Faronics

Faronics Insight and
Lakeshore Technical College

LAKESHORE
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

LTC

600 York Street

LTC | FOREFRONT DERMATOLOGY

Background

Lakeshore Technical College (LTC) is a Wisconsin based leading provider of technical education. Over 100 career programs are offered including associate degrees, technical diplomas, technical certificates, and apprenticeship programs. In addition, LTC offers distance learning, customized training to business and industry, and continuing Problem Instructors in the IT-Network Specialist and IT-Computer Support Specialist program have continually discovered new methods of improving technology in their classrooms. Paul Benfield, one of four instructors in these two programs, was searching for ways to engage his tech savvy students more effectively during lectures. Because students brought their own computers into the classroom, they had immediate access to various web distractions (e.g. social networking sites and game applications).

Serving a 200, 500-resident population in east central Wisconsin, LTC operates a main campus in Cleveland, with additional learning sites at LTC Manitowoc and LTC Sheboygan. There are also various Community Education Centers at local high schools, and 27 distance learning sites.

Problem

Instructors in the IT-Network Specialist and IT-Computer Support Specialist program have continually discovered new methods of improving technology in their classrooms. Paul Benfield, one of four instructors in these two programs, was searching for ways to engage his tech savvy students more effectively during lectures. Because students brought their own computers into the classroom, they had immediate access to various web distractions (e.g. social networking sites and game applications).

To limit the web, Paul unplugged the main Ethernet cable supplying access to the Internet. Although this method worked, Paul still did not have a solution to halt local applications such as games. Paul required a stronger method of controlling and limiting students' access to these distractions to ensure his students were retaining and listening to his lectures.

Paul also struggled with presenting demonstrations effectively to his class. The instructor workstation is connected to a projector, but Paul's labs are typically large which makes it difficult to see demonstrations.

"Since I implemented Insight, I can see a higher level of success amongst my students and increased comprehension."

Paul Benfield
IT-Network Instructors

Solution

In March 2009, Paul attended the Novell BrainShare conference and discovered Faronics Insight, a classroom management solution, which seemed like an excellent fit to address all of Paul's challenges in the lab. Paul evaluated Insight in September, as well as other similar solutions. "Faronics Insight offered the stability, speed and the ease of use that other competing solutions didn't deliver," recalls Paul.

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I attribute this largely to the ability to keep my class more focused and engaged, demonstrate much more easily, and manage the entire classroom with ease."

Paul Benfield
IT-Network Instructors

A Multitude of Features

The ability to Blank screens delivers strong benefits to both Paul and his students. Not only can he grasp their attention quickly when he needs them to focus, but students enjoy that their fellow students' screens don't distract them.

Controlling access to applications locally and off the Internet is a critical capability of Insight. Although Paul knows his tech savvy students may be able to get around some of the web and application limiting, students are reluctant to try since they know they're being monitored.

Paul often gets students to volunteer and share their drawings, but sometimes he relies on the Randomize feature in Insight to randomly select the next "volunteer".

"Everyone who saw the presentation was very excited about Insight and immediately saw applications of the technology in their classrooms, He is hoping Insight's adoption will spread campus wide in the next few months and is hoping to roll it out to a dozen labs across the campus."

Paul Benfield
IT-Network Instructors

As someone who influences the purchase of classroom instructional technology, and a big believer in the technology, Paul presented Insight to all the other 26 program areas in the Business and Technology Division (B&T) of the school as well as the school's CIO. The B&T division has all of the business, HR, accounting, supervisory, marketing, paralegal, judicial reporting, hospitality, IT, and medical transcription programs.

Paul and his students love the Demonstrate option in Insight, which allows Paul to broadcast his screen to all student computers - but Paul isn't the only one sharing his screen. Students also have the ability to show and share their screen to everyone else. "In a network design class, instead of sending all the files to me so I can display them to the class, we can simply show the student's screen to everyone. That way they can also interact with their own drawing and explain or modify things as we are having a discussion," explains Paul. When troubleshooting a computer in class, Paul and his students both find it beneficial if he can take over the student computer and show the class exactly what he's doing. "Everyone loves this so they can learn and gain experience from other students' issues and my proposed solutions", says Paul.