

INTRODUCTION

The world in which we live in has become one driven by technology. Families use computers, cell phones, wireless networks, and other technologies that are designed to make our lives easier. With that increased use of technology, comes the need for an understanding of some security threats that are associated with having your computer connected to the Internet. Most people are concerned about securing their valuables, such as their home, car, and children. However, these same people often don't worry about protecting their computer and the valuable information that is stored on their computer.

As the number of households that have access to the Internet continues to increase, it is increasingly important that users have an understanding of how to protect their computers from possible security violations. In addition to personal home computers, teachers at Lake Preston are given access to a laptop or tablet computer which they are able to use both at home and at school. Since it is likely that these teachers will be connected to both the school's network as well as their network, it is important that they have an understanding of the possible security threats that are present in the technology world as well as having an understanding of how they can prevent a breach of that security.

This proposal will discuss key areas of a plan to create instructional materials that will address the issue of computer security. Key areas of this proposal include a definition of the project, a projected timeline of events, a projected budget, and the qualifications of the design team.

PROJECT DEFINITION

Learner goals for this project would include the following:

- Gain an understanding of what computer security is and why it is important,
- Identify different types of malware and how to prevent it from attacking your computer,
- Identify different options for connecting to the Internet at home,
- Identify what a firewall is, how to set a firewall up, and how to test if the firewall is working,
- Gain an understanding of the basics of setting up a wireless network.

The intended audience for these instructional materials will be the K-12 teaching staff at the Lake Preston School District. All members of the audience have been given access to either a laptop or tablet PC in which they are able to use both at school and at home. Overall, the teaching staff ranges in experience from beginning teachers to those with over 25 years of experience. The computer skill levels of these teachers range from intermediate to high as there has been training that has taken place previously to help the teachers become more comfortable with the technology they have been provided.

The instructional materials will be presented through the use of an informational website that will be broken down into different modules. Each of these modules will cover a specific topic in the area of computer security. These modules will be titled: What is Computer Security?, Malware, Internet at Home, Firewalls, and Wireless Networks. Each of the modules will be made up lessons consisting of some sort of combination of handouts, presentations, and assessments.

The instructional materials will be introduced to the teaching staff during one of the monthly in-service days that the school has. This introduction would involve giving a brief overview of what the instructional materials cover, as well as a discussion on how the materials are designed and laid out. The teaching staff will then continue through the materials at their own pace on their own time. The website will have a feature that will allow the teaching staff to ask questions if any should arise. This feature will be set up as an anonymous discussion board so that all those involved will be able to read the questions and answers which likely will not only possibly answer future questions but also may bring up new ideas for others. At a follow-up in-service session, there will be a closing segment in which an overall summary session will be held to discuss the instructional materials.

SCHEDULE

The following is a timeline that shows the projected dates of completion for the various parts of the instructional design process.

March 19 th	Submit the project proposal to the client
March 26 th	Submit design documents for approval
April 2 nd	Create prototype materials to be used during the evaluation process
April 9 th	Develop report with results from prototype evaluation and recommended changes to instructional materials
April 16 th	Set up final evaluation tests and reviews
April 30 th	Finish conducting evaluation tests and reviews
May 7 th	Submit finished instructional materials to client

It must be realized that during the scope of a project such as this that changes may need to take place to both the timeline and expected costs. As review sessions take place during the course of the design process, adjustments may be necessary to ensure that the client receives the instructional materials that will meet their needs. Any and all changes made in regards to the design process will only be made after the client has had an opportunity to approve said changes.

COSTS

There will be no additional costs for the Lake Preston School District that are associated with the creation of the instructional materials. All hardware and software that is needed by the teaching staff to complete the instructional materials have already been paid for by the school district. No additional special equipment will be needed to create the materials either.

QUALIFICATIONS

I will be the sole person working on creating the instructional materials for this project. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Business Education with an endorsement in Computer Education from Dakota State University in Madison, SD. I also have an Associate's Degree in Business Management from DSU. I am currently finishing up my last semester of a Master's in Educational Technology program at DSU with a current GPA of 4.0. I have been teaching at the Lake Preston School District for 10 years so I have a good understanding of the teaching staff that will be the learners for this project.