

Title of Session: Collaboration Central - Why Educators Don't Use TI

Moderator: Jeff Cooper

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Room: Collaboration Community Group

BjB . o O (Jennifer wants to explore ;-()

JeffC: |** ANNOUNCEMENT: Collaboration Community now starts in the group room. Please type: /join **JeffC** if you are interested in today's topic "Why Teachers Don't Use Tapped In." **|

HeatherBu: drat

BjB: don't think she 'gets' TI

EmilyW: good topic

BjB: so...there's number one on your list, Jeff

JeffC: that's reason #1

BjB chuckles

JeffC: pickle

BjB: why do you think this is so?

JeffC: gee... four helpdesk members and no other group members... what a surprise.

JeffC: many reasons

BjB: do you need to be a visual thinker to understand the virtual environment?

BjB . o O (I think that is a large part of it...no imagination!)

HeatherBu: hmm

JeffC: for starters... most newish members come here as a student in some college class... it's an "assignment." when the assignment is over, so is their use of TI.

EmilyW: that's true

JeffC: well... professors who just use this as a chatroom don't engender usage... it's a task... and they don't see added value.

BjB: I came here in 98 as part of a class exploring the new TI

BjB: and I really had to struggle to learn how to communicate

BjB . o O (TI still had moo commands)

EmilyW: maybe we need to some how show the professors how to use TI besides the chat part

JeffC: since the professors don't see added value, and students don't explore on their own (which is one of the major problems with education in general... task oriented assignment thinking...), then they don't really GO "outside the box."

BjB: gawd, we've done that, Emily

JeffC: I've offered to do that Emily... they won't shift their routine.

BjB . o O (not sure instructors 'get' TI either)

HeatherBu nods

EmilyW: that's what I am thinking, they don't get it

HeatherBu: Nate's bunch seem to be getting the idea, though

HeatherBu: but he's presented it in a different light...as one of many tools

JeffC: If they've been here for some time... they're stuck in a rut of how they use TI... most just chat in their office and use it solely for that... and not only don't have classrooms here (which could and should be switched over to alumni rooms), they don't even look at other PD groups or university classrooms.

EmilyW: I think teachers having their classes in student campus are getting it

JeffC: Nate gets it... but he's maybe one in a hundred. As someone who has actually downloaded Open Tap and is running it himself... he's one in a million... and we only have 20,000 members here!

EmilyW: lots of classroom/groups are closed

EmilyW: I mean locked

JeffC: To an extent Emily, but that opens up a whole different set of "WTDUTI" issues.

BjB . o O (what teachers don't understand about TI?)

HeatherBu . o O (took me a minute too)

JeffC: When classrooms are locked, or groups set to private, it shows that the owners (almost all the time) are set in 20th century mode regarding classrooms, teaching and learning.

EmilyW: what I was saying was that is why others can't view what other classes are doing on here

BjB: ok...we know the problem. Is there a solution that you can foresee, Jeff?

JeffC: yes

EmilyW: is there a way to find out how instructors are using TI for their classes? (in TI campus)

JeffC: I plan on using reward/punishment methods in my two main groups, Math Resources and Science Resources.

BjB: Emily, that's been done too....the open groups that I share during the tours and Jeff shows people his daughter's classroom

EmilyW: but that is not on TI campus

BjB listens to the rewards/punishment idea

EmilyW: we need to show college classes

BjB: Mary Thompson is working on it for her preservice teachers...

JeffC: That is just one step... indeed... it's a step that most educators are familiar with. Members who haven't logged in for 6 months will be booted from the groups. Members who show up to meetings, post to Discussion, or request it will be given Moderator privileges.

BjB: and I assume Lynne Wolters is doing likewise for her preservice teachers

EmilyW: I am sure they are

JeffC: Teachers need to get Moderator privileges to truly understand what the possibilities are (and will be encouraged to start their own groups and classrooms).

JeffC: I taught two of Lynne's classes this week... she not only gets it, but I think her students are starting to as well.

EmilyW: brb

BjB: Interesting idea, Jeff. This will take a bit of monitoring of members for you

JeffC: I think that any professor who teaches here *must* get at minimum a beginners tour, and I think that they should also take my advanced one.

EmilyW: I am just not sure that is a good idea

JeffC: not too much BJ< just look at the about us link.

EmilyW: most of them have rooms but don't know how to use it right

JeffC: tell me why you think so Emily

BjB nods

EmilyW: having them go to moderator does not mean they will use those privileges

EmilyW: I think that is a good idea to remove members from groups if they have not logged in in 6 months

JeffC: true Emily... but it's the best reward I can think of... and I have no problem giving Moderator privileges for my groups.

BjB: what other 'reward' can you think of, Emily?

EmilyW: you just read my mind BJ

EmilyW: they can lead a session

EmilyW: (brainstorming here)

JeffC: they can do that anyway

BjB: Jeff is working on that!

JeffC: that's not a reward

EmilyW: I am just thinking

JeffC: that's a "task"

BjB . o O (most people, if you ask them, will lead a discussion)

JeffC: that's why they're not volunteering... more work on an already full plate. (Reason #2 why they don't use Tapped In).

SusanR joined the room.

EmilyW: we have a list of the most active members on TI

EmilyW: and add them to the list

HeatherBu: time, time, time

SusanR: Hi there

HeatherBu: hi, Sue

BjB: Hi, Sue!

EmilyW: their name is posted on the website, everyone likes seeing their names

JeffC: time is a poor excuse

BjB: Sue, we're brainstorming how to get more teachers engaged in TI

JeffC: I don't mind it if they use it to say "I can't login to a meeting" but everyone can post to Discussion.

SusanR: I must say it is TIME

BjB . o O (too many teachers just don't 'get' the TI experience)

JeffC: I'll continue dealing with issues 1 and 2 for a while>>> then give you reason #3.

SusanR: Saturdays are busy days for educators

BjB: I agree that time is an issue...teachers come home from school and have to grade papers, deal with family issues, go to sports competitions, etc., etc. etc.

SusanR: or for anyone with a full time job

EmilyW: maybe we should not have CollaborationCentral on Saturdays

SusanR agrees

EmilyW: if you want it on the weekend, maybe try Sunday

BjB: the day isn't necessarily the problem either

EmilyW: I agree with that

BjB: no one showed up for Michael's Social Studies Forum on Wednesday

JeffC: It's not just the group meetings that people don't attend... it's Discussion.

HeatherBu: I think many teachers will only invest the time if they think they are going to walk away with something tangible

EmilyW: but I don't think about coming here on Saturdays for a session in the morning (well around noon)

JeffC: *everyone* can find 15 minutes a month to post here.

EmilyW: I agree, people need to post

SusanR: . o O (do they know how to post?)

EmilyW: that's what I am not sure either

EmilyW: no one posts anywhere

EmilyW: (not many members anyway)

JeffC: ignorance is no excuse.

HeatherBu: Does something get their interest up enough to make them *want* to post?

BjB: maybe tips and tricks will do some sessions focusing on the discussion board

BjB: Jeff, ignorance is probably number 3!....

EmilyW: how many show up to Tips and Tricks?

SusanR: lots of posting in Reception

EmilyW: maybe move some discussions in reception?

BjB: teachers face the challenge of kids every day...they don't want any more challenges in their lives, and TI is a challenge.

BjB: the posts to reception are assignments

BjB . o O (from instructors)

EmilyW: speaking of reception

EmilyW: 2 members are in there

HeatherBu: I'm 1

JeffC: instructors who many times don't have classrooms or even offices here.

EmilyW: oh ok

EmilyW: I didn't know you had that name

EmilyW: there was one session you had, I can't remember which

EmilyW: it might have been Collab

EmilyW: where you asked everyone to share links

EmilyW: I really liked that one

SusanR: can you drag Carol into this discussion?

EmilyW: umm, she's a new member

HeatherBu: working on it

EmilyW: anyway, what if we posted a discussion with share your favorite link

CarolMo joined the room.

HeatherBu: she's on her way

HeatherBu cheers for Carol!

HeatherBu: Welcome to the community, Carol

CarolMo: thanks

SusanR: Welcome Carol

EmilyW: I can try that in my group

HeatherBu: Shall we do some introductions?

SusanR: I am from Ottawa, Ontario Canada

HeatherBu: Carol, I'm a middle school Tech teacher in Texas

CarolMo: I'm a high school English/drama teacher in Lakeland, GA

BjB: I'm a remedial communications teacher in south central Pennsylvania

SusanR: Occasional teacher and former tech coach a

JeffC used to be a high school English/drama teacher in California... now I just hang out here!

CarolMo: I've never taught drama before and I'm looking for resources

SusanR: and moderator of the K to 3+ Great Resources twice monthly sessions

CarolMo: my degree is actually in art ed. this is my second career. my fourth year teaching English

BjB: I have some in my backflip folders, Carol...let me look

JeffC: We're discussing reasons why teachers don't use Tapped In today Carol... and we'll all help you with your request in a minute.

SusanR: I just had a request from a friend for warm up ideas for her drama classes

CarolMo: oh boy .. i could use that!\

JeffC: Everyone here is on Helpdesk at Tapped In Carol... so we can help you with TI but we can also find links, other resources for you. We can also calendar a meeting in one of THE GROUPS (HERE IN FACT) to discuss drama resources.

CarolMo: I don't have the barest of information about this site. my husband (science high school) was in an inservice this morning and emailed this site to me.

BjB: btw, Carol, we were just talking about how teachers can use Tapped In to collaborate like we're doing, but that teachers don't seem to 'get' this environment.

CarolMo: it's different ... I have a better than average computer background from my prior 25 year career ... it can be intimidating ... I'm a 1968 high school graduate (not unlike many of the teachers I encounter) and that's pre-computer age

CarolMo: my husband also joined teaching from a previous background ... (we didn't meet and marry until three years ago)\

SusanR: cool

CarolMo: not quite ... there were computer science courses and degrees by 1972 when I graduated from Un of Ok ... but those were room size computers not the micro-mini-chip types

JeffC: Reason #4: Lack of school access. Most districts block tapped in for several (stupid) reasons, and/or teachers don't have a way to get students online. As a result, they don't use Tapped In on a regular basis, since they really can't count on being able to get their students here.

BjB: Carol, here's my Theater backflip folder:
<http://www.backflip.com/members/bjberquist/5497246>

CarolMo: my district is small and my principal is new and also had a successful business career prior to entering education ... he's looking for resources and so are we

CarolMo: can I save that info in some way here on my account?

BjB: when you log out you will get a transcript that will include that url

CarolMo: it doesn't look like I can copy and paste

BjB: click on the url

JeffC: Actions dropdown menu-- Send to Pasteboard

BjB: hold down the ctrl key on your keyboard

CarolMo: okay ... like I said I have NO information about this website other than my husband sent an email from an inservice and said I should look-see

BjB: or copy from the pasteboard as Jeff suggested

CarolMo: where's the actions dropdown menu?

BjB: you can also go to ME/Links at the top of the screen and save the url within the interface

BjB: actions is in the top right of this chat window

BjB: Jeff is leading a tour of Tapped In in about 10 minutes

BjB: you can change your email address if you want. Your transcript will be sent to the email you have in your membership page

BjB: to check, go to the ME tab and then click on Settings

CarolMo: okay I did the Me thing and my communication preferences show that I've set to get private emails

BjB: make sure the email address is correct too, Carol

CarolMo: oh, boy ... no ... since it preset my names for the accounts ... I think it was my personal address

HeatherBu: Jeff, I'm plugging your upcoming tour to two new members

JeffC: ok

HeatherBu: Where will you start, Jeff?

CarolMo: yes ... he went through a division of the National Writing Project during the summer and went to Americus for a follow-up inservice today ... that's how he learned about tapped in

JeffC: here Heather

HeatherBu nods

JeffC: do you think he will use it more now and in the future himself Carol?

CarolMo: yes ... if he's promoting it he'll use it ... it was highly recommended to him in his inservice group

JeffC: great!

HeatherBu: Jeff, do you want to go ahead and make your announcement?

JeffC: one sec

HeatherBu: Carol, I'm so glad Peter sent you the email

HeatherBu: I think you're really going to enjoy Tapped In....it's a great community and a wonderful resource

BjB heads for reception to fill in for Heather

CarolMo: thanks! looking forward to learning more