

Lightspeed brings video to students, safely

Wouldn't it be great if teachers could choose internet resources and make them available to students in a safe, easy way? With minimal IT staff involvement?

Lightspeed Systems Web Access Manager allows schools to easily create a video library that does exactly that. "The teachers who are using it think it is awesome," said West DePere Network Administrator Todd O'Bannon. "I am going to create a DNS entry this summer to point it to

'videos.wdp.com' to help people find it easier." In the meantime, check out West DePere's current website:

<http://lstdc01.wdpsd.com/safevideos>

While most of Lightspeed's multi-role software works unobtrusively in the background, the Educational Video

Library is one of its more visible features. This functionality allows teachers to post videos from YouTube, TeacherTube or elsewhere for students to access without the content risks. In other words: Students get appropriate content without the ability to surf to other videos.

"It took me maybe half an hour, tops, to configure it and have it ready for teachers to use," O'Bannon said. "We configured it to use teachers' Windows username and login to log in. They submit videos from You-

Tube or TeacherTube. We set it up originally to auto approve. That makes it available for students to use. As a technology department, we do not have to unlock videos for students. We allow staff to find the videos. They put them on the video por-

Lightspeed set to auto-approve videos chosen by teachers. Alternatively, the software can be set up to allow a chain of command, whereby the teacher would submit the video and then Lightspeed would email staff member(s) tasked with evaluat-

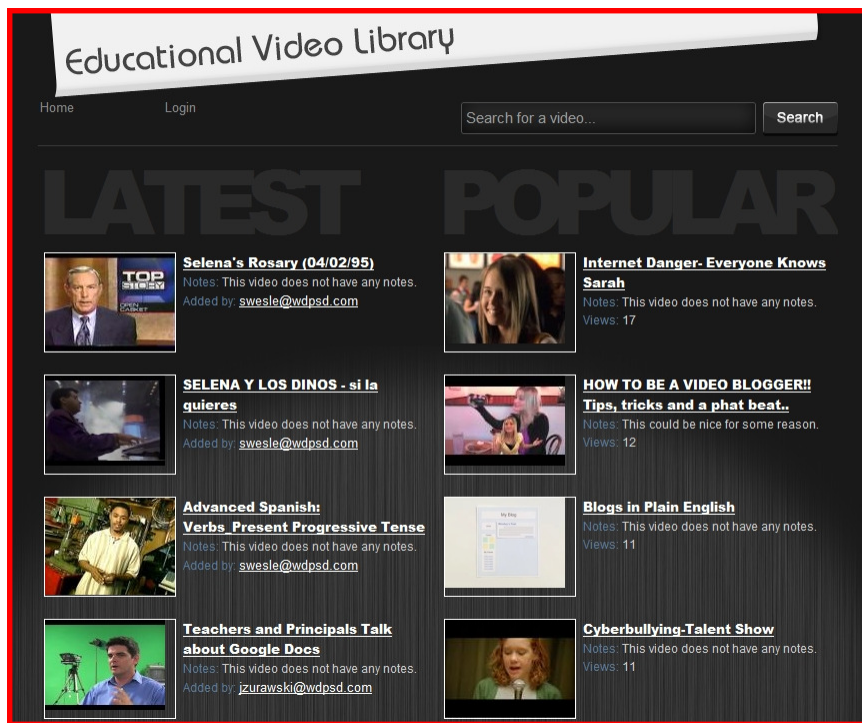
ing submissions. Once the approval occurs, Lightspeed would allow students to access the video. At Kenosha Unified Schools, Systems Support Specialist Jim Hanrahan has been using Lightspeed in other ways, including its Web Access Manager.

He's been eyeing the Video Library possibilities and is waiting on pending hardware improvements, which will accommodate bandwidth that the videos will demand. "We have not (implemented), but not for lack of wanting to use it," Hanrahan said. "Our WAN infrastructure is T1 and it's just not

strong enough to do that. By default, audio and video are blocked; we just don't have the bandwidth for it."

As he spoke, Kenosha was installing fiber-optic cable to increase its bandwidth. That had Hanrahan looking forward to the Video Library possibilities. "It is very slick. I have read about it. I have seen it. I can't wait to get it employed," he said.

Learn more by contacting Camera Corner / Connecting Point at (800) 414-7110 or by emailing lightspeed@cccp.com.



This is a portion of the actual video library which West DePere schools made available to their students in the spring semester of 2008-2009.

tal and it is accessible from both inside and outside the District.

"It gives you just that video. No additional configuration is needed, to allow something in or out," O'Bannon said. "If you allow teachers to view YouTube or TeacherTube for educational purposes, once they add them, they are added and you can use them as long as they are up (on the internet)."

The Green Bay suburb initially rolled the video library out to only a handful of staff, and began with