



**FOSSVT  
Lake Morey Resort  
April 10, 2009**

**8:15 AM – 9:00 AM - Registration**

**9:00 - 9:30 AM – Welcome and Keynote**

**Keynote:**

***The Road Less Traveled. One educators journey down the sometimes bumpy road of open source adoption.***

Randy Orwin will talk about the what, why and how of open source adoption in a suburban Seattle school district. He will address some of the successes and pitfalls of the processes involved and even toss in a few humorous stories along the way. Come join him on the "road less traveled" and find out that there are others out there fighting the same battles that you do every day.

*Randy Orwin is currently the Director of Technology with Bainbridge Island School District in Washington State. He is in his 9th year as technology director with Bainbridge Island. Randy has spent 22 years providing technology professional development for teachers, has a masters degree in Instructional Technology and holds numerous technology certifications. He is passionate about Open Source software and open content and his district currently saves approximately \$125,000 per year by using Open Source Software.*

**9:40-10:30 - Session 1**

***Making the Move to FOSS - Morey Room***

Essex Town School District has been making a move toward Open Source Solutions in their K-8 school district. We will be discussing the steps we have taken to start implementing some Open Source Solutions into classrooms. This discussion will allow for questions from the audience and discussion on possible scenarios for rolling out an Open Source Initiative in your district or school.

*This will be a panel consisting of **James Fitzpatrick**, Superintendent of Essex Town School District, **Ellen Thompson**, Instruction and Information Services Director, **Mike Finn**, Network Administrator, and **Lisa Fernald**, District Technology Integration Specialist.*

***FOG - The Free Cloning Solution – Edgewater Room***

It is a ghost-like imaging solution that can be used to image Windows PCs in large network environments. It does everything without boot disks/CDs, it also includes some pretty advanced features like multicast support, a client side service that does printer management, hostname changes, AD registration, user tracking and more. The FOG management suite does imaging plus hardware inventory, AV scan, memory testing, and disk wiping. It is all web based and can run on Fedora, Ubuntu or just download the VM image and be running in no time.

***Bjorn Behrendt** is currently a Tech Director for the Proctor School District in Vermont.*

***The Myths and Magic of Open Source : A Classroom Teacher's Primer – Lakeside Theater***

The use of Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) in schools makes sense for many reasons. So why isn't it more widely used? There are a number of myths that persist that hinder wider use. David Trask,

will share his many years of experience using Open Source software in the classroom debunking both the negative myths (too hard to use, no support) and the positive ones (zero cost to use).

*David Trask has been a teacher and technology director for over 20 years. He is currently the Technology Director/Teacher at Vassalboro Community School in Vassalboro Maine USA. He has been a champion and pioneer in the use of Linux and Open Source in the classroom. David is also the founder of the highly successful FOSSED conference held each year in the Northeast. In 2007, David was named the Maine Technology Educator of the Year.*

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## **10:40-10:55 – Break**

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## **11:00-11:50 - Session 2**

### ***Free and Open Source Software in the Classroom: From Promise to Reality – Morey Room***

'It's free' is not a compelling enough argument for most classroom teachers to use open source software. We will share what free and open source software have really caught on in our K-8 school and some tweaks and tips that turned them into classroom friendly learning tools. How do you turn the promise of open source software into learning tools classroom teachers want to use? Come find out with Lucie deLaBruere and students from St. Albans City School.

*Lucie deLaBruere is currently working as Tech Integration Specialist at St. Albans City School Vermont. She has 25 years of teaching experience in Career and Technical Education, Business Education, Teacher Professional Development, K-12 Technology Integration and is a Google Certified Educator.*

### ***Single Sign on in a Mixed Environment – Edgewater Room***

We were challenged with a school network that had a Linux LTSP server and a Windows 2000 domain, and users who needed their documents to be accessible to them regardless of which environment they were logged into. We deployed a Samba server and got creative with LDAP and other open standards and technologies to create a homogeneous, adaptable network environment for students and staff.

*Rubin Bennett is the owner and founder of rbTechnologies. He has worked as an Information Technology professional since 1995, and has provided support and built servers for agencies of the Vermont State government, ISPs, and small businesses around the state and beyond.*

### ***OpenOffice.org in an Educational Environment – Lakeside Theater***

This presentation will discuss the advantages of utilizing OpenOffice.org in a learning environment. Topics to be discussed include an overview of the various applications bundled into the office suite, licensing related to distributing software to students and other users, cross-platform capabilities with various operating systems, file exchange with other office productivity suites, deploying OpenOffice.org in an academic lab and staff work environment, special considerations to assess before deploying OpenOffice.org on a large-scale, and much more.

*Gabriel Gurley's 8 years of experience in academia includes IT and business instructor, program administrator and IT specialist, where he is currently a technical specialist at SUNY-Onondaga Community College in Syracuse, New York. Gabriel has deployed OpenOffice.org for academic use at two colleges, and has also written a series of award-winning, open instructional materials specifically for the use of OpenOffice.org in a learning environment.*

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## 12:00-1:00 - Lunch

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## 1:10-2:00 - Session 3

### ***Sugar-On-A-Stick : Collaboration Made Easy – Morey Room***

The award-winning Sugar Learning Platform promotes collaborative learning through Sugar Activities that encourage critical thinking, the heart of a quality education. Sugar is the open source learning platform for grades K-6 and Sugar-on-a-Stick lets you use Sugar on \*almost any computer\* with just a USB key. Caroline Meeks and Walter Bender will demonstrate how easy it is to try Sugar in your classroom, home, library or community center.

***Caroline Meeks*** is a current Masters student at Harvard Graduate School of Education and founder of Solution Grove, Inc., which provides support and services for open source software. In 2008, ***Walter Bender*** founded Sugar Labs after leaving the OLPC project to continue development of Sugar.

### ***Teaching Students Hands On Technology with FOSS and DIY Frankensteined Computers – Edgewater Room***

We will talk about two summer tech camps held at North Bennington and Shaftsbury Elementary Schools where students were taught to tear apart and build “Frankensteined” computers from assorted components. Students then installed the Ubuntu distribution of Linux and learned how to configure the machines for basic functionality. Students then built their own brand new computers from barebones kits and configured them for multimedia creation. During the second week of the camp they experimented with Video editing/creation, photography, and audio recording along with creating and maintaining a camp wiki for lesson plans and journal entries.

Nicco Eneidi is the Network Lab Supervisor for Shaftsbury Elementary School in the Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union. He is relatively new in the education field having worked in Adult Ed in the past but mostly working in the private sector. Having grown up in the San Francisco Bay Area he was brought up in the pirated software scene and learned how to obtain illegal copies of practically anything since the 7th grade. Having grown up a bit since then with pirated software no longer being an option discovering FOSS has been a boon to creativity and has really lit up the world of technology.

### ***Collaboration is Key: the Vermont Organization of Koha Automated Libraries (vokal) Project -Lakeside Theater***

Making a major change in technology can seem daunting without a good support network. Come and learn about the open source library catalog Koha and vokal, the group administered by the Green Mountain Library Consortium to oversee the project. What has been successful in our transition to an open source product? What have been the stumbling blocks? What project can vokal's experience help you implement?

***Stephanie Chase*** began her work in public libraries at the New York Public Library over a decade ago. Since then, she's worked in a variety of libraries, from the one-person Westford (VT) Public Library to several years as the "Librologist" (librarian and technology teacher) at the Fletcher (VT) Elementary School. She is currently the Director of the Stowe Free Library in Stowe, VT

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## 2:10-2:25 - Break

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## 2:30-3:20 - Session 4

### ***Open Source / Closed Source Smackdown – Morey Room***

We have gathered a panel of experts that represent extremely different points of view regarding the differences between Open and Closed Source software solutions, and we are inviting you to challenge them with questions. The objective is to clarify the advantages and disadvantages of these radically different approaches to software development and implementation, and have some fun at the same time. The Open Source/Closed Source Smackdown will run the gamut of serious discussion and comic relief as it explores the answers to your questions. Submit your questions for the panelists at the registration desk when you check in, via email (smackdown@wrvs.us) during the conference, or via Chatzy during the event (<<http://www.chatzy.com/662547578021>> password: fossvt). The audience will be able to comment on the discussion as it takes place through a Chatzy chat room that will be projected for viewing during the event. This will very much be an audience participation event as we collectively try to separate Fact from F.U.D.

*A Panel of Programming Partisans*

### ***Team Programming with Linux, MySQL, and Merb – Edgewater Room***

A teenager, a tech and a teacher teamed up to solve a problem they had at Hanover High School. The project was to create a system that allowed for students to view and sign up for the March Intensive course offerings. This system was created using a custom database in MySQL with Merb as the middleware (a kind of Ruby-esque scripting language that runs in an MVC framework like Ruby on Rails) and using a front end design that a teacher (Brian Glenney) had created. Nick Sinnott-Armstrong and Marion Bates will discuss the advantages and intrigues of a blended team approach.

*Nick Sinnott-Armstrong is a student at Hanover High. Marion Bates is the Dresden District's Technology Director.*

### ***EDUCATION CONNECTION with Moodle & ELGG – Lakeside Theater***

The Center for 21st Century Skills @ EDUCATION CONNECTION in collaboration with the Connecticut Office for Workforce Development has leveraged funding from the National Science Foundation to develop the CCC Online Course Environment. (see: <http://ctconline.org>) CCC Online uses the Moodle and ELGG Open applications to deliver engaging science and technology courses to Connecticut urban and suburban school districts. The project based course are designed for use in a "blended" environment with classroom teachers accessing online content and students documenting their work in the integrated e-Portfolio.

*Michael Mino is the Founder and Director of the Center for 21st Century Skills*

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***3:30 PM-4:00 PM – Closing Remarks and Door Prizes***