

Warren schools will share computer power

Unused memory will be allocated to two Louisville research groups

By Jason Dooley, jdooley@bgdailynews.com -- 270-781-1700

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Computers in Warren County Schools' classrooms will be doing more than teaching this fall, thanks to a new program. Two Louisville-based, nonprofit research groups, the Dataseam Initiative and the Brown Cancer Research Institute, will be using untapped computing power on about 100 Apple computers in the district's schools as part of a new agreement.

The computers will use software developed by Dataseam that allows the computers' unused memory to be used for research collating and calculations, Dataseam founder Brian Gupton said at the school district's board meeting Monday.

"We are looking to access, in a manner that does not interfere with the day-to-day goings-on of the schools, the untapped capacity of the Apple computers in the school districts," Gupton said. "The Brown Cancer Research Institute will be using these computers to do cancer research and drug discovery that is interested primarily in developing chemotherapies that do not have toxicities."

The research is aimed at finding ways to mitigate the many problems that currently plague cancer victims undergoing chemotherapy, including hair loss and nausea, he said.

"The team of researchers that we're working with already has one drug in the testing phase," he said. "By using all these computers together, we can dramatically reduce the time it takes to do this research."

Drug discovery work that would take six years on a single workstation can be done in as few as 20 days on networked computers, like the system that will be used in Warren County Schools, without causing any discernible differences in computing by local users, Gupton said.

The program carries no cost for the school system and staffing requirements will be minimal, if any, he said.

"In exchange for being able to using the untapped capacity, Datastream will provide software programs to enhance IT

Weekend Special!

Friday
Saturday
Sunday

87¢

Total Price
All 3 Days

DAILY NEWS

Buy Sunday-
get Friday
and Saturday FREE

Subscribe
Today

YES! I want to get the Daily News delivered Friday, Saturday, and Sunday for just 87 cents per week for 17 weeks. (New subscribers only.)

Click Here For Form
Includes Coupons, TV This Week and **PARADE**

Greenwood H.S.
Band
Photo Bonus



DailyAdMart.com

NEW
Click Here

View Today's
Newspaper Ads

View Today's Ads

Home Improvement & Gardening (10)

Department Store (8)

Furniture (8)

Automotive & Vehicles (5)

Real Estate & Rentals (5)

Dining & Entertainment (4)

Electronics & Appliance Stores (4)

Accounting & Finance (2)

Apparel & Jewelry (2)

Auctions & Estate Sales (2)

click for more ads

DailyAdMart.com



functions in the school district," Gupton said. "Also, we will be able to bring some researchers down to talk with students about the work."

Pat Stewart, technology coordinator for the school district, said he thinks the program will be productive for the district since Datastream will provide some software and training to make the district's computer system run more efficiently.

"I feel we'll be able to pick up some knowledge from them that we otherwise wouldn't be able to that will enhance our network and make us more efficient," Stewart said.

School board member Larry Causey said he thought the program was a fine idea.

"It takes this computer power that wasn't being used for anything before and puts it to good use," Causey said. "I think it's going to be great for us to be part of this project."

Also at the meeting, the board heard a presentation from representatives of its auditing firm, Shelton and Associates, on new requirements for audits.

The new regulations require auditors to be more cognizant of the possibility of fraud and more vigilant about them, said Jennifer Archie, an auditor who has worked with the school district for the past five years.

"We have to come in assuming fraud has happened, and you have to prove that it hasn't," Archie said. "Even with changes, district overseers remain responsible for creating and implementing procedures to deter and detect fraud."

The new auditing procedures include interviews with school system employees throughout the chain of command, from bus drivers and teachers to the superintendent, she said.

However, Archie stressed that the new procedures did not indicate that the auditors were suspicious of anyone in particular or that they know of any improprieties.

"I'm afraid people are going to think we know of something and we don't, but we are required to inquire of different people throughout the district," she said. "So we will have a disclaimer that this is a new requirement and we don't know of any fraud."

In response to a question from board member Charles Webb, Jerry Shelton, head of the auditing firm, said no audit of the Warren County School system has turned up any fraudulent activities that he is aware of.

However, the audits have often resulted in suggestions of potential improvements to the school system's policies and procedures, Superintendent Dale Brown said.

"They bring out things and we implement them and go on," he said. "They've been super to work with."

Full security

Dedicated connection

Accelerated downloads

Time for life.

SIGN UP NOW

ONLY
\$26.95
A MONTH WHEN
ORDERED ONLINE.

