

MEETINGHOUSE TECHNOLOGY

Newsletter



March 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

Meetinghouse Firewall

The meetinghouse firewall is the central component to Internet use in the meetinghouse. It is essential that all meetinghouses with Internet access have a meetinghouse firewall installed correctly and that all devices are connected to it. A firewall provides several security features that help prevent significant problems. Without the firewall actively in place, the people and devices that connect to the Internet in meetinghouses run the risk of being exposed to harmful content and malicious attacks. For example, firewalls filter content from the Internet so that inappropriate content cannot be accessed in the meetinghouse. Firewalls also protect the network from being accessed by computer hackers who might attempt to steal data.

As of January 2011, the standard meetinghouse firewall is the Cisco 881W. This firewall is very easy to install and can be activated in just a few minutes by following a few simple instructions available at mhtech.lds.org. The 881W has built-in 802.11 (Wi-Fi), which provides wireless access throughout the meetinghouse. Unlike older firewalls, the 881W comes with unlimited licensing, which means that many people can connect to the new firewall at the same time without incur-

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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.

For several years, the **Baltimore Maryland Stake** has been holding a free, annual family history workshop in one of the stake’s meetinghouses. Over the years, the workshop has turned into a very popular event, with the attendees of other faiths historically outnumbering Latter-day Saints. Full-time missionaries assist with parking, and the building normally fills to capacity as speakers and attendees come from all over the state (and some travelling from out of state) to participate in this event.

The stake calls a member to plan and oversee this event. This person works closely with the stake technology specialist to provide all of the technology required to support the day-long conference. They set up an online registration system to accommodate all who want to attend. They also set up additional wireless access points throughout the building as needed to provide access for all of the attendees and speakers who wish to connect to familysearch.org with their own laptops during the event. Projectors are borrowed from other stake buildings for the day.

The event starts with a meeting in the chapel, where an opening prayer is offered and a guest speaker discusses some aspect of family history from an LDS perspective. The group then disperses to attend several breakout sessions, where speakers present on various family history topics in the classrooms throughout the building. As a result of its focus on family history, the stake was third in indexing in the North

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ring additional costs to the Church. The 881W also provides a solid foundation for some new features related to the use of the Internet in meetinghouses that we will announce in the near future.

Meetinghouse firewalls are purchased by facilities managers through LDS eMarket. If you are interested in setting up an Internet connection in a meetinghouse that hasn't had the Internet in the past, first talk to your stake or district president to obtain approval, and then talk to your facilities manager to order the new meetinghouse firewall. Meetinghouses with older firewalls, such as the Cisco ASA or PIX, do not need to upgrade to new firewalls immediately.

For more information, please visit the "Meetinghouse Internet" section of the wiki (mhtech.lds.org).

Tips & Tricks

Often ward clerks need to create documents or spreadsheets but can't find applications they need on their meetinghouses' computers. If you find yourself in this situation, here are a couple of options to consider:

- **Google Docs** (docs.google.com). This is a free, collaborative service for sharing online documents that many wards and stakes are using for their documentation needs.
- **OpenOffice** (openoffice.org). This is a free suite of office tools that are compatible with Microsoft Office.

Remember that it is important to ensure that all software on the computers in the meetinghouse is properly licensed. Installing personal software on the meetinghouse's computers is discouraged.

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America Northeast Area in 2010. We are told that they expect to be first this year.

This stake is a great example of finding creative ways to use technology to bless the lives of members and nonmembers alike. The local stake presidency feels that the workshop has been a wonderful blessing to all who have attended and has helped not only to enhance family history work within the stake but to strengthen the positive reputation of the Church in this area.

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 use it in an upcoming newsletter!

Service Opportunity

Do you know a foreign language? Do you want to help the meetinghouse technology team get our message out to the world? We currently are looking for people to translate the wiki into several different languages. Some translation work has been done, but since the English content is always changing, keeping the other languages updated is an ongoing task. We are also hoping to translate the wiki into additional languages. If you are interested in helping us keep non-English pages up to date with the English version, follow the guidelines on the translation page (https://tech.lds.org/wiki/Translation_%28meetinghouse%29).



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).