

In 10 months, we can greatly affect what technology we pursue. What is the right path going forward?

For several years, HSD obtained the majority of technology through a three year extended purchase agreement (EPA). At the end of the 09/10 school year, our current EPA will end, and we have an opportunity to change our purchase priorities. Assuming that we agree to a new EPA, what hardware and software should be included in a new agreement?

Key Questions

1. Choosing between desktops, laptops and netbooks: what is the right mix of equipment in each area going forward? What software are we running / wish to run and what hardware supports that?
2. Should the computer labs be the focus of our hardware acquisitions?
3. Given the teacher purchase provisions in the proposed contract, do we plan on purchasing fewer or any teacher-assigned laptops?
4. Classrooms at HMS & MSS are filled largely with older machines – do we need to change the model of 1-3 desktops per classroom? Would we be better off with more mobile carts in lieu of classroom desktops? Do we aim for teacher laptops instead of a desk machine?
5. Is the goal of one-to-one still a district goal? If so, how supporting technology can we put in place during the current cycle? If not, how do we modify the goal?
6. What is an appropriate retirement age for computers? How can we manage the life-cycle of computers so that each area has appropriate machines for their needs?

Past Practice

The EPA has primarily equipped the computer labs; lab equipment is generally moved to fill areas of need through the district. In this way, the newest equipment is in the labs; during the last several years, the oldest equipment has been in classrooms; libraries tend to have a mix of middle-aged (3-4 years)

and older (5-7). In the last agreement, the labs upgraded include the MSS lab, and HMHS rooms 218 & 222. It also covered software, warranties and laptops for school administrators.

Scheduled to be replaced in 2010 according to tech plan (Spring 2008) – sizes are historical

1. HMS lab (25 desktops)
2. MSS lab (24 desktops)
3. MSS library (13 desktops)
4. HMHS 501 (25 desktops – delayed due to 09/10 budget constraints)
5. HMHS 218 (24 desktops)
6. HMHS 222 (24 desktops)
7. HMS file server
8. SAU Budgetsense servers (delayed from 09/10)
9. Administrator & tech laptops (~10 laptops)

Approximate totals: 135 desktops, 3 servers, 10 laptops

The EPA from 2007 included approximately 80 desktops and 10 laptops – no servers. The normal operating budget can absorb perhaps 20-25 additional desktops as part of a replacement cycle. Clearly, we cannot follow the dictates of the tech plan within the existing budget. This deployment strategy also ignores our stated goal of moving towards a one-to-one computing environment, as well as ignoring other technologies we may wish to pursue, such as projectors and interactive whiteboards.

We cannot afford all of the items listed in the tech plan, nor are they necessarily a good representation of our needs over the next three years.

A look ahead:

Elementary classrooms (23 rooms)

- Teacher-assigned laptop
- Projector or interactive whiteboard for targeted classrooms
- 1-2 solid desktops
- Mobile laptop/Netbook cart available (1 per 2 students)

Elementary libraries

- MSS – 6-8 stations with same equipment/software as lab
- Library catalog machines?

Elementary labs

- ~25 modern machines
- Projector

Middle classrooms

- Teacher-assigned laptop
- Laptop cart support
- Projectors / whiteboards

Middle labs (geography, science)

- New desktops for geography lab (~25 machines)
- Replace science deployment with laptops / netbooks
- Continue projector / whiteboard rollouts

High school labs

- Maintain 224 (PLTW, 21 machines) – early replacement if possible
- What's the best way to teach in 218 & 222? – space & layout challenges in both rooms
- What to do with 205 (English)? Primarily research & writing stations

Short-term Infrastructure Needs

- Budgetsense servers at SAU are overdue for replacement and are showing it. They need to be replaced ASAP.
- The switches at MSS need upgrading. We need approximately 120 replacement switch ports as soon as practical, before considering some new network drops to support changing needs. I propose the following:
 - 2 new 48 port managed L2 switches during 2010/11 to meet most urgent needs
 - 2 further switches during 2011/12 to finish immediate upgrades and modest expansion
- Replace current separate LANs with an integration directory system so that any user can log in on any machine in the district. Needs software licensing and hardware redeployment.

Current major deployments:

School	Room	# of machines	Type	Make	Model	Age
HMS	Lab	25	Desktop	Apple	eMac	6
HMS	Classroom primary	14	Desktop	Apple	eMac	5 ¹
MSS	Lab	16	Desktop	Apple	iMac	2
MSS	Lab	8	Desktop	Dell	Optiplex 755	2
MSS	Cart	10	Laptop	Apple	Macbook	0
MSS	Classroom primary	12	Desktop	Apple	eMac	4 ²
MSS	Library	13	Desktop	Apple	eMac	6
HMHS	501 - Geog	25	Desktop	HMHS	Built	5
HMHS	406 - Sci 8	12	Desktop	Dell	Optiplex GX270	6
HMHS	408 - Sci 7	12	Desktop	Apple	MDD G4	5
HMHS	Library	10	Desktop	Mix		6
HMHS	205 - English	21	Desktop	Dell	GX150	8
HMHS	218 - Business	24	Desktop	Apple	iMac	2
HMHS	222 - Comp	20	Desktop	Apple	iMac	2
HMHS	Cart - Soc. Studies	20	Laptop	Apple	Macbook	1
HMHS	Cart - Sci	15	Netbook	Asus	1005HE	0

¹ Most classrooms have legacy Macs that range from 8-11 years old as secondary machines.

² Most classrooms have legacy machines ranging from 6-11 years old.

HMHS	224 - PLTW	21	Desktop	Dell	Optiplex	1
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