



CECA Newsletter

Connecticut Educators Computer Association

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A Special Project for a New School and Computer Lab

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The Letter

I wrote Torigoe Genshi, *Project Director of e-village at <http://www.e-village.jp/>* an e-mail requesting information on his latest projects. Genshi has been coordinating online global projects since 1998. He gave me a list of recent projects, which included Nature and Culture. He also said that if we could host a new project idea too.

Creating a New Project

While I liked a project called TREE, I asked if we might offer a new project and host it instead. I put together an idea called Then and Now. It was more of an intermediate school project for my 5th and 6th graders, but one that younger and older students could do too. I wanted students to interview grandparents, elders, or a respected older person. The aim was to compare student life today with that of their grandparents and elders. The information and stories would make a great primary source history. Students could choose from two topics but could do both if they wished.

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These would be *Primary Source Stories from Grandparents and Elders reported by their grandchildren and younger family members.*

In topic one, the students would compare treatment of common illnesses today, like colds, fever, stomachache or headache with those of their grandparents and elders.

If students chose topic two they'd compare school today with that of their grandparents, elders, or respected older person.

Students discovered interesting information about their grandparents through their own words.

Genshi's projects are unique in that they offer students the possibility of a very simple, safe, secure, and password-protected

Continued on p. 6

Mini-Workshops - CECA 2003

Are you uncomfortable with making a standup presentation in front of a large audience? Do you have a pet project or great idea to share? Do you enjoy small group discussions?

Presenters are needed to fill a new CECA workshop format which is in the formative stages. The mini-workshop consists of 8-10 presentations delivered in 15 minute packages in a roundtable format during a one hour conference session. Each presenter repeats 3 times during the session. Participants sit in on only 3 of the presentations, but receive the presentation materials (printed and CD) from all topics. The presenters are seated at tables set for 8-10 participants. The topics can range from tips & tricks, mini-lessons, software demonstrations, classroom projects, etc. Participants rotate through 3 presentations during the one hour session with 5 minutes for passing.

Here's a great opportunity to make a short presentation on a favorite topic in a small group, relaxed, interactive setting. The presentations should be no more than 10 minutes in length with 5 minutes allowed for group interaction and questions. A laptop slide show or demonstration makes an ideal presentation method. Handouts should be concise and clear enough for all participants to understand the topic regardless of whether they sat at table or not. The mini-workshop format has always been a huge hit at national and regional conferences. Please contact Debbie Miller (debbiemiller@mac.com) if you would be interested in leading one of the roundtables.

Call for Presenters - CECA Conference 2003

As the new year starts, we are deep into the planning of CECA 2003. The board is considering lots of exciting and innovative ideas. The success of the CECA conference is built around dynamic presenter workshops. We are looking for presenters who are excited about the technology they are using in their classroom and technology leaders who are exploring new technologies and want to share their vision. If you use an application in a new and innovative way, would you be willing to do a workshop? We look to balance the workshops so that they cover as many varied aspects of technology as possible. This year, in addition to these, we are looking for a set of workshops that would be on a more advanced level. Our membership's knowledge and skill base has grown, and we feel there is a need for our workshops to grow as well. An advanced workshop may cover an advanced use of one application or how to challenge students use of an application.

Presenters (con't)

We are open to having professionals in a field deliver or co-deliver a workshop. Tom Buckley from SBC/SNET had a state police officer co-present a highly successful workshop last year. This workshop was on Internet Safety. The state police officer presented a new real life perspective on this timely topic.

If you are excited about a project, we would love to hear about it. If you know of someone that you feel would be a good presenter, please ask them if they would be willing to present a workshop.

The organization of the conference is a monumental undertaking done by volunteers. Therefore, each year we look at ways that will make our job easier and more efficient. It has become clear that our application was cumbersome and multiple presenters were a clerical challenge. We have revised our application. The board has agreed to restructure the procedure so that there is **one** presenter for each workshop. This will eliminate any contact confusion and streamline our whole process.

The presenter applicaiton is on the CECA website <http://www.ceca-ct.org/CECA2003>

LOB
Tech Expo
Thursday,
May 1
9 am - 3pm

See p. 6

Tech Corner
with
Dave Evon

Who needs a firewall? With the widespread availability of broadband

Internet access more and more users are abandoning their old dialup services. New broadband users need to be aware of the dangers present when directly connected to a public network (the Internet). When using an analog modem and accessing the Internet through a dialup ISP the computer does not use a public IP address that is available by other computers on the Internet. DSL and cable modems enable direct connection to the Internet and the IP address assigned to the computer is accessible from anywhere. While the wealth of information and applications on the Internet becomes more convenient to utilize with a fast broadband connection the door is also open for others to connect to your machine without your consent. Several attempts to connect to every public IP address takes place each hour, if you have a router or firewall that that logs access attempts you can witness this for yourself. There are two types of data you need to protect, data stored as files on your computer's hard drive and data you transmit from one computer to another. To help guard your data there are two forms of firewall protection available, hardware and software. Software firewall solutions run on the user's computer and block unintended connections from the outside. Commercially available software firewalls are highly configurable and incorporate a wizard to ease proper setup. Most home firewall software is priced below \$50 and freeware solutions are also available. Basic firewall functions available in modern operating systems such as Mac OS X and Windows XP may be adequate for home use if properly configured. Hardware firewall solutions for home users come in the form of cable/DSL routers offering

NAT (network address translation) and dedicated hardware firewalls offering NAT with stateful packet inspection. With NAT the router is assigned the public IP address and translates all packets to a private IP assigned to the user's computer, the computer never connects directly to the Internet. A hardware firewall works much in the same way but offers the additional security of stateful packet inspection, each incoming data packet is examined to insure it is coming from a source the user is exchanging data with and not someone masquerading as the intended source. Home hardware firewall and router solutions are now available for well under \$100 and most also offer the ability to connect four or more computers to the same broadband connection. One point often overlooked when deciding between software and hardware firewalls is the increased performance that can be expected when a hardware solution is in place. When all firewall functions are carried out by an external hardware device the computer's CPU is not wasting clock cycles doing the work, as would be the case with a software firewall. More important than your choice of a particular firewall is your decision to put one in place as part of your broadband installation. If your are already enjoying a broadband connection at home please be sure to have a functioning firewall in your setup to insure a safe Internet experience.

Palm Basic Troubleshooting Tips

Synchronizing your Palm to your desktop computer is probably the most important task you can perform to guard against possible data loss. When you synchronize your Palm, not only do you transfer data between your handheld and the desktop, you are also creating a backup set of information which is stored on your desktop computer. In the event of power loss to your Palm (you forgot to check the batteries and now your Palm won't start), you can restore all of the lost data to your Palm, once you replace or recharge the batteries, simply by synchronizing.

Speaking of replacing batteries... ALWAYS synchronize your Palm and desktop computer prior to replacing batteries. There is one little trick. Have the fresh batteries on hand before you remove the old batteries. Once you have removed the batteries from the Palm, you only have ONE MINUTE to install the new batteries or risk total data loss. Be careful to put the batteries back in their proper positions. However, as long as you synchronized before removing the batteries, you can simply synchronize again once you have replaced the batteries and all will be well.

Joe Fromme

CREC

CECA 2003
Radisson, Cromwell
October 27, 2003

CECA Board Retreat

On January 11, the CECA Board held a day-long meeting at the **Two Rivers Magnet Middle School in East Hartford**. Members were fortunate to have several guests assist the group in reaching its goals. The gathering began with **Ron Cretaro, Executive Director of the Connecticut Association of Nonprofits**, talking to the group about issues associated with non-profit organizations; he clarified, for instance, regulations related to lobbying and use of funds. **Linette Branham, Educational Issues Specialist at CEA**, was the overall facilitator for the day and guided the subgroup that concentrated on the Internal Organization of CECA; its members dealt with such topics as the role of a Board member. **Kathy Frega, Communications Director of CEA**, steered the subgroup that focused on Technology Advocacy; they talked about strategies to raise awareness of the need to support educational technology and chose specific tasks to accomplish in the near future. Accompanying Kathy was Neil Hogan, a freelance writer, who will write an article about the event for the Schoolhouse News, a CEA publication. He has also agreed to write four stories profiling teachers who use technology in schools effectively. All in all, the day was a worthwhile one for the organization and its members.

Meryl Menon

CECA Technology Advocates Committee Looks to Humanize the Educational Technology Story

After spending a day at the CECA retreat, the Technology Advocacy Committee designed a strategic plan for putting a human face on the importance of technology in education. With the help of Kathy Frega, Communications Director at CEA and Neil Hogan, Schoolhouse News, a plan was devised to raise the awareness of the importance of utilizing educational technology in our schools to improve student achievement. The plan's primary focus will be to put a human face on effective use of technology by profiling local success stories in our schools. The committee will be looking for stories that will help legislators, educators, parents and community understand the research and statistics on educational technology reflected in the actual best practices of local teachers and administrators. The Committee also plans to be a center for the dissemination of research findings and information on the status of educational technology in Connecticut.

Mike Suntag

Picture from the left: Cheryl Prevost, Chris Dowling, Karen Kaplan, Joe Fromme, Kathy Frega, Mike Suntag, Denise Moynihan.

Tech Advocacy Committee at Work



online page creator. By registering your class or classes, you get permission to use the online page creator. Registration brings with it a greeting from Genshi, along with easy directions for success.

For my project, students did everything, except type in the password. I felt that I needed password control and I suggest that you do the same. Genshi worked with me on this because I had so many students doing the project I needed to make sure of the organization and control for all. He set up different ID and passwords for me in the various subtopics into which my student research might fall. In my case the topics went from general to more specific. The students had to decide the best placement for their work.

All the work was done in class or lab, except for the actual grandparent interviews, which were done at home. I had some students who couldn't interview grandparents, elders, or other older adults. These students interviewed their parents or guardians and teachers in school. One teacher went so far as to bring in an elementary school yearbook to share his school experiences with a student who had no one to interview. Everyone was able to do the project.

More about the Online Page Creator:

The whole project requires an online connection, and is cross platform compatible. Pages can be seen at school, home, or by grandpa in California or anywhere. The great thing about the online page creator is that students can preview the page before creating it, and after creating it, revisit the page for editing, revisions, and additions.

The online page creator lets you choose from three formats. The first is really easy and allows for one image and text, the second format lets students create a page with four images and text, and the third possibility will let more advanced students use html to build the page. My students are using the second format. There are four places to type or paste information and stories. Students can draw pictures, scan or take photos and upload them for insertion into the page. Students can also insert voice and video too. I don't have the time to do the video with all my students but the voice is easy. By using a very inexpensive plastic microphone and sound recorder, located in the accessories software of all PCs, students can speak and save some of their interview as simple sound files for uploading to their page. Other students around the world can visit the pages, read the stories, hear student voices and see pictures or photos.

Torigoe Genshi's e-village is waiting at <http://www.e-village.jp> for your creative project ideas too. And while you're there, add to our Then and Now project.

Legislative Technology Exposition 2003 (LOB)

The Connecticut Educators' Computer Association (CECA) will sponsor the Ninth Annual Legislative Technology Exposition this spring on Thursday, May 1. Each year CECA asks school districts from around the state to send a small group of students (a maximum of 4 students per group) and teachers to the Legislative Office Building to demonstrate to legislators how students use technology to support the learning process.

Check the CECA website periodically for important announcements about the Tech Expo at the LOB.

**CECA Educator
Awards**

**Applications
due**

March 12, 2003

Forms at

www.ceca-ct.org

\$1000

Could be yours!

See p. 7

CECA Educator Recognition Award

The Connecticut Educators' Computer Association established the CECA Educator Recognition award to recognize excellence in the application of technology to classroom learning. The amount of the award is \$1000 for each of three levels. We are offering one award for the elementary level, one for the middle/junior high school level and one for the senior high school level. All teachers in Connecticut's public or private schools are eligible. This is a merit award to be used at the discretion of the winner(s). The award will be given to an individual or divided equally among a group of individuals; it will not go to a school or organization. A primary reason for the award is to stimulate and recognize innovative and creative teaching. Further information about the award, the application form and descriptions of former CECA Awards winners are at: www.ceca-ct.org/Award.

The application must be postmarked by March 12, 2003.

CEU Uptate

On January 27 I talked with the CEA representative who is doing the CECA 2002 CEU certificates. The work on the CEUs had not been started yet. Each member's home address and SS# has to be entered into their database.

Do not expect your CEU certificates any time soon. You will have them before the end of the school year.

Mary Esborn

CECA Advisors Needed in NE & NW Corners of CT

The number of CECA Advisors has grown steadily since our pilot group was formed. CECA strongly supports this role and its important function to assist us in providing support and information to Connecticut's educators. Our goal in 2003 is to increase the numbers and locations of Advisors and encourage educators working in large cities to become part of this very important group. A list of locations for current CECA Advisors is on the back page. If your town is listed additional Advisor contacts in the schools may still be needed.

CECA Advisors serve as a liaison to help exchange information between the CECA Board and educators in their school or district. Educational information is sent to the Advisor by their CECA Board contact through e-mail. The Advisor determines the method selected to disseminate the information. Advisors have shared information using e-mail, newsletters, printing information updates for distribution to teachers, memos and announcements at faculty meetings. Advisors check the CECA web site for updates and new announcements and help inform teachers about proposed legislative issues. Advisors may assist the board with activities related to the annual CECA Conference. Advisors inform their CECA board member contact about issues and concerns expressed by teachers in their school or district.

To volunteer to become a CECA Advisor or request additional information please send the information below to CECACT@aol.com.

Please include the words "CECA Advisor" in the subject line.

1. Name:
2. School:
3. School Mailing Address:
4. Email Address:
5. Telephone: (Home) (School)

Current locations of CECA Advisors: Bozrah, Broadbrook, Brookfield, Canton, Clinton, Danbury, East Windsor, EASTCONN, ECSU, Greenwich, Groton, Harwinton, Madison, Mansfield Center, Middlefield, Middletown, Milford, Montville, New Canaan, New Fairfield, New Haven, Newington, Newton, North Branford, Rocky Hill, Rockville, Salem, Storrs, Trumbull, Uncasville, Wallingford, West Haven, Weston, Wethersfield, Willimantic, Windsor, Windsor Locks, Woodbridge, and Woodbury,

*Chris Dowling
Donna Brown*



Nina Hansen (CECA Vice President) and Howard Gunther (President) during the afternoon reporting session. The Tech Advocacy Committee and the Internal Organization Committee reported to the entire CECA Retreat on their committee work during the morning sessions led by Kathy Frega (Advocacy) and Lynette Branham (Internal Organization) of CEA. The Retreat was held at the Two Rivers Magnet School in East Hartford where Nina is Educational Technology Coordinator.

**CECA Officers
2002-2003**

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Debbie Miller, Presenters' Chair
Mary Esborn, Communications Editor,
Conference Registrar, Executive Secre-
tary - (203) 488-0616

News about Palm Gift Packs (Jan. 30)

Palm received the names from CECA in early November. They have just gotten the mailing labels ready and will be mailing the gift packs soon.

CECA Newsletter
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