



Department of Information Systems

Arkansas. A State of Technology.

Claire Bailey
Director

Mike Beebe
Governor

January 27, 2011

Dear Superintendent,

The Arkansas Department of Information Systems (DIS) is pleased to announce the addition of a new service for K-12 schools that offers affordable, secure bandwidth, known as "Bandwidth for Educational Enhancement" (B.E.E.).

As technology evolves with ever-increasing business critical applications such as the Arkansas Public School Computer Network (APSCN) and other Internet-based resources to enhance education, DIS is implementing B.E.E. as a solution to help school districts meet the continually growing need for greater bandwidth. The goal of B.E.E. is to provide the mechanism to procure the additional broadband capacity to meet your educational needs.

The distinct advantage of B.E.E. is the ability to distinguish between business critical applications, such as APSCN and records relating to grades and attendance, versus non-business critical Internet activity such as the general viewing of online content. B.E.E. also affords the ability to utilize multiple providers or points of connection to route local user requests to either a "business class" or "consumer class" connection based on the appropriate level of priority.

For example:

- If a bookkeeper processing payroll logs into a business critical destination such as APSCN PLUS, the request would go to an aggregator appliance and would cross the state network high service level connection.
- However, if while working in APSCN, the same user opens a web browser to watch online news, the request would be routed to a lower level "consumer class" connection since viewing a newscast is not identified as a business critical application.
- If a classroom teacher logs into a recording system to enter attendance or grades, the request would be routed through the business critical connection.
- If the same teacher has another browser window open to research a topic for planning, that request, while important, is not business critical and would be routed through the "consumer class" connection.

KEY COMPONENTS OF B.E.E.:

Internet Content Filter appliance installed on Local Area Network: Depending upon your local area network configuration, districts will be required to utilize local Internet Content Filter appliances. DIS has negotiated a state contract that leverages the state's current investment in Internet Content Filtering. Schools may purchase an appliance directly from the state vendor (M86) and receive state contract pricing. Also, DIS will have a service offering for the Internet Content Filter. You will have the option to purchase or use the DIS service as needed for your network configuration. A DIS APSCN LAN support team can assist school technology staff with determining the model of appliance needed as well as the installation and configuration.



Internet only bandwidth: If connectivity is purchased through DIS, DIS will file the E-rate application and reimburse schools. In the event a school district negotiates a better price than that acquired by DIS, service can be purchased directly from the vendor(s) and districts will be responsible for E-rate filing. For questions related to E-rate, please contact Becky Rains at becky.rains@arkansas.gov. DIS APSCN LAN support staff will still assist schools with the installation and configuration of the hardware needed.

For a copy of the DIS price list please visit:

<http://www.dis.arkansas.gov/productsServices/network/Pages/BandwidthforEducationalEnhancement.aspx>.

Some school locations may be listed on the DIS price list, but the service provider may not be able to supply all locations or addresses within a district. DIS will assist you in coordinating with the providers in areas where broadband options are limited.


Bandwidth Aggregator or Router Configuration: For multiple types of connections, a device will be needed to appropriately route traffic. A bandwidth aggregator is required when more than one consumer class connection is purchased. If only one connection will be added, DIS can configure the existing router at no additional cost. Details regarding a DIS negotiated contract for a bandwidth aggregation appliance are still pending. We anticipate being able to provide specific details by February 2nd. DIS will have a service offering for the bandwidth aggregator. You will have the option to purchase or use the DIS service as needed for your network configuration. We will work with your technologists to gather the necessary information for implementation.

SUMMARY:

For questions about which solution would be best for your network or to initiate this service, call the DIS Call Center at 800-435-7989 and request the creation of a BEE Incident. A DIS APSCN LAN Technician will call you to assist. If you are interested in implementing this new service within the next two years, please go to http://surveys.dis.arkansas.gov/bee_questionnaire.htm and complete the short survey by February 14th. This will enable DIS to accurately complete the E-rate application and plan for appropriate staffing to fulfill requests.

I also included an additional attachment for the school locations which piloted B.E.E. This attachment provides contact information in the event you have questions for those pilot sites.

Sincerely,



Claire Bailey
Director, Arkansas Department of Information Systems
Arkansas Chief Technology Officer





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B.E.E. Pilot School Summary

DIS is currently working with eight school districts as pilots for the B.E.E. Initiative to serve as a proof of concept and to ensure the B.E.E. solution would provide cost effective, safe and secure bandwidth. The M86 content filter has been installed in all eight schools. Two different vendor solutions were used for the aggregation appliance, FatPipe and ECESSA. Both appliances provided the connectivity and management flexibility desired for the integration of the consumer class internet with the existing connectivity.

The pilot districts are listed below in the order the services were implemented:

Hazen School District

Aggregator Appliance Vendor = FatPipe

Type, amount and vendor of consumer class internet: DSL, 15mb, CenturyLink

Contact Information:

Technology Contact: Tracy Caviness, tcaviness@hazen.k12.ar.us 870-255-4546 x230

Superintendent: Mr. Matt Donaghy, mdonaghy@hazen.k12.ar.us 870-255-4549

Sheridan School District

Aggregator Appliance Vendor = ECESSA

Type, amount and vendor of consumer class internet: DSL, 6mb (12mb ordered, but Windstream cut back to 6mb due to instability), Windstream

Contact Information:

Technology Contact: Kelli Cypert, kelicypert@sheridanschools.org 870-942-3135

Caleb Wagnon, calebwagnon@sheridanschools.org 870-942-7963

Superintendent: Dr. Brenda Haynes, brendahaynes@sheridanschools.org 870-942-3135

Bald Knob School District

Aggregator Appliance Vendor = ECESSA

Type, amount and vendor of consumer class internet: DSL, 10mb, CenturyLink

Contact Information:

Technology Contact: Tammi Dantoni, dantont@bkps.k12.ar.us 501-724-5353 x108

Superintendent: Mr. Hugh Burge (Interim), burgeh@bkps.k12.ar.us 501-724-5353 x104

Huntsville School District

Aggregator Appliance Vendor = FatPipe

Type, amount and vendor of consumer class internet: DSL, 16mb, Madison Telephone

Contact Information:

Technology Contact: Debbie Holt, dholt@hhs.nwsc.k12.ar.us 479-738-2011

Superintendent: Mr. Shelby Sisemore, ssisemor@hhs.nwsc.k12.ar.us 479-738-2011



Pea Ridge School District

Aggregator Appliance Vendor = FatPipe

Type, amount and vendor of consumer class internet: Cable, 10mb, Cox Communications

Contact Information:

Technology Contact: Brent Kinkade, pkinkade@prs.k12.ar.us 479-451-8181

Superintendent: Mr. Michael H. Van Dyke, mvandyke@prs.k12.ar.us 479-451-8181

Corning School District

Aggregator Appliance Vendor = ECCESA

Type, amount and vendor of consumer class internet: DSL, 10mb, CenturyLink

Contact Information:

Technology Contact: Jim Ermert, jim.ermert@corning.k12.ar.us 870-857-3041

Superintendent: Mr. John M. Edington, III, john.edington@corning.k12.ar.us 870-857-6818

Paris School District

Aggregator Appliance Vendor = ECCESA

Type, amount and vendor of consumer class internet: 2- DSL, 10mb, CenturyLink (total 20mb)

Contact Information:

Technology Contact: Jason Kersh, jkersh@parisschools.org 479-963-6531 x4

Superintendent: Mr. Jimmy D. Loyd, jloyd@parisschools.org 479-963-3243

Vilonia School District – Services are not fully implemented

Aggregator Appliance Vendor = Existing DIS Router

Type, amount and vendor of consumer class internet: DSL, TBD, Windstream (Technicians are working with vendor to determine the amount of bandwidth that can be delivered.)

Contact Information:

Technology Contact: Bill Beavers, bill.beavers@viloniaschools.org 501-328-3565

Superintendent: Dr. Frank Mitchell, frank.mitchell@vilonia.k12.ar.us 501-796-2113

