

http://www

Instructional Technology News

Volume 5, Issue 1
Quarter 1, 2009-2010

FPS Technology Department, 1000 W Stone St, Fayetteville AR 72701 www.fayar.net

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

User Name and Email Changes	1
Computer Upgrades for 2009-2010	2
Technology Spotlight: Backing Up Files!	2
Grant Opportunities	3
Web Resources	3



The fine art of education.

User Name and Email Changes

by Mac Macaulay

We have recently changed our user names on our network. Our network name is also our email name, so our email addresses have all changed too. Our old email addresses will continue to be forwarded to our new accounts until October 2009, after which they will permanently expire. There will be an announcement sent to you all when the exact day comes.

You will need to make some changes to your Thunderbird client settings to continue to receive your mail. Launch Thunderbird, go to Tools: Account Settings and click on your fayar.net account on the left-hand side. There are four places to change your old email address to your new first.last@fayar.net address. The first is your Account Name; the second is your Email Address; the third is the User Name under Server

Settings; and the fourth is the User Name under Outgoing Server (SMTP) after selecting the fayar.net server and clicking the "edit: button.

Now is a great time to establish your own personal email account with the likes of Google (gmail), Hotmail, Yahoo, etc. Here's a great way to setup and manage your email:

- Use your new first.last@fayar.net account for school stuff exclusively.
- Setup a permanent Google, Hotmail, Yahoo, etc. account for correspondence with family, friends, and businesses.
- Setup a "throwaway" account (perhaps forwarded to your "Google, Hotmail, Yahoo, etc." account) for subscribing to newsletters and other online things.



You will notice a dramatic decrease in spam by following these suggestions.

Remember to never click on links in email from folks you don't know. If you get an email from one of your financial institutions that contains a link, visit the site directly rather than clicking the link.

Another tip is to not click the unsubscribe link on spam messages as this just lets the bad guys know that you are a "live" mark.

Computer Upgrades for 2009-2010

Over 230 teachers submitted applications during the spring requesting new laptops. Through the application process, teachers shared how they used technology in their classes. Unfortunately, the budget only allowed for 140 applicants to be awarded brand new laptops. These teachers were notified in July that they could expect a new Dell E5400 laptop in the fall. In addition, the teachers who were not awarded new laptops were notified that they would be receiving extra memory (RAM) for their current computer along with an upgrade to their battery. These upgrades would allow their computers to run faster and work longer.



After school begins, Client Services will be working with those teachers receiving new laptops as well as those getting RAM and battery upgrades to complete the process. For those receiving new computers, a team will schedule visits at each building to distribute the new computers and claim the old ones, which will be used for repair and parts for remaining IBM laptops throughout the district. During the visit email and printers will be set up on the new computer as well.

Those teachers receiving upgraded RAM and battery will also have a day scheduled with Client Services. During the morning of the upgrade the team will arrive to pick up the computers for upgrade, completing the upgrade and a computer re-image during the day. They will return the newly upgraded computers in the afternoon and assist in setting up email and printers. If necessary, a temporary computer can be made available for the day of the upgrade.

Teachers receiving new computers or upgrades are responsible for backing up all of their documents prior to receiving their new laptop or IBM RAM/battery upgrade. Since the IBM laptops will be receiving a fresh image at the time of the upgrade, all files on the computer will be removed. This needs to be done before the scheduled visit with the Client Services team, as there will not be time to perform the backups at that time. In addition, any programs that are loaded on the computer will need to be reloaded, so it would be a good idea to make a list of any of these programs.

Technology Spotlight: Backing Up Files

Before a computer re-image, it's important that any files on your computer are backed up. Because this could happen at any time, it's a good idea to regularly back up the files. You can do so by burning a CD or by copying your files to a USB drive, also known as a thumb key. You should also take this time to delete any unneeded files

Things to back up include

- The My Documents folder, including Music, Photos, Videos, and other documents
- Documents on the Desktop (You do not need to back up any shortcuts, but you will want to back up any documents saved to the Desktop that you want to keep)
- Internet Explorer Favorites
 - ◊ To back up the Favorites folder, open My Computer and then the C: drive.
 - ◊ In the C: drive, access the Documents and Settings folder.
 - ◊ In the Documents and Setting folder, open the folder with your user name (this may be your "old" user name with the first initial and last name)
 - ◊ The Favorites folder will be marked with a star. Copy this folder to you CD or USB drive
- Any other documents on your C: drive you want to keep



Grant Opportunities



* AEP Teacher Vision Grants *

American Electric Power (AEP) will give \$100-500 grants to preK-12 teachers who live or teach in an AEP service area. Any project that has an academic focus and a goal to improve student achievement will be considered. AEP has a special interest in science, mathematics, technology, electrical safety, and the balanced study of energy and the environment.

<http://www.aep.com/citizenship/community/teacherGrants/>

Application deadline: October 23, 2009

* International Reading Association Award for Technology and Reading *

The Presidential Award for Reading and Technology honors educators in grades K–12 who are making outstanding and innovative contributions towards the use of technology in reading education. The award is sponsored by PLATO Learning. There will be one grand-prize winner, seven U.S. regional winners, one Canadian, and one international winner. All entrants must be educators who work directly with students ages 5–18.

<http://www.aep.com/citizenship/community/teacherGrants/>

Application deadline: November 15, 2009

Web Resources

Bubbabrain (grades 0-12) - (www.bubbabrain.com)

Looking for interactive review activities for your subject area? Use Bubbabrain's vast array of activities created for many levels and subjects, ranging from Elementary to College. Click the circle in the appropriate grade level, then choose a subject area from the drop down box at your level. Subject areas vary by grade level. Click the "Go" button to start your activity.



Timeline Index—People, Periods, Places, Events (grades 3 -12) - (www.timelineindex.com)

This site provides timelines for many historical subjects and allows you to search by keyword, date or category to find different timelines. Using the familiar five Ws (Who, When, What, Where, and Which) as a starting point, you can access timelines that are nested and hyperlinked allowing you to get more and more specific or general. In addition, most entries have links to outside websites that relate to the topic. There is also a "This Day in History" section, "Today's Birthday," and a "Quotation of the Day."