



Implementing Google Apps for Education

Trials, Tribulations, and Triumphs

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Once Upon a Time...

We needed to reduce the total cost of ownership for email.

- Server Management
- Exchange licensing
- Spam Management
- Downtime

At the same time, we were up for renewal of Microsoft Office licensing. Our goals were to:

- Provide a more collaborative environment
- Follow the trends of Secondary Education
- Look towards the future of open standards
- Streamline office productivity

The Solution

A combined migration of services to Google Apps for education and OpenOffice.org

Google Apps for Education requirements:

To request an account with google apps, the only thing you need is a domain, which can be purchased from Google, or any domain provider, or you can use an existing domain that you have. To begin the signup process, navigate to <http://www.google.com/a/edu/> and click on "or sign up to get started" on the right side of the page.

Easy as... well, Google

The Sign up process is very easy.

The hardest part is setting up the MX record and migrating the email.

We did this in one weekend, with 800 users. Google provides an interface that allows for seamless migration from exchange using IMAP. User folders also migrate into labels.

Migrate mail from mail server

1. [Set server connection](#) 2. **Specify users to migrate** 3. Start migration

Select how you want to specify user accounts for migration

Specify a few user accounts

Specify user accounts individually if you only need to transfer a few users. Use this to test out the process.

Specify many user accounts via file upload

Upload a list of user accounts if you need to transfer mail for many users at once.

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Administration

Administration is made easy by a dashboard where you can control all aspects of the service. Notably, the user upload and create section is very user friendly.







Dashboard User accounts Domain settings Advanced tools Service settings ▾

Mecklenburg County Public Schools

mcpsweb.org, meck.k12.va.us
[Manage account information](#) [domain names](#)

[746 users](#) [Create new users](#)
You can create up to 1000 user accounts for this domain. [Request more users](#)

Service settings [Add more services](#)

 Start Page - Active http://start.mcpsweb.org	 Email beta - Active http://mail.mcpsweb.org
 Chat beta - Active Users can sign in by downloading Google Talk	 Calendar beta - Active http://calendar.mcpsweb.org
 Docs beta - Active http://docs.mcpsweb.org	 Sites beta - Active http://sites.mcpsweb.org

✓ All services are running smoothly
We are working to improve our reporting to
Please check back later. Thank you for you

OpenOffice.org Enters the Fray



the free and open productivity suite

OpenOffice suplements for Google Docs shortcomings, such as formatting issues and picture size.

OpenOffice 3 now offers:

- Better formatting compatibility with Micosoft Office
- Compatibility with the xdoc Office 2007 format
- Better Impress compatibility with Powerpoint

theopendisc.com - Allows students and teachers to have a free copy of the software we use. Great for those who do not have high speed internet

Lets Talk Cash

Mecklenburg County is saving **\$200,000** using these initiatives, and streamlining processes due to the collaborative nature of Google Docs, and the shift of services moving to the web.

Lets Talk Responsibility

Can your students use an office suite for no cost at home?

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Where We are now

Using a second domain, we've set up a second Google Apps for education account for our students

We have not allowed the students access to email or chat, but the students have access to Google Docs, Sites and Calendars. .

We are piloting a program with a School in Indiana where students are collaborating across the country with each other.

STUDENTS benefit from collaboration and experimentation.

Collaborate and Share

Virginia Open Classroom Project

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Welcome

This site is designed to document and support Free and Open Software in the classroom. The site is currently under construction, but we are adding content daily. If you are interested in being involved, please contact Chad Wollenberg at cwollenberg@mcpsweb.org

USEFUL LINKS

Title

[Google Education Edition- Get to Know Google!!](#)

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[Create a Comic Book](#)



[more](#)

USEFUL FILES

Title

Attached files

[Spelling Flash Cards - Open Office Tips 12-8-08](#)

CARDS with SPELLING v2.odg

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Crib_Docs.pdf

[Google Crib Sheet - Created by Google for Teachers - Google Maps](#)

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Posted Wed, 10/29/2008 - 11:08 by sbeck

Category:

Google Apps

<http://www.google.com/educators/about.html>

Take a look at the options and ideas from Google Apps for educators!

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▶ [WHAT ARE OTHER SCHOOLS USING GOOGLE FOR?](#)

Posted Wed, 10/29/2008 - 10:42 by sbeck

Where do we go from here?

Locally:

- Continue to streamline processes and information gathering via Google Apps
- Increase creativity through collaboration via Google Apps. Look for new and innovative collaborative environments to encourage students to learn.

Globally:

- Continue to promote open standards in the educational environment.
- Collaborate and encourage open information within the state to better serve the needs of the greater community.
- Share experiences with others, and move towards a better learning environment for the youth of virginia.

QUESTIONS?

This presentation brought to you by Mecklenburg County Public Schools

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