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A Newsletter for
Technology Using
Educators



Blogging Baby Steps

by Deb Boisvert

A stampede of baby steps

NHSTE - Book Club, Deb Boisvert, online available: <http://nhste.blogspot.com/>, 10/13/05

Last Thursday [August 25th 2005] I was listening to segment called China's Technological Leap Forward on NPR's Talk of the Nation. They were discussing China's technological future with John Seely Brown, former director of the Xerox Palo Alto Research Center; co-author of *The Only Sustainable Edge: Why Business Strategy Depends on Productive Friction and Dynamic Specialization*.

During the show a caller who was working for a technology consulting firm in China stated that the groups he worked with were pretty far behind and were relying heavily on US technology. John Seely Brown agreed that was often the case, but said all over China businesses were taking baby steps and a stampede of baby steps leads to innovation.

After returning from NECC I have been frustrated by those who continue to tell me that I can't push our staff too hard in technology - baby steps, just have them take baby steps. Now I am okay with that. Baby steps are fine, as long as I can start a stampede.

This is an entry from the NHSTE- Book Club, <http://nhste.blogspot.com/>, and one of my many "baby steps" this fall. At NECC this summer I decided that after the conference I needed to explore some new ground for myself, rather than just spread "the light of technology" to others. The day after my return I set up my first blog, <http://dcsshare.blogspot.com/>.

I had taken a group of eight staff members to NECC with Title II-D funds. They were obligated by the grant to choose and implement a project and attend four follow-up meetings to extend the impact of the conference. I suggested that we blog the meetings rather than struggle with individual schedules. The results have been interesting. There has been pushing and prodding for participation. Some took to the format immediately while others are still resistant. As a grant manager I have seen these same difficulties

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ICT-Tech Standards

by Meghan McCarthy
mmccarthy@fcgnetworks.net

It's no secret that technology is constantly changing the way we communicate, work and live. And for today's students – tomorrow's work force – learning how to use modern technology is essential to future success. In that light, the New Hampshire Department of Education has adopted new standards for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) literacy in schools.

"With the infusion of technology, tools change, learning resources are different, and learning environments are transformed dramatically," according to a 2002 paper by the National Association of State Boards of Education on technology standards in schools. "... Through the ongoing use of technology in supporting content learning, students should be empowered to achieve essential technology capabilities. The key individual in helping students develop these capabilities is the classroom teacher."

In New Hampshire, the state Board of Education has adopted revised minimum education standards, which took effect in July. One section of the standards outlines ICT Literacy Standards. The gist is that students should be continually using modern technologies in the classroom throughout elementary and middle school and be able to demonstrate "ICT competency" by the end of eighth grade. High school technology courses – each student is required to take a _-credit technology class – should allow students to enroll in technology courses that relate to their career aspirations.

"Most districts have addressed the basic operations and concepts of using technology, but they have not woven use of technology into the content areas," said Cathy Higgins, liaison between NHDOE and NHSTE. "This requires working closely with teachers in the content areas. Districts ... should be thinking about how to bring content teachers and tech integrators together for this work."

The state standards require local school boards to implement "an integrated approach to the use of 21st century tools... within all curriculum areas through the adoption of an

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Letter from the President

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Full is upon us, and school has been in session for a couple of months. I hope you are settled into your year and things are going smoothly. Last month, I was elected the new president of NHSTE. Let me introduce myself, and tell you about some of the exciting things NHSTE is doing these days.

I am the Director of Technology at Ellis School in Fremont, a small town between Manchester and Portsmouth. Ellis is a preschool through 8th grade school of about 500 students. We struggle with the same issues that most schools face, and we are exploring new uses of technology. In my role, I serve as network administrator, teach 7th and 8th grade technology skills classes, provide technology integration assistance, and professional development opportunities for all staff.

I have several staff members looking at using blogs and digital storytelling, two technologies that hold promise to energize our students in their learning. Blogging is highlighted in this issue with articles by Deb Boisvert (pages 1 and 7). She has started using blogs to communicate amongst her staff members, and is providing opportunities for NHSTE members to participate in a book blog.

NHSTE has many resources to keep you abreast of what's new in technology for education. Cyndi Dunlap writes an article in this issue on a terrific new book (page 5), and continues to find excellent resources to make the Christa McAuliffe Technology Conference a wealth of information for educators, like Annette Lamb (page 3). In an article by Jo-Ann Albert, find out more about nanotechnology and how it's a revolutionary technology being employed in many common products today (page 4).

NHSTE also looks to help educators with the every day technology issues. Information on managed licensing to help reduce costs is provided by Cyndy Courier at SERESC (page 3). Brewster Bartlett provides us with his much-beloved list of interesting places on the web (page 6 & 7).

We continue to grow as an organization. For several months, Steve Thissell has been researching ways to improve our website, and has found a winner. Find out more details about this solution (back page) and look on the site in the next few months for an updated look that allows you to easily navigate through the information and services we provide.

NHSTE is all about helping NH educators use technology in the classroom. Let us know how we can better serve you, and let us know if you would like to be a part of the dynamite team that makes all these pieces come together! NHSTE is managed by a group of volunteers just like you who find their way to contribute for the good of NH educators. If you're interested in helping, start by sending me or any board member an email. We'll guide you along from there.

Welcome Back

Dr. Annette Lamb to CMTC!

by Cyndi Dunlap



Dr. Annette Lamb was one of our keynote speakers in 2001 and she is back again by popular demand, both at the Christa McAuliffe Technology Conference and also in the spring of 2006 to conduct hands-on workshops! She has an exciting new line-up of topics and sessions to offer.

Dr. Lamb has been an elementary library media specialist, computer teacher, and professor of education. She is currently a Visiting Professor at Indiana University - Purdue University at Indianapolis (IUPUI) teaching online graduate courses for librarians and educators. She is well known for her realistic approaches to technology integration. In addition to working on state and national-level grant projects, she enjoys spending time with administrators, teachers, and individual school districts and universities working on practical, technology-rich approaches to teaching and learning.

At CMTC her Wednesday keynote session is titled, "Transforming Classrooms: Using Assessment Results to Enrich the Learning Environment". If anyone can make the topic of using assessment results to improve teaching and learning ENGAGING, Dr. Lamb can!

Following her keynote session, Dr. Lamb offers two more concurrent sessions:

- I-Totems: Seven Essentials of Successful Technology-Rich Learning
- Keeping it REAL: Relevant, Engaging, Authentic Learning Through Effective Technology Integration

I attended her I-Totems session at NECC and learned of some of the best websites I have seen in years. When asked how she manages to keep mining these "new jewels" of the Internet, she replied that most come from teachers who have attended her sessions and then find them as they apply the new concepts learned. As always, Dr. Lamb presents concrete strategies and resources you can apply in YOUR classroom TOMORROW!

Plans are also in the works to have Dr. Lamb return to New Hampshire in early April 2006. Materials with more detail will be available at the conference. If your school or district is interested in having Dr. Lamb conduct a workshop at your school during this trip to NH, please contact Cyndi Dunlap at cdunlap55@comcast.net or 603.888.6400.

Dr. Lamb loves to share her ideas with others. All of her sessions and workshops are available at <http://eduscapes.com>. Annette Lamb and her husband,

Larry Johnson, have designed their website to share a love of learning with others. As authors and educators, they work with teachers, parents, and children around the world to effectively integrate technology into teaching and learning environments. This eduScapes website was started in August, 1998. Some of the resources found there include:

- Literature Learning Ladder
- eScrapbooking
- Goecaching
- Multimedia Seeds
- Information Inquiry for Teachers

The educapes website includes the following quotes to help explain why she and her husband invest so much time in their website and then give it all away for free . . .

Not everyone can be famous ~ but everyone can be great, because greatness is determined by service.
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone. - Loretta Scott

How can I be useful, or what service can I be? There is something inside me, what can it be?
- Vincent Van Gogh

I don't know if it's the age that I'm at or if it's the experiences that I've had, but I'm at a point now where I want to learn where I can best do something good, you know? - Renée Zellweger

How can I serve? How can I be used? - Oprah

SERESC Continues to Leverage Volume Discounts for NH Schools

by Cyndy Courier, SERESC

SERESC responds to the needs of the New Hampshire schools and one of the requests was to secure affordable pricing, especially for our small schools, so that all maximize their purchases of software for student improvement. Your software requests were taken very seriously. There have been huge savings to schools from all over the state.

netTrekker

The most popular product to date is netTrekker. It was secured for over one-third of the students in the state along with staff and parents through the SERESC volume purchase. This started out as a special promotion from May 15th through June 30th. After that special elapsed, schools came forward just realizing what a great resource and price they missed. Responding once again to the needs of the districts we were able to leverage another special for the

Nanotechnology May Rival the Industrial Revolution.

by Jo-Ann Albert

The industrial revolution brought dramatic changes to everyday life. Many believe that nanotechnology will have a similar effect. Why? Because this will be the first time that objects can self-assemble to make products.

Nanotechnology refers to the creation and manipulation of extraordinarily tiny objects (sized in the range of one billionth of a meter). This size allows production of new materials with innovative properties that will solve problems we have never successfully solved in the past. Imagine a time-released drug that targets only one organ. The result could be better dosing as well as fewer negative drug reactions.

You might already be using nanotechnology products. Today nanotechnology is used in sunscreens, cosmetics, and auto bumpers!

The goal of the 2005 Nanotechnology Teacher Institute was to expose elementary, middle, and high school teachers to the emerging science of nanotechnology.

The institute spanned five days; speakers came from the University of New Hampshire Durham, University of Massachusetts Lowell, and Northeastern University. Nanotechnology topics presented included: explanations, ongoing research at UNH, medical applications; policy and government implications; social and ethical dimensions; and a model to derive personal ethics.

The exposure to new science was energizing and exciting. Stretching my mind to learn about a new field helped me to let go of the previous school year and remember what it's like to spend time focused on own my technical learning.

Technical presentations were given in the morning; afternoons were focused on experiments, laboratory visits, and discussions.

One of the most enjoyable experiments used a "memory" alloy. Each teacher was given a straight piece of wire. Each of us bent the wire into a bizarre shape. As we heated the wire, the wire quickly returned to its straight, original shape. The NiTonol wire is an alloy with two crystalline forms in the nanoscale; that is, the crystal groups are sized in the one billionth of a meter scale (the nanoscale). One form is a very stable, symmetrical structure, which exists at or below room temperature. This form is very soft and easily deformed. Bending the wire changes the orientation of the crystals. However when heated, the structure quickly attempts to return to its symmetrical, stable form. Hence the "memory".

During this lab we first set the NiTonol wire into a new shape. Using the characteristics of NiTonol we designed a "machine" using the NiTonol wire to lift a bag of ten pennies. Suddenly our team was competing with other teams to lift the pennies. And of course, laughter broke out repeatedly as various machines collapsed under the weight of the pennies.

During the week we split into our age level and subject matter teaching areas to develop and write an ethical problem for our students. Our goal is to use this 'problem' to allow students to process and think about ethical issues. As with any new technology, one needs to understand the ethics and potential problems of its use. Ethical use and public acceptance are two critical aspects of this new technology that are being studied.

ICT Tech Standards *by Meghan McCarthy - from page 1*

information and communication technologies literacy (ICT) program in grades K-12." As outlined by these standards, students should accomplish the following:

- Develop knowledge of ethical, responsible use of technology tools.
- Become proficient in the use of 21st century tools to access, manage, integrate, evaluate, and create information within the context of core subjects.
- Use 21st century tools to develop cognitive proficiency.
- Use 21st century tools to develop technical proficiency.
- Create digital portfolios which demonstrate knowledge in the aforementioned areas and include "digital artifacts" like standardized tests, student work, and teacher comment.

"The standards were designed to allow great latitude for districts to adapt as necessary to their curriculum," Higgins said. "At the same time, we encourage schools to collaborate so that there will be some consistency across all schools in the state."

NHDOE will aid in that collaboration by adding a digital library of ICT literacy resources to the New Hampshire Educators Online Web site (www.nheon.org) and through information sessions shared through the state's Local Education Support Centers, Higgins said.

NHDOE has not yet determined a timeline for implementing the standards, and Higgins said school districts should "work toward meeting the standards as best they can until a timeline is shared."

NHSTE board member and education consultant Cyndi Dunlap said NHSTE, DOE, the New Hampshire Educational Media Association (NHEMA), and the New Hampshire School Administrator's Association (NHSAA) "should work together to proactively propose a reality-based time line for phase in" of the standards. Dunlap added that teaching students the skills they'll need in the modern world is essential to their future success.

Implementing the standards, she said, will also take considerable “collaboration and cooperation” by all schools in the state.

Debbie Boisvert, NHSTE board member and the technology coordinator for the pre-K through 8th-grade Deerfield School District, said the two changes that stand out to her are the 8th-grade portfolio and the _-credit high school course requirement. Prior to the new standards being adopted, she said, students were able to pass out of the high school requirement. Now students will be required to take a high school technology course suited to their needs regardless of demonstrated proficiency. Boisvert doesn’t argue the value of that requirement, but she said it may prove a challenge for some school districts, as it will likely mean an increase in the number of technology courses they’ll have to offer. Schools that already offer a variety of high school technology courses will likely shift toward more advanced courses.

“One of the concerns at the high school level is they’re going to need to put courses in place that haven’t been offered in the past,” she said. “They are going to have to have technology teachers to teach these courses... That’s a big shift.”

In her district, Boisvert’s focus will be working with teachers to determine how to develop and evaluate student portfolios over the course of their elementary and middle school years. Those portfolios will be assessed using rubrics, which Higgins said may be locally designed.

Higgins said the new standards – which tie into the national technology plan calling for a move toward more digital content and use of technology in teaching all content areas – should not represent a drastic change for districts, which are already required to have technology plans in place. The standards also address a No Child Left Behind requirement that each state both define technological literacy and report how well students meet that definition by the end of eighth grade.

“This should be seen as an ongoing process which has simply been refined with the new standards,” she said.

Boisvert agreed that the standards should not be a major jump for districts. Administrative rules, she said, cover “just a whole gamut of things” in schools.

“This is kind of a rewrite of a lot of different things,” she said. “We need to pull together and do what needs to be done.”

In that light, Boisvert said NHDOE, NHSTE and NHEMA will work together to help ease the transition for districts. Representatives from those groups have already met with technology education guru David Warlick to discuss ways to implement the standards, she said.

“What we’re trying to do is give a heads-up to our constituency that there’s a piece of this that’s coming,”



The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century by Thomas Friedman

Article by Cyndi Dunlap

In my job that I get paid for (many of you think my job is NHSTE and the Christa McAuliffe Technology Conference, but these are only my volunteer jobs) I was very lucky to be involved in the National Education Summit held in Brewster on Cape Cod from October 6th through the 8th. Here leadership from 28 states across the nation, including New Hampshire, convened to discuss and strategize for two days the greatest challenges facing educators across the United States.

Teams of eight to twelve leaders consisting of representation from the respective DOEs, legislative branches, and select school districts were invited to participate in this summit hosted by CELT Corp, CCSSO (the Council of Chief State School Officers) and ECS (Education Commission of the States). Presenters for the plenary sessions included Alan November, Dr. David Thornburg, Dr. Terry Crane, Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, Dr. Richard Fairley and others.

Each of these distinguished speakers highlighted the positive changes that are happening across the nation’s schools with respect to improving student achievement, but each also addressed areas where we are not making gains, falling behind, and perhaps more importantly, just plain ignoring! Many of the issues that are being ignored are the focus of “The World is Flat”. The author takes you on his journeys to India, China, Japan, Korea, and beyond. What he describes is both enlightening and frightening! From the jacket cover, “With his inimitable ability to translate complex foreign policy and economic issues, Friedman explains how the flattening of the world happened at the dawn of the twenty-first century; what it means to countries, communities, and individuals; and how governments and societies can, and must, adapt.” We, as educators, must be a critical component of this adaptation process.

If you have not yet purchased this book you will. How do I know this, because it was by far the hottest topic with the broadest implications at the National Education Summit. If you thought you understood what “outsourcing” is and how it is impacting our economy, our nation, and our schools, read just the first hundred pages and you will have second thoughts. I purchased the hard cover version at Barnes and Nobles on Monday (just under \$20) knowing that I was traveling on Tuesday and needed “airport” reading. I made it though to page 106 due to flight delays and am struggling not to curl up on a chair and just keep on going on this gloomy Wednesday! But instead I am

sitting here at the keyboard writing articles that are due on Friday. As usual, I have my assignments for *Connections* articles and this is one that was not assigned, but needed to be written!

The paper back version is due out in March of 2006, and I propose that every New Hampshire legislator, staff member at the NHDOE, superintendent, principal, teacher, and all other educational leaders accept this reading assignment as their own for the summer of 2006, IF NOT SOONER!



David Warlick Enlightens and Entertains NH Educators

Read about
David Warlick's trip to
NH LESCEN's and
NHSTE's Annual Dinner
at NHSTE.org



SERESC by Cyndy Courier - from page 3

2005/2006. The next promotion will occur in late spring when current districts renew and others join in the May - June 2006 framework.

What is netTrekker?

—An award-winning academic search engine that is fast and easy to use for teachers, school librarians, students and parents.

- Over 180,000 educator-selected online resources organized by readability level and aligned with NH state curriculum frameworks and grade level expectations.
- Quickly and easily find resources for general-education students, ELL/ESL students, those working below or above grade level, with reading challenges, special needs and more.
- Reading level indicated for every site returned in a search.
- Not just English, but French, Spanish and a number of other languages as well.
- 60,000 copyright-free images added

How to purchase:

- Recruitment has started and will go through October 30th, 2005. This deadline is a definite!
- Cost per student is 1.44
- Cost per building is 1,255.00. (Use the pricing that benefits you most, student or building.)

- Normal pricing would be \$1,595.00 per building or \$1.80 per student for 5,000 to 9,999 students.
- Subscriptions will run from November 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006.
- For a free 14 day trial, please go to:
http://trial.nettrekker.com/freetrial.ep1?source_code=SER

Clicker 5 and ClozePro from Crick

Another special purchasing agreement recently announced is with Crick software, the creators of Clicker 5, a powerful writing and creativity tool designed to motivate and support children as they learn to read and write. ClozePro which creates cloze activities that are a well-established and a proven way of developing reading, comprehension and vocabulary skills and WordBar, a unique writing support tool for students from 7th grade to adult. Demo CDs are available from Cyndy upon request. Pricing and order information can be found at:

<http://www2.seresc.net/Crick.html>

MediaBlender and Recipes4Success from Tech4Learning

Our latest NH special pricing is for MediaBlender and Recipes4Success from Tech4Learning. MediaBlender is like HyperStudio on steroids and Recipes4Success is a web-based tool that can help you learn and integrate into the classroom over 20 common software tools. For pricing, please go to:

<http://www2.seresc.net/tech4learning.html>

You can try out these tools by going to
<http://www.tech4learning.com/>

Additional Software Agreements

Other products for which we have secured state-wide pricing are Impatica, Sophos, VHS, Florida Virtual School, Aventa Learning, TechPaths and M8 Technologies. For more information about these products, please go to:

http://www.seresc.net/?page=teacher_tools

Also, for demos, information, answers to questions or pricing please contact Cyndy Currier, SERESC, cyndy@seresc.net or 206-6808.

Telecommunication Tidbits

by Brewster Bartlett

NHSTE

The NHSTE web page can be found at:

www.nhste.org/



Have a favorite web site or project that can be used for research or for classroom? Contact me at this address so we can spread the word to other NHSTE members: drsplatt@comcast.net

Eye of the Storm

<http://www.musarium.com/eyeofthestorm/main.html>

Eye of the Storm takes you on an unforgettable journey through the Civil War. You can this experience the life of a Civil War soldier through this online interpretation through journals and movies.

Egyptomania

<http://www.clevelandart.org/kids/egypt/index.html>

Students are fascinated about mummies and pyramids of Egypt. Facts about the Egyptian life and animals will make this an interesting site to explore

Take Me Out to the Ball Game

<http://warrensburg.k12.mo.us/webquest/baseball/>

Baseball and math? This site will give students enough information for them to figure out who was the best baseball hitter of all time?

Packet for Substitute Teachers

<http://users.erols.com/interla/subtch.htm>

This site says it all. The author has provided lots of ideas and tips to keep the young ones busy when you are out of school. Quizzes, puzzles, riddles, stories and topics for writing assignments are provided for your substitute.

EEK! Our Earth

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/celeek/earth/index.htm>

Learn about the environment and the issues the earth is now facing. Alien invaders, endangered species, greenhouse effect, and recycling are just some of the the topics this site addresses.

Blogging Baby Steps *by Deb Boisvert - from page 1*

with face-to-face meetings. The bonus for me in the blog format is that I have a written trail to track who is doing what and who is MIA. It is working for my purposes of challenging myself to “walk the talk”, while exposing others to new technology and tracking the impact of the grant.

When school began, the blog evolved as I opened it up to a wider building audience. I learned to create links to documents that are on our server rather than the web so that teachers could access BrainPop, EBSCO, and Homeworkknow without giving our passwords to the whole world. This has lightened my load in that I can refer people to the blog rather than constantly answering the same questions or referring them to “How to’s” that they forget how to access. It is a central technology clearing house for our school.

Is it a blog that I would recommend that you follow with an RSS reader? Probably not. It is designed to meet our local needs. You are welcome to follow the

links and make your own judgments. While you are exploring school technology blogs, check out Chris Hunewell’s <http://techjaki.blogspot.com/> and Chicago Public schools <http://learn2blog.weblogger.com/>.

NHSTE Book Blog

by Deb Boisvert

I always have a ton of technology reading in the pile next to my couch. There are magazines, T.H.E. Journal, Connected Learning, articles from friends and books. I never get through the pile, but when I do read a provocative article there is not always available the right person for a discussion. I find myself in conversations, gushing to someone about some new insight, only to notice a glazed expression on their face. Wouldn’t it be great to have a place to talk about technology books or to share new titles with others who might be interested? What I needed was another book club without another meeting.

When I learn new things, I always try them out in a variety of ways, see Blogging Baby Steps. A blog seemed to be the perfect solution to the time-bind of meeting for a book discussion. This was the birth of the NHSTE Book Club <http://nhste.blogspot.com/>. Our first book was David Warlick’s Raw Materials of the Mind. We wanted to start with this in preparation for his visit to New Hampshire this fall. We got our feet wet and are now ready to move on.

Our second book will be The World is Flat: A Brief History of the 21st Century by Thomas L. Friedman. This is one of those books that you hear about one day and then hear about it again three times the next week. I first heard about it from a neighbor who works in the university system’s Chancellor’s office. This was a book that the New Hampshire University System Board of Trustees chose to read and discuss as a group. It was also the book mentioned by former governor of Maine, Angus King, in Bob Sprankle’s podcast, <http://www.bobsprankle.com/bitbybit/podcast/bitbybit071305.mp3>, by David Warlick at the NHSTE Annual dinner and finally by Cyndi Dunlap. Now seems to be the time.

Here is how you can participate. If you just want to hum along, go to <http://nhste.blogspot.com/>. If you would like to contribute, log in and make a comment. If you would be willing to post, just email me at dboisvert@SAU53.org and I will set you up. I would love to have more people posting, so that we can get more conversation going and so that I don’t feel guilty if I don’t post every week. Feel free to contribute whatever strikes you. I would love to see reviews of articles, children’s and young adult titles and recommendations and reviews of other books - whatever is on your mind. Now, if I could only find a way to blog my laundry.

Revamping your web site.

by Steve Thissell

stevethissell@pinkertonacademy.org

A few years ago NHSTE decided to move to a more cooperative model for maintaining our web site. We adopted a software package that would allow each person on the board to be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the portion of the website that covered their primary responsibility. This did accomplish its goal of moving the upkeep of the website out of one person's jurisdiction, but the downside was, for lack of a better word, a "frumpy" web site.

The current Board of Directors decided they would like to spruce up the look of the current site, so search was initiated for a new web content manager. We still wanted to maintain the cooperative aspect with each department chair responsible for their own web pages but we needed a few other features that we currently didn't have. We wanted the ability to create page templates which would keep all the pages looking essentially the same. And we wanted to be able to control what portions of the webpage a Board Member could change and how much they could change it.

After looking at several software packages we decided on a product from a local company located in Portsmouth. Savvy Software Inc. produces a totally internet based, web content manager

called "Savvy" that seemed to do just what we wanted.

From the Savvy website (<http://www.besavvy.com/>): "Editing is as simple as clicking on an area of your web site in Savvy's browser-based interface, updating the information and then publishing to the Web with another click. No coding, no file transfers, no additional software, and no rising IT costs. Web content management made easy and affordable."

This ease of use was important to us because, even though all our Board members are very technology savvy (excuse the pun), we didn't want them to have to spend a lot of their valuable time learning a complex new program. Savvy also provides a the template option that will allow us to maintain a uniform look to all our pages even though the pages are being kept up by several different individuals. Permissions can be set to control access to portions or aspects of the web pages. The template feature combined with this permission feature will allow us to control the look and feel of all our pages.

The Savvy company also includes in their pricing structure the service of creating page templates based on your input regarding colors, images, and content. This as well as the offer to actually convert all your old web pages to the new template format makes it a very complete package.

The fact that the program is entirely web based with no installation on the user's computer meant that we could work on these pages from any Internet capable computer, anywhere. This is a real plus for our busy Board members. The only other piece is to secure a web host. Many choose to maintain their own web server but NHSTE has no real physical home (no office or building) so a third party web host will be retained. This, for about \$20.00 per month, is a reasonable enough cost to house our web site. Savvy willingly gave us the names of several companies that are already housing other Savvy created web sites that would be entirely familiar with what is required to host a Savvy built site. Savvy, by the way, has no monthly or yearly fees beyond the initial purchase price. This is certainly unusual in this day of subscriptions and maintenance fees.

So be on the lookout for a new look to the old familiar NHSTE web site (www.nhste.org). We should be getting the change-over made just about the time you read this article.

**FIND UPCOMING
PD OPPORTUNITIES
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