

Chapter 10 Reflection

The entire time that I was reading this chapter and looking at the statistics, studies and results of surveys, I was thinking that a lot has changed over the 3 years since this book was published. It would be interesting to find out how many million users there are now?

I was so glad that this chapter went into the evolution of the Internet. When the network people come out to fix a problem or make changes in the system at my school they talk to me in Greek. They use all the lingo such as the NIC card, or DNS, (I do know what an IP is) etc. and it sounds foreign to me. Most of the time I ask what it means but it goes in one ear and out the other. I just want the problem fixed. Now since reading this chapter I will have a greater understanding of the terminology. Back to evolution. Isn't it interesting that the Internet had its origins in the Military? Did the book ever say what ARPANET was? And I would love to know what BITNET stood for also. I did look up the meaning Gopher. (I had heard it before but wasn't sure of the definition.) So for the curious minds out there like me, here is the definition.

"A computer program created by the University of Minnesota to access local information files or those found over the Internet. The program gives the appearance of a menu driven system. It's name is derived from the University of Minnesota's mascot the Golden Gophers as well as a play on the words to "go for."

When I teach a workshop to the teachers at my school or to the county on Internet basics I give a brief history. Now I can share a little more knowledge. I go over the meaning of WWW, URL, Search Engines, IP addresses, HTTP, meta search engines, and directory along with the ends on a URL. For instance we all know that .com means commercial, .edu means education, .gov means a government site, .mil means military. I am always amazed at the amount of teacher who do not have a clue as to what the ending on the URL means.

The chart on page 252 is a great tool for screening information on the Internet. I am going to share this information with teachers before they bring their classes into the computer lab to do research. High School students should be able to evaluate a website for information and purpose. I may even create a lesson to present to the students using this chart as a guide before they actually begin their research. I could make a scavenger hunt for them to evaluate good and not so good site, how to look for the truth in information on a site, and author information.

Advantages and disadvantages of Internet Based courses for me was a good reiteration of the information we have been reading and discussing over the past weeks. The model by Anthony Kaye identified four subsystems that make up an Internet-based course which I found helpful breaking the system down into components with specific roles. For me, it helped to clarify who is responsible for what. The first sub system was the *regulatory system* consisting of management, decision-making, planning, funding and evaluation. Project Management popped into my mind at this phase. Second, the *course subsystem* naturally includes the design of the course, as well as the production, distribution, management of the communication system, which is maintained for course interaction.

The third sub system is the *student subsystem* that is responsible for admitting students to the course as well as managing and controlling their progress. The fourth, and last sub system is the logistical subsystem, which includes the purchasing, and maintenance of equipment and software. Each system functions independently but is interdependent on each other to create a successful course.

Helen