

Title of Session: ALTEC Tools
Moderator: Jeff Cooper
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Room: ALTEC Group

JeffC: I'm holding a *real f2f* workshop at the moment.

JeffC: So there will be times when I am afk.

DavidWe waves to the f2f participants

JeffC: We'll be looking at a variety of tools today from the 4teachers.org website.

HeatherRe: sounds good

JeffC: We'll start with introductions in a minute... I'm having people filter into my room now.

JeffC: Let me start by introducing my son... Liam... who is sitting here next to me.

DavidWe: Just so folks know...Jeff is conducting a face-to-face workshop in Oregon while he is also going to be presenting some of the same topics in Tapped In

DavidWe: Yes, Connie. Go to the Actions Menu

VirgilR: Hello Liam Welcome to FGSD

LiamGst4: thank you

DavidWe waves to Liam in Oregon

DavidWe: Hi, Liam

JanG: Hi, I'm Jan. I'm working with the group in Oregon Jeff is instructing this afternoon

HelenK: hi everyone

JeffC: I'm an Education Technology Consultant in Forest Grove Oregon.

JeffC: If everyone else would type in a sentence or two about themselves, we'll get started.

LiamGst4: hi I'm an 11 year old 6th grader at Tom McCall know tiny bit about tapped in glad to be here

BJB2: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and helpdesk volunteer for Tapped In

HeatherRe: I am an intern at Monroe elementary school in Monroe CT soon to be a student teacher

VirgilR: My introduction consists of the following: I'm a newbie in Forest Grove. = first year here teaching, BUT my 10 year teaching overall, Taught in Astoria. I love it here in FGSD, you are all so fortunate to work here.

ConnieTo: I am a kindergarten teacher in Louisiana - just south west of NO. Am taking a class on technology...that is what has brought me here.

TheresaAB: I am a business teacher from FGHS and teach web page, computer applications, etc. as well.

NancyG: I teach 6th grade at Tom McCall in Forest Grove.

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler. I'm a Helpdesk volunteer for Tapped In. I'm in New Jersey, near New York City and I help teachers learn more about educational technology for math and science

SusanL: I am Susan Lowe, a 5th grade teacher at Tom McCall East in Forest Grove. I have been teaching for 20 years at 3, 4, 5, grades.

CharlottSD: Hi everyone I am Charlotte Denis, I teach Biology at the HS in Forest Grove.

VirgilR: To Connie To, Are you a wanna be middle school teacher? or H.S. teacher? K students do not or can not use too much technology, Just curious, here in Forest Grove, Oregon.

CharlottSD: Sorry I showed up late, I had students in my room at school

ConnieTo: We have two computers in my classroom - as well as visit a lab weekly in which each child has his/her own program.

JeffC: OK

JeffC: I just did my little spiel for the f2f crowd here at FGSD... and we're ready to rock and roll

HeatherRe: let's do it

JeffC: Now... we're looking today at the tools from ALTEC...

VirgilR: thanks for responding, Connie, sounds like great individualized education OR differentiation. congratulations

JeffC: If you scroll down the top frame and look at the Welcome screen... you will see a link to <http://www.4teachers.org>

JeffC: Please take a look at the Welcome page at 4teachers.org

JeffC: Here's my first question for the crowd... how do you get students to view websites in your classroom (or computer lab)?

JeffC: In FGSD... there is an ice program that refreshes everything... so Favorites isn't an option.

TheresaAB: I give my kids the URL and they type it in or sometimes I will give them a document that has hyperlinks, and they can just click the link on the document.

LiamGst4: they write it on the board

HeatherRe: in the computer lab, the teacher can select a website and put it on every screen in the classroom, so the kids don't have to navigate the web, however, in the classroom, we have to direct them and give them the site names

ConnieTo: in the classroom with me as a group - in the lab - that teacher has them linked before they come in. (Kindergarten)

HeatherRe: we have folders for each grad level, with age appropriate programs and websites

JeffC: OK... that's a good solution Heather... at some point please let us know the URL.

JeffC: The first site I want to share with you at ALTEC is "Trackstar"

JeffC: To see a demonstration of Trackstar in action... please click the "Discussion" link in the left of the top frame...

HeatherRe: I'll have to ask my computer lab teacher and let you know through email

ConnieTo: which frame? I have 2 open

JeffC: Click on the K-3 Resources Discussion tracks

CharlottSD: Connie, on the left underneath the picture of the temple

JeffC: Take a look at one or more of the links.

JeffC: I would like someone to paste in the url of the Thematic Learning link.

CharlottSD: http://snipurl.com/Thematic_Learning

JeffC: (without Snipurl)

JeffC: Bj or David please

JeffC: Snipurl is filtered in FGSD...

LiamGst4: tsk tsk tsk

ConnieTo: I'm still trying to find "Discussion"

HeatherRe: <http://trackstar.4teachers.org/trackstar/ts/viewTrack.do?number=270345>

HeatherRe: that may be right.. or not?

JeffC: looks good to me Heather!

JeffC: thank you

HeatherRe: no problem

ConnieTo: am I suppose to log in to trackstar as well

CharlottSD: Connie, "where" are you in Tapped In right now?

CharlottSD: I mean what room are you in?

JeffC: Connie... you can just click on the above link (hold the Ctrl key down).

ConnieTo: ALTEC_Grp, TappedIn campus

JeffC: After that window opens up... scroll down.

JeffC: Then click "View in Frames"

JeffC: Trackstar uses frames to keep the students on site.

JeffC: You need to register with trackstar

JeffC: it's also searchable

JeffC: you can find hundreds of tracks that educators have put together on a wide variety of subjects.

JeffC: going back now to the main 4teachers.org page... I'm going to discuss briefly each tool

JeffC: Trackstar... is my favorite...

JeffC: Because it gives teachers tools to easily share URLs with students.

JeffC: No more having students type in urls!

HeatherRe: yea, that could definitely save some time

JeffC: The Equity Index is one way to find sites... tracks... etc.

JeffC: It's fairly new to ALTEC

JeffC: When you're dealing with thousands of tracks, urls, etc... it's good to know that someone has vetted them... and place them here.

JeffC: <http://equity.4teachers.org/index.php>

JeffC: There's the link to the Equity Index.

ConnieTo: are these sites checked by teachers?

JeffC: yes

CharlottSD: I think the tracks (lists of sites) are all made by teachers, isn't that true?

JeffC: there's a lot of checking going on at ALTEC... with Trackstar... understand that teachers have spent time putting them together.

JeffC: Feel free to make questions/comments as I go.

ConnieTo: ah - so what we have here is quality.

JeffC: I'm talking and typing... so... whatever people want to add is fine with me.

JeffC: exactly Connie!

ConnieTo: (smile and nod)

ConnieTo: (worth further exploration - and sharing)

JeffC: <http://www.freewebs.com>

JeffC: ... for building websites without ads (for FGSD)

JeffC: <http://www.ourmedia.org>

JeffC: for media storage (free storage and bandwidth)

JeffC: OK... a little aside there.

ConnieTo: what is bandwidth?

JeffC: So... Trackstar (please register there)... and Equity Index. Two down... only 9 to go...

JeffC: bandwidth is how much space it takes for the Net host to reach your computer.

JeffC: text doesn't take up much at all

JeffC: audio and video take up a lot.

JeffC: Next stop... Rubistar

ConnieTo: ah thanks

JeffC: Online rubrics

JeffC: searchable... or create your own

HeatherRe: that's great, sometimes rubrics can very time consuming to create

ConnieTo: true!!!!

JeffC: the great thing about Rubistar is using someone else's rubric as a starting point... then tweaking it to make it your own.

JeffC: or... have your students create them

JeffC: let them do some of the work for a change!

HeatherRe: yea that works well for the higher grade levels.

JeffC: I'm not kidding about this... this is one way to truly get the students actively involved with their own education.

JeffC: even lower grade levels... it's possible.

HeatherRe: then students feel invested in the grading process

JeffC: but you're right heather... better with higher.

JeffC: or... maybe easier... don't really know.

HeatherRe: yea, it needs to be a little more guided with the lower levels

ConnieTo: (smile) (thinking - would love to see that with K - we'll try it and let you know!)

JeffC: yup

JeffC: well... you could start by showing them a rubric... and have them tweak it.

ConnieTo: nod

HeatherRe: off the subject but I found the name of one of the websites we use frequently at my school, www.iknowthat.com

ConnieTo: thanks - it will be in the transcript, right?

HeatherRe: yup,

JeffC: it will be heather

JeffC: on to Quizstar

HeatherRe: it has every subject and different learning levels

ConnieTo: this looks good!

JeffC: <http://quizstar.4teachers.org/>

HeatherRe: anything to make our jobs easier,.... and I'll take it.

HeatherRe: this is a great classroom tool

JeffC: teacher creates account at quizstar and logins for students.

JeffC: searchable... you can use other teachers' quizzes.

HeatherRe: that's a great function, I bet we could use our schools logins for the kids on this website as well.... that way there is no confusion with passwords or anything.

JeffC: I recommend first name last initial initials of school

JeffC: Questions/comments... because I'm moving on to Assign-a-Day

JeffC: <http://assignaday.4teachers.org/>

JeffC: Online calendar

JeffC: lessons, etc... viewable by parents, students, etc.

ConnieTo: this sounds really good

ConnieTo: we just installed something similar in our district. Can't wait to use it.

HeatherRe: yea, especially with all of the kids missing with illnesses.... they can get all of their missed assignments from home

JeffC: yup

ConnieTo: SO RIGHT!!! Also events that parents want to know about - open house - fall fest -

HeatherRe: yes.. less phone calls you'll have to return

JeffC: yup... that's one way to go for that... there are many ways to do online calendars... this is another.

ConnieTo: grade posting dates! (he he)

LiamGst4: teacherweb is a great site for teachers it lets teachers put homework assignments online puts the students grade online and allows them to look at their grades it allows the teachers to put class and school announcements and it lets the kids to make online posters also has a school lunch menu that's in a nutshell sort of like that link Jeff showed us

ConnieTo: how private is it?

JeffC: assign-a-day privacy?

ConnieTo: yes

JeffC: you can have a personal (private) or public calendar with assign-a-day

ConnieTo: We don't want grades posted to the public - did I misunderstand that

JeffC: no... assignaday isn't for posting grades

JeffC: you wouldn't want to do that with this tool

ConnieTo: okay

JeffC: Next stop: Casa Notes

JeffC: Send home notes and reports in English or Spanish

HeatherRe: awesome, I can use this with my ELL student

HeatherRe: what's the URL for that

ConnieTo: So do you have to actually be able to speak Spanish? or will it translate for you?

CharlottSD: there are "canned" notes that you can choose from

JeffC: yes

JeffC: wait... that was a yes to Charlotte

JeffC: no to Connie... there is a built in translator

ConnieTo: IT is a problem at our school - we have only 2 teachers fluent so this would be very good

JeffC: and since they are canned notes... the translation is correct.

HeatherRe: that's awesome

JeffC: We're looking for the bad notes now.

JeffC: <http://casanotes.4teachers.org/>

JeffC: Sorry... there's the link to CasaNotes

HeatherRe: thanks that looks great

ConnieTo: thanks

JeffC: OK... that's the first hour...

JeffC: I'm not going to go item by item for the remaining tools.

JeffC: That would take up the remaining time in this workshop.

HeatherRe: that's ok.... power through it... we can keep up

JeffC: I'd like the workshop people to have more time to play.

JeffC: So... here's what I'm going to do.

JeffC: I'm going to take five minutes of giving oral presentation here...

ConnieTo: we can save to favorites - right - and come back to these sites.

JeffC: Then... I'm going to come back to the computer and go through them... as people take time to explore the sites.

JeffC: There will be other meetings at Tapped In (and hopefully FGSD as well) to cover the other tools more in depth.

JeffC: So... I'm afk for five minutes... please talk amongst yourselves.

HeatherRe: ...ok... well.... as much as I'd love to stay and chat.. I have to write a quick essay about my experience in this teacher chat.....

ConnieTo: Thanks - I'm going to do the same thing - I'm here - but working alongside the computer.

DavidWe: What do you teach, Jan?

JanG: I teach 6-8th grade science and math at a Catholic School in the FGSD attendance area.

DavidWe nods

DavidWe: Do you know about the Math Forum - www.mathforum.org - big web site we started at Swarthmore College, near Philadelphia in 1993?

DavidWe . o O (K-20)

JanG: I'll check it out. Thanks.

JeffC: ok... I'm back

JeffC: I just ran down the other sites extremely quickly in the group here.

JeffC: People are spending some time now looking at mostly the first 6 sites, registering, etc.

JeffC: OK... there is a Discussion forum in this room as well... I would like people to *register* with this group...

JeffC: That way they can start posting to Discussion.

CharlottSD: Hey, is there a way to register for all of the ALTEC tools at once, or do you have to register separately for each one?

JeffC: The way to join... is to click the link to the group profile.

JeffC: That's a good question Charlotte

JeffC: we're testing that now... it's been so long for me... and I have the same login and password at all the sites.

JeffC: OK... for the group... running through the sites remaining... and answering questions as I go.

ConnieTo: Are we still working on web sites?

JeffC: Your call... I'm thinking that people might want to work on the sites...

JeffC: but others had asked for a quick rundown

JeffC: What would people like at this point?

ConnieTo: quick run down works for me- then I can work on the sites later -

JeffC: OK Connie...

JeffC: PBL Checklists <http://pblchecklist.4teachers.org/>

ConnieTo: thank you - I think Heather might like having it on the transcript as well

JeffC: good point

JeffC: With NCLB hanging over our heads... it's hard to really do Project Based Learning.

JeffC: There are so many things to cover... beyond standards, etc.

JeffC: PBL Checklist allows you (or better yet... your students) to go through a list of items that need to be covered in doing a good project based learning assignment.

JeffC: Available in English and Spanish.

ConnieTo: true - but I must admit we don't do much anyway

ConnieTo: almost scripted

JeffC: Right... but *we should do more*. I believe it's Linda Ullah that is big on PBL?

JeffC: She holds monthly meetings and has all sorts of wonderful PBL ideas here....

JeffC: But if we buckle under to NCLB mandates... and *don't* do student-centered project based learning... what are we really accomplishing as teachers?

ConnieTo: TRUE - we should - more freedom when in parochial school - not public - too much standardized testing

JeffC: Are we going to say "well... their test scores are up"... and sit on that laurel?

JeffC: OK... so... the PBL Checklist is yet another ALTEC time saver.

ConnieTo: (aside) teach the test - test scores go up - teach them to think and everything improves

JeffC: right

JeffC: Well... right now I'm helping a teacher in the workshop to learn about Notestar.

ConnieTo: I'll check it out

JeffC: <http://notestar.4teachers.org/>

JeffC: Creating an account right now

ConnieTo: done

JeffC: Please take the survey at <https://www.surveykey.com/take-survey.cfm?surveykey=9291054989>

ConnieTo: okay I will

JeffC: regarding my support... this is primarily for the FGSD teachers (if you're not a FGSD teacher, just let me know in the Comments section that you're not).

HeatherRe: if I leave now, will I still get the print out?

JeffC: up to this point of the text Heather... we're winding down now anyways.

JeffC: I will be posting more here later... and if you join the group... you will receive announcements and Discussion posts.

HeatherRe: ok sounds good, thanks for all the info

ConnieTo: Having a little trouble with that survey URL - will get it in a minute.

ConnieTo: Oh! Pop-up is blocked and since I already have 2 screens open will take the survey when I can work on that popup thing

JeffC: ok

JeffC: Web Worksheet Wizard: <http://wizard.4teachers.org/>

JeffC: Quick way to get a webpage up

JeffC: ThinkTank <http://thinktank.4teachers.org/>

JeffC: Grade 3-8 Research organizer

ConnieTo: I can share this with teachers at school - it's not my level - but we do try to help each other

JeffC: cool

ConnieTo: Project Poster looks really good. It looks like something even my class of youngsters would be able to do with me.

ConnieTo: Jeff - Thank you most kindly! This has been a very good workshop. Lots of things here to make use of and to share. Connie