Professional Networking for Chicago Public School Teachers

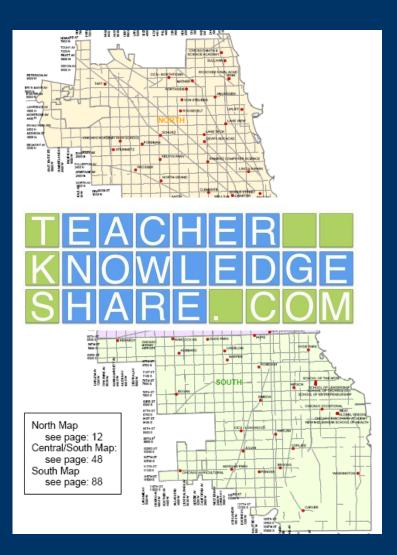


IPRO 320 Spring 2008



INTRODUCTION

- Chicago Public Schools: More than 600 schools and 25,000 teachers
- Teacher conferences and professional development seminars
 - Time consuming and requires a good deal of planning



BIG PROBLEM

- CPS teachers pressured to meet standardized test requirements
 - Lack of resources
 - Under-prepared students
 - Time constraints
- CPS teachers lack a way to communicate that is:
 - Simple
 - Shareable
 - Unmonitored



OUR CHALLENGE

- Social network that addresses teachers' needs
 - Examine existing solutions
 - Identify best practices
 - Incorporate findings from surveys and interviews



facebook

myspace .com

ALTERNATE SOLUTIONS

Discovery Educator Network

- Digital resources for teachers and students
- Educator resources' page
- Advance this concept with wikistyle edits and searchability



ALTERNATE SOLUTIONS, CONTD.

• First Class (CPS)

- E-mail and collaboration tool used by CPS
- Moderated by CPS administrators
- Incorporate forum concept



GOALS: Focus Groups Team

• Primary goal:

- Assess target audience's interest
- Goals
 - Email teachers
 - 100 online surveys
 - Letters to teachers
 - 10 phone interviews

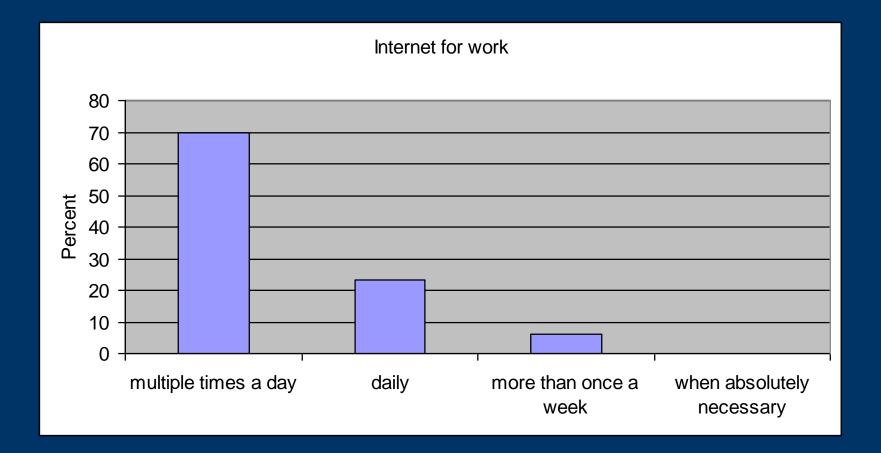


Paper surveys were not feasible
 Created online survey

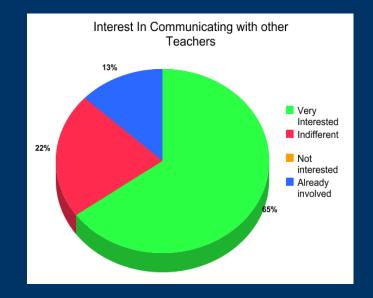
- Distributed through FirstClass
 Low responses on surveys
- 115 responses

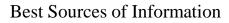


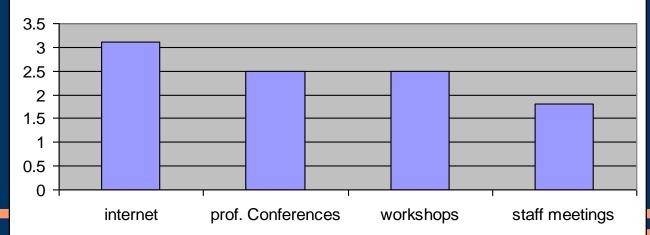
SURVEY RESULTS: Internet Use



SURVEY RESULTS







TEACHER INTERVIEWS

- Difficult to work around teachers' schedules
- Conducted phone interviews

 Had them register onto site
 Asked them to edit a Wiki and post on the forum
- Relayed teachers results to Development team



GOALS: Development Team

• Primary goal:

- Meet the needs to audience
- Implementation
 - Fully functional site
 - Front page
 - Wiki
 - Forum
 - Article Base



METHODS: Development Team

- Put together a prototype web page with a Wiki, Forum, and FAQ features
- Created a logo and implemented a new front page layout
- Made changes to site after the team and teachers put forth their opinions

OBSTACLES: Development Team

• Visual appearance of front page

- User registration
- Hosting issues

ALTERNATE APPROACHES: Development Team

• New logo and colors

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Home We are currently in an Alpha state, so the site is nowhere near what we would like to see in the finished product. We Wiki Forums As of right now, the wiki and the forum are fully functional. Please take the time to register and read/contribute.			ope that you will bear with us.
FAQs	If you have questions that are not covered in the E.A.Q. , please post them in our <u>support</u> forum.		
Login			
Username:	Right now, our efforts are mostly focused on documenting lesson plans.		
Password:	Please check the <u>last changes</u> for recent additions.		
	Thank you,		
Login	The Development Team		
Register for free! Forgot your password?	Featured Articles:		
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FUTURE GOALS

- Register active users
- Increase use of wiki and forums
- Secure funding
- Expand to serve non-CPS teachers and non-high school teachers

