surprisingly, the popular press has focused on the sinister end of that.

7: Educational leaders do not use these tools - This represents two sides of the paradox of leadership (see #3 below for the other side of this paradox). Many teachers know about these tools - after all, the last couple of years of beginning teachers are "digital natives" - but since professors, principals, superintendents, even technology support staff don't (or don't use), technology innovative teachers are closer to being "digital illegal aliens."

6: The Digital Divide – teachers are unwilling to make any assignment which places any student who has no online access at home at a disadvantage. (The fact that most classrooms still do not have student accessible online computers is a corollary to this problem.)

5: It's not assessed – although most schools, districts, and states have now embraced some sort of standards for student technology use and skills, these standards are not assessed, and so have no teeth.

4: Plagiarism - This ties directly to the entire Internet-driven epistemological debate over "what does it mean to know?" The world of RSS and Wikipedia is aimed at access. But in our current era of high stakes testing, teachers are focused on knowledge demonstration. If students have access to each other's writing and thinking, they'll steal from each other. If they have an assignment embedded in the Internet, they'll just copy/paste. Their fear is that learning will simply revert to the old adage criticizing the traditional lecture as "...a process by which information is transferred from the notes of the lecturer to the notes of the students without touching the brain of either."

3: An overemphasis on tools rather than concepts - The “click here, type there, now go teach your kids” approach to professional development and training dominates technology integration. This reflects an even deeper problem, which I call the "Gee whiz!" factor: techies think the tools *are* the paradigm shift. Since teachers aren't enamored with tools, they miss the *real* paradigm shift in how students interact and learn.

2: Large scale high-stakes assessment - There's not a lot to say about this, except that a focus on the lower levels of Bloom's Taxonomy and a 50-year-old curriculum is currently dominating district and school leaders' lives.

1: Teachers don't use such tools themselves.

In these discussions, it is important to point out that all of the players mentioned above are as likely in these circumstances to be victims as anything else. As in almost any arena, the forces which converge on P-12 teachers and their support structures are most naturally lined up to inhibit change. The trick for those of us trying to be change agents is, as best as we can, to *mute negative forces*, and to *apply pressure for change* as much as possible *along the lines of natural flow*.

In the list above, the over-arching general issues are *perception* (3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10), *safety and security* (4, 8, 10), *ease of use* (1, 3, 7), and *relevance* (2, 3, 5, 6, 9). The goal is to mute the problems of perception and concerns for safety, while providing encouragement in the direction of flow through ease of use and relevance. In Fayette County, we're attempting to accomplish this through a variety of approaches. Throughout, the philosophy has been that of providing teacher-controlled and monitored *in-house tools* which directly address *core content issues*, and *provide for connection* between students, teachers, and the the outside world through display options, RSS, and outreach programs coordinated by district staff.

It is extremely important to avoid viewing the "revolution" as a revolution of *tools*. It is a revolution of *tool users*. Throughout, the presence of people - designers, monitors, and facilitators - are required. The "killer ap" is often assumed to be an automated system, carving out its place in the world through its original design parameters. This, many would argue, is even a myth in the open Internet, but within the confines of P-12, the direct involvement of teachers, students, and technology professionals are an absolute requirement.

Many of the initiatives we're building are just getting started, and many teacher uses are still in their infancy.

For teachers:

- **Perception/Relevance:** These two issues are really two sides of the same coin, and the best approach is to treat online tools not as goals or objects, but as vehicles. Fayette County's newest approach is to use **Content Umbrellas** as a way of organizing, delivering, and connecting teachers and students, through a mutual study of and interest in some curricular content. Although based on an old district stand-alone system (the Literary Book Club), this initiative is almost brand new and untested...our first training is next week.
- **Ease of Use:** Embedded in *The Point* are a variety of quick lesson options which instantly generate and assign online writing projects and collaborations to students. "Only a click away" is a mantra which rarely matches reality. Here, it really does. It also automatically connects assignments to the umbrellas, which provide for automated visibility and public celebration (including XML/RSS) of student work.
- **Security:** Full Control over visibility, access, and use are vested in teachers. They can quickly and easily construct classes, select global settings, and apply them to assignments, in a system embedded into district student logins and network controls.



For students:

- **Perception/Relevance:** Although blogging and connecting have the feel and appearance of other online experiences, teachers set the tone and standards, and students see how the tools can be used for scholarship and idea exchange.
- **Ease of Use:** Scaffolding is the key to student use in The Point. Instant writing assignments include step-by-step helps for constructing responses to teacher-assigned topics and formats, and teachers can quickly and easily construct their own. Publicly-available adult blogs display high-quality examples, and content umbrella display areas accumulate exemplary student writing from across the district.
- **Security:** As mentioned, the system has the appearance of an ordinary blog system, except that students cannot create their own spaces, nor does their writing or profiles appear publicly to the open Internet (except where selected by their teachers).



The contents of this website are intended for the enhancement of instruction only. "It's About Kids"