

WV Statewide Technology Conference 2015 Fantastic Success!

WVSTC
2015



The *WV Statewide Technology Conference 2015* was a fantastic success! Held at the Morgantown Event Center, the conference attracted 600 people who enjoyed 127 concurrent sessions, 68 exhibitors and 2 amazing speakers. Sessions covered a wide range of topics including emerging technologies, teaching strategies, technology resources, internet security, product demos, innovations, how-to's, brainstorming, gamification, and training.

Opening keynote speaker Travis Allen inspired us with his bold success story. As a high school student he was once punished for using a smartphone in a classroom, but he went on to travel the US helping educators to embrace and leverage digital learning and mobile technology to reach and enrich students. *Closing keynote speaker Hall Davidson* was entertaining, funny and enlightening. He examined many ways that technology is transforming how we learn and what we can accomplish, often showing examples that the audience could try using their own mobile devices.

WVNET's Director Judge Dan O'Hanlon, WVDE CIO Sterling Beane, and WV State Board of Education President Michael Green also took turns at the podium to reflect on the importance of technology in our schools. They acknowledged the positive energy and impact of this yearly statewide conference and West Virginia's commitment to advancing technology in education.

WVNET is committed to providing the best possible Statewide Technology Conference each year. Many of our staff invest time and energy in the event, working together in a team along with talented people from the WV Department of Education. We thank all who participated in the conference and made it better than ever! [See more conference pictures...](#)



Travis Allen, Opening Keynote Speaker



Hall Davidson, Closing Keynote Speaker



Travis Allen DLR Tour Bus



Dan O'Hanlon, Director, WVNET

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

WVNET and the WV Department of Education just finished successfully hosting their *11th annual West Virginia Statewide Technology Conference*. Primarily geared towards the needs of K12 technologists, it brought together nearly 600 attendees from every part of the State. Hundreds of breakout sessions showed them everything from the latest gadgets to the things that have proven to work best in the classroom.



The highlight of the conference for me was introducing a remarkable young man, Travis Allen.

Travis gave a dynamic keynote speech which had everyone on their feet giving him a standing ovation when he finished.

Travis and his iSchool team have travelled to 41 states and talked with over 200,000 people about how a school might look in the future with the best use of technology. They get some of their best ideas from students -- and who would know better?

I want to thank the Media Services Group at WVNET for doing a spectacular job on this fantastic event. Many attendees told me it was the best one ever. I want to particularly say thanks to Karen Saffron who sweated every detail and made sure it all came together smoothly. You made WVNET shine!

CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY And this month's winner is...

Is it football season yet? When practice begins at high schools all across the State of West Virginia, and the college teams start their Summer Camps in preparation for Week 1, all thoughts turn to fall and pigskins flying thru the air. At WVNET, while it's not football that we are preparing for, football also represents the restart of schools, colleges, and universities all across West Virginia. For us at WVNET, we are preparing for educators and students beginning the year and stand ready to assist in any way possible 24/7/365.



Each month, WVNET recognizes a customer who took the time to complete our Customer Satisfaction Survey to let us know how we are doing. We thank everyone who takes that extra few minutes to give us advice, kudos, or criticisms that can improve our service.

This month we would like to congratulate our winner *Scott Neighbors from the WVU Foundation*. Scott called in needing assistance from our Telecommunications Department, wanting a new Internet connection created for his equipment. While his main point of communication was Andrew Parker from the Communications team, several members played a role in getting the connection created, isolated to its own virtual network, and physically run to the desired equipment. Scott said of the experience, *"I requested a new connection for internet access and it was pulled into my rack within a few hours. This was a time sensitive issue and WVNET completed it in a fraction of the time I had available. Thank you to everyone involved!"*

Our Telecommunications Department, headed by Allen Daugherty, has extensive experience in helping customers find optimal solutions for connections within our Data Center. Andy Parker, CCNP certified, works with Allen helping to create the routes and paths necessary to isolate individual VLAN's for different customers for data security. The kind of work mentioned here by Scott is done daily by this staff and is integral to what we do as a network. Kudos to them for work well done.

As always, at the end of each month, we will draw a winner, contact them by email and then send WVNET memorabilia in appreciation. Please complete our survey by looking within the incident email of any interaction that you have had with us. All comments are taken seriously and help to improve what we do on a daily basis.

Thank you, *Scott*, and thanks again to all our customers who continue to shape and improve WVNET. *(Guest article by Booker Walton, III, Customer Resource Specialist, pictured.)*

WVNET'S CORY MORRISON ATTENDS BLACKBOARD WORLD 2015

I recently attended Blackboard World 15 and thought you'd be interested to hear about it. It was an impressive event as usual, and it was hosted in Washington D.C. We learned all about the new Learning Management System updates, and also about how Blackboard support sites will be changing dramatically in the future. The conference mainly focused on Blackboard's New Learning Experience (NLE) and their latest and greatest version of Learn which they now call Ultra. All of these changes were advertised with the mindset of Continuous Development, the Learner, and Usability. We should see some rather interesting developments coming from Blackboard in the months to come.



BbWORLD 2015 LIVE

If you'd like to see more information, please visit the following website for BbWorld15 recorded sessions, speaker lists, and session descriptions (please note you may need to create an account): <http://www.bbworldlive.com> I highly recommend *Innovation Leaders Panel Discussion & Keynote Peter Diamandis*. Peter Diamandis is a member of Elon Musk's innovation team and also holds a place on the board for the SpaceX project (privatized commercial space travel). He is an excellent speaker! *(Guest article by Cory Morrison, Instructional Designer)*

WVNET'S BARBARA LONG COMPLETES TERM ON ELLUCIAN DEGREEWORKS CUSTOMER ADVISORY BOARD

WVNET's Barbara Long has received an official thank you from Wayne E. Holt, Product Specialist, Degree Works, Ellucian, for her service on the Degree Works Customer Advisory Board this past year. In a letter to Barbara Long, Mr. Holt comments, *"I realize that you had to make room for this activity among your other significant regular duties in order to participate, and I appreciate your commitment and follow through with this task. I encourage you to stay involved — the Degree Works eCommunity is vibrant and growing, and represents a real collaboration between vendor staff and customers. Consider future participation in a development partner group, or another term on the Degree Works CAB. If I can assist you in some manner in the future, please do not hesitate to let me know. With my best wishes, congratulations on completing your appointment term. I have separately sent you a framed certificate of thanks on behalf of the company, signed by our President and CEO, Jeff Ray. Please accept it with our sincere thanks."*



**WVHETC
2015**

West Virginia Higher Education Technology Conference 2015

"Technology in Education: Revealing the Magic" will be held at The Waterfront Place Hotel and Morgantown Event Center in Morgantown, West Virginia, on October 26-27, 2015. *Registration is now open!* Dr. Corley Dennison, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, WVHEPC, will be the Opening Keynote Speaker and Dr. Michael Adelman, President, WVSOM, will be the General Session Speaker on October 26. The

Keynote Speaker on the last day of the conference will be Dr. Robbie Melton, Associate Vice Chancellor of Mobilization Emerging Technology, Tennessee Board of Regents. The conference will offer a Blackboard System Administrator Pre-Conference Workshop, 45+ concurrent sessions (on topics such as Big Data, Career and Professional Development, Distance Learning, Public Policy and Legislation, Enterprise Resource Planning, Innovative Technologies, Student Success, eLearning and others), poster sessions, 30+ exhibitors and two receptions for all registered attendees and vendors, including a Magic Show/Reception after the general session on October 26 and the Exhibitor Reception to close the conference on October 27. Please visit: wvhetc.com for conference updates.

APPLICATIONS CORNER

By Dana Keith

In this monthly feature, Dana Keith, Manager of Administrative Applications highlights projects and solutions offered by the WVNET Applications Group. Today we look at: Banner XE, the WVNET-BUG listserv and our monthly Banner conference call.



Moore's Law -- the idea that computing power doubles roughly once every 18 months -- has proved to be surprisingly accurate since it was first outlined in 1965 by Gordon Moore, a co-founder of Intel.

The reliability of Moore's Law has shaped customer's expectations and has innovated software developers. Today, consumers all but demand that their gadgets get faster, cheaper, and more compact in step with Moore's Law. It's both the imperative that propels software companies forward and the standard by which they must abide in order to stay afloat in the industry. The belief in Moore's Law is driving software companies to outdo themselves year after year.

Ever-Evolving Ecosystem

Following this trend, Banner by Ellucian – the ERP system running at West Virginia's public higher education institutions - is undergoing a major technology overhaul. Unlike previous versions, Ellucian Extensible Ecosystem or Banner XE is being developed with a flexible and open foundation.

With this shift in technology strategy, WVNET is focused on helping our Banner managed services clients (11 institutions and growing) and the entire West Virginia higher education landscape make a smooth transition. We are leveraging our resources to focus on the new Banner architecture which relies on Groovy/Grails instead of the Oracle forms platform.

The Ellucian XE architecture introduces new application program interfaces (APIs) and Web services that wrap around the core enterprise resource planning Banner system. The new API and Web services are intended to make it easier for educational institutions to integrate with new and existing software solutions from Ellucian, its partners, and other third party products. Automated release tools and configuration management are also intended to make it faster and easier for customers to provision, implement, and update the technologies.

We are very excited about this new direction for the Banner product, and we applaud the institutions that are testing and have implemented this latest version of Banner.

The WVNET Banner Listserv - Are you a Subscriber?

Would you like to receive email updates from WVNET concerning Banner? Consider joining the WVNET Banner Users Group (BUG) listserv. The WVNET-BUG listserv ensures that you're "in the loop" on everything happening throughout the Banner community. It's FREE and becoming a subscriber couldn't be easier! Join our discussions by sending a request to: WVNET-BUG@LISTSERV.WVNET.EDU

Let's Talk Banner – WVNET's Monthly Conference Call

In addition to the WVNET BUG listserv, we host a monthly conference call for the Banner community. Bring your Banner questions, tips or just general camaraderie to this call held every 3rd Thursday of the month. Agenda and connection information are distributed via the WVNET-BUG listserv.

ANDROID USERS AND STAGEFRIGHT VULNERABILITY

If you have an Android-based smartphone you should know that there is a serious vulnerability with Android operating system v2.2 Froyo and up. This vulnerability attacks an Android component named "Stagefright" and could lead to a complete compromise of your phone, which means taking over the phone and siphoning off all of the data. Details are all over the web, but here is one explanation: <https://www.avast.com/en-us/faq.php?article=AVKB230>

A carefully crafted multimedia message (MMS) sent to any messenger application is all it takes to compromise your phone, without your even having to click or view anything. Think about the information you have on your phone and wonder what could be done with it in the wrong hands! You can protect yourself by disabling the auto-retrieve feature in your messaging application. Here is a link with instructions for how to disable that feature until you can get your Android software updated: <https://www.avast.com/en-us/faq.php?article=AVKB230>

Google was made aware of this issue in April and has created Android patches. If you have a "Google phone" (e.g., Nexus) you should have access to a patch. If you are using an Android phone from another vendor (e.g., Samsung, HTC, etc.) you may need to ask your carrier (e.g., Verizon, Sprint, etc.) if a patch exists. Over 1 billion devices are potentially vulnerable, and getting the patch onto those devices in a timely manner is a great challenge. It is important to get this patch as soon as possible!

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Stagefright Vulnerability Continued...

In a larger scope, keeping your smartphone updated as new software versions are released is essential. Many phones have access to sensitive personal data that must be protected from hackers. Software creators tend to fix vulnerabilities as they are found, but the phone owner has the responsibility to make sure new versions are downloaded and installed.

FIREFOX RELEASES UPDATES

Firefox has released new versions of their web browser in response to recent vulnerabilities. While many patches fix security flaws that could potentially be exploited, one of the new patches prevents an attack that has already been happening! If you are using Firefox you could already have been exposed, and you won't know that it happened or what information was taken.

See some of the related info here: <https://www.dshield.org/forums/diary/Critical+Firefox+Update+Today/20013/> and here: <https://blog.mozilla.org/security/2015/08/06/firefox-exploit-found-in-the-wild/>

It is important to update your web browsers as soon as possible when new versions are released. In Firefox you can check for updates by following these steps:

1. Click on the menu button in the upper right corner of the browser, click on the question mark (help) button at the bottom of the menu, and select About Firefox.
2. The About Firefox window will open and the browser will begin checking for updates. Follow instructions to download and install updates.

IT'S THE END OF AN ERA...

It's the end of an era. WVNET's faithful willow tree lived in front of our building for all of our years. It brought a relaxed beauty to the front yard, and was occasionally partner to a passing pedestrian looking for a shady place to eat lunch or read a book. Local horticulturists sometimes took cuttings from the tree to grow new willows around Morgantown. On the down side, the willow's roots sometimes blocked WVNET's drainage systems and caused flooding issues. Trees will be trees! In the past few years, the willow fell into decline and was finally retired in July 2015. So long willow, we will always remember you!



WVNET RETIREE INDUCTED INTO ELDORA RACEWAY NATIONAL HOT ROD ASSOCIATION



Former WVNET Network Operator Larry Pierce has been inducted into the *Eldora Raceway National Hot Rod Association Hall of Fame* in recognition for his contribution to the sport of drag racing at Eldora Raceway, Eldora Dragway, and Fairmont Dragway. The list of inductees included: Charlie "Chalk Eye" Chipps, Tom Feorene, John "Hippy Herb" Heck, Larry "The Farmer" Pierce, and Dan "The Revenuer" Thompson — Third Induction Class 2015.



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