

MEETINGHOUSE TECHNOLOGY

Newsletter



May 2011

Introduction

Welcome to another edition of our monthly *Meetinghouse Technology Newsletter*! Remember that the most current information can always be found on our “Meetinghouse Technology Wiki” (mhtech.lds.org).



Featured Topic

LDS Account

Many of you have probably heard of an LDS Account, but you may be unfamiliar with the many ways that you can use it to improve your experience with Church websites and online tools.

An LDS Account is a single authentication mechanism for all Church-related websites and tools. With the LDS Account authentication, a website or tool can immediately access personalized information about the user—for example, whether the user is a member of the Church or not, what part of the world the user resides in, what callings the user currently holds, and information about the user’s ward and stake. By using this information, websites can provide a personalized experience for each individual with an LDS Account.

Many of you already know that LDS.org uses LDS Accounts to provide information that is relevant to an individual’s calling. This means that a bishop who logs into LDS.org and clicks the Leader and Clerk Resources tool will see a completely different page than a Relief Society president, a ward clerk, or a stake technology specialist will. Each individual will see a page with information specifically intended for his or her calling.

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Tips and Tricks

With the increasing use of the Internet in our meetinghouses, many people are trying to find better ways to display content from their laptops, tablets, or other digital devices in Church classes. There typically isn’t much time to set up a projector and screen and connect all the wires before class starts. Also, the television sets in most meetinghouse libraries are not PC compatible.

One easy way to solve this problem is to invest in a PC-to-TV converter and keep it in your library along with the television sets. There are many different makes and models available online, and they are not too expensive—a quick online search brings up many in the U.S. \$25–\$80 price range. This converter allows you to quickly connect a PC to a standard television set, like those found in most meetinghouse libraries today. You can then display a *Mormon Messages* video, general conference clip, or anything else you can find online directly to a television in the classroom. There is no need to set up a screen, connect a projector, or find external speakers.

Local Highlight

Note: Guidelines for technology vary by area, and not all solutions are appropriate in all areas. Please be sure to check with your area office before implementing any new solutions.

This month we would like to highlight the **Cedar Hills Fourth Ward** of the **Cedar Hills Utah West Stake**, where the Young Men leaders have used the meetinghouse’s Internet access to enhance their Mutual activities, to encourage the young men to earn their Eagle Scout Award, and to give them opportunities to participate in family history.

For one activity, the leaders wanted to help ensure that the Scouts were progressing toward the rank of Eagle Scout. A leader set up a table on the stage in the cultural hall, connected his laptop to

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You may not know that logging into LDS.org with your LDS Account also provides you with a personalized scripture study notebook, which allows you to mark scriptures online, attach notes to scriptures, and perform many other tasks to create a completely personalized experience studying the scriptures online.

Other Church websites, such as tech.lds.org, mormon.org, and familysearch.org, also use LDS Accounts to provide the user with a more personalized experience. Having an LDS Account also allows users to interact more fully with Church websites—for example, while anyone can read an article on tech.lds.org, logging in with your LDS Account allows you to edit or create an article.

Using your LDS Account, you can also subscribe to different “interests.” There are currently four interests available—gospel-themed Mormon messages, new or updated Church websites, opportunities to develop or test Church software (such as webcasting), and meetinghouse technologies (this interest manages the e-mail list for this newsletter). When you subscribe to an interest, information on that topic will be sent to the e-mail address you have listed on your LDS Account.

The uses of an LDS Account continue to grow over time. Over the next six months, LDS Account will be developing a means for users to consolidate their digital identities into an “LDS Profile.” With an LDS Profile, users will be able to visit a single location to access and manage their subscriptions, privacy controls, account settings, and other elements designed to facilitate their experience with Church systems.

Stake technology specialists can encourage members to create an LDS Account if they have not yet done so.

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the meetinghouse’s wireless Internet access, and brought up a Scouting website. Then he had each young man take turns reviewing and updating his Scouting progress on the website in real time while the other young men played basketball. Once they had updated everything and had discussed what he should be working on next, the young man joined the basketball game and sent another young man to meet with the leader. In one night they were able to discuss the progress of each young man in the quorum and ensure that they were all progressing toward the Eagle Scout rank. The leader indicated that this was “the coolest opportunity to complete my calling using technology—it opened my eyes to how technology can help us help these boys.”

On another occasion, the Young Men leaders arranged to have a senior couple join them for a Mutual activity. The senior couple explained the process of indexing, while each boy followed along on his own device. All of the boys were able to participate in FamilySearch indexing process during the activity. By making use of the technology in the building and in the hands of each young man, the leaders made the experience much more interactive for these young men.

How has your stake or ward used technology to bless the Saints in your area? Share your story with us at MHTechNewsletter@LDSChurch.org, and we may include it in an upcoming newsletter!



Subscription Information

To receive this newsletter directly to your inbox, subscribe to “Meetinghouse Technologies” with your LDS Account.

For instructions on how to do this, see “Meetinghouse technology e-mail list” page on the “Meetinghouse Technology Wiki” (mhtech.lds.org).