Broadband & the WICHE West

WICHE Commission Meeting
Portland
May 18, 2010
Personal Computing: who Cares?

Check out the guy in the lower left. He’s the CEO!
THEY HAVE CHANGED THE WAY WE WORK, PLAY, COMMUNICATE
Want more on-line capacity?

Dynamic Broadband
Get your business up to speed.
What’s Up on the Regional and national Fronts?

- NTIA and RUS grant programs $7B
- FCC National Broadband Plan
- Northern Tier
- Internet2-NLR: US UCAN
• NTIA Broadband Opportunity Program
  • Infrastructure
  • Sustainable Adoption
  • Broadband Mapping
• Round one completed; round two submitted
• All WICHE states have at least a mapping grant
Connecting America

Innovation & Investment

Inclusion

• Supporting and Promoting Online Learning
• Unlocking the Power of Data and Improving Transparency
• Modernizing Educational Broadband Infrastructure
US UNIFIED COMMUNITY ANCHOR NETWORK (US UCAN)

- Internet2 & NLR
- Anchor institutions: 100,000 initially (+35,000 new institutions)
  - schools, community colleges, universities, libraries, health institutions, public safety entities, local government, public media
- $96M total and $62M request
- 12,000 miles of newly lit fiber
THE GEEK CORNER
Kindle Study

- Reed, Arizona State University, Case Western Reserve University, Pace University, Princeton University, the University of Washington, and Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia

- Key findings:
  - There is no doubt that e-readers are the future -- both for pleasure reading and for education
  - What we have in our hands today, though, are first-generation and second-generation e-readers. There is a long way to go.
  - Some of the limitations of current devices are easily fixable. Others are due to the state of technology.
• It's pretty remarkable how great Kindle is as a personal pleasure reading device. For educational use, though, there are a set of limitations:

- When reading a novel, you start on the first page and proceed to the last page, sequentially. When reading a textbook, you flip around. Setting and accessing page markers is somewhat cumbersome.

- When reading a novel, you seldom take notes. When reading a textbook, it's common.

- Novel's don't have complex "look and feel." Technical papers often do. Having first-class support for PDF is important -- the ability to display it faithfully, and also to zoom it and annotate it. Kindle doesn't support these capabilities.

- Computer Science graduate students spend 8 hours a day in front of a large-format high-resolution color display hooked to the Internet. They take for granted that online information will be instantly available. Not so on Kindle -- the web browser is purposely limited.

- All of this is not to complain. Kindle is remarkably good for what it was designed for, and Amazon.com is remarkably committed to making it better for other applications.
NEXT TIME: SMARTPHONES