

Background on Westminster School District's UC System

Our 2007-2012 Technology Plan lists the need to replace the district office telephone switch. While developing the Technology Plan we had the Cisco Now Van come out to the district so the Technology Plan committee members could see Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) equipment and gain understanding of its potential.

With the passage of *Measure O*, staff started to explore an integrated Unified Communications System that would be district-wide. Unified Communications (UC) is the integration of real-time communication services such as phones and surveillance with non real-time communication services such as voicemail,

email and fax. UC is not a single product, but a set of products that provides a consistent unified user interface and user experience across multiple devices and media types. Our emphasis is placed on student safety and reliable communications between all sites. On June 11, 2009, the Board of Trustees approved the purchase of a Unified Communications System to be paid for from Measure O funds. In July, higher speed fiber circuits were installed so all sites have the bandwidth they need.

In Westminster School District's Unified Communications System, telephones, clocks, bells and speakers are network de-

vices just like a printer or computer. They are all wired into our network. Networked district servers run the software that controls the devices. GroupWise has been replaced by *Outlook* email. Voice mail and faxes can also go to the user's Outlook inbox. In June, Verizon and several subcontractors started working on the project. Currently, we are working on the first phase of upgrading the network infrastructure and installing wiring for the phones, clocks, bells and speakers.

Site Completion Order:

Webber
Mears
Anderson
Warner
Hayden
DeMille
Land
Schroeder
Stacey
Clegg
Food Services
Eastwood
Sequoia
Finley
Johnson
Fryberger
Schmitt
Willmore

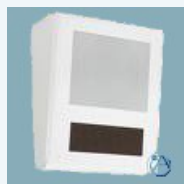
Highlights of Westminster School District's UC System



Current *telephones* will be replaced with Cisco telephones. This includes new Cisco wall phones in classrooms. District-wide all 3-digit extensions will be replaced with 4-digit numbers. Most of our current number lines are discontinued, saving us their monthly costs. We now have over 250 telephone lines. In the case of net-

work or power failures four regular phone lines become available so sites still have phone service. Emergency 911 calls are always available.

Classrooms will have *speakers* with built-in *clocks*. Outdoor speakers are installed. The speakers replace the



current bells and PA systems. The bell schedule and

clocks are set from the district office.

Each site will have two surveillance *cameras*. These are placed to record student departures and arrivals. The video can be reviewed or played live on a PC. Only authorized personnel can view videos.

We have a fax server that will allow users to send faxes from their computer. Incoming faxes will be sent straight to the Outlook inbox that each site designates, generally their office manager.

SCHOOL MESSENGER

Our parent calling system is now School Messenger. It does our general messages to parents and staff, attendance calling and emergency calls. Principals and Office Managers were trained on the system in August. Regular calls are actually made from the district office through the network out to our community. This saves money since we use our own system. Emergency calls are directly made from School Messenger's headquarters for the fastest mass communications.