

October 2003

VITAL News

Virginia Initiative for Technology and Administrative Leadership



Regional Workshop

Are You Tapped In?

Everything Web is the topic of the Fall Regional Workshop VITAL workshop that will be held on the campus of the College of William and Mary. The hands-on training is scheduled for November 18 from 9 AM to 3:30 PM.

The focus of the workshop will be using the web for a variety of instructional and personal productivity purposes. We are pleased to welcome Linda Holt from the Virginia Department of Education who will demonstrate an online collaboration tool called Tapped In. Tapped In is a web-based environment designed to help further teacher professional development while cultivating a support network for educators online. Linda will introduce us to its features and give us a hands-on tour of this resource. Want a preview? You can visit [Tapped In](#) online.

In addition, attendees will be introduced to other online tools like blogs and backflip, which make web publishing easy, and they will also learn how to quickly find and evaluate educational materials on the web.

Quicktake

[Education Leadership Toolkit from the National School Boards Association](#)

This free online resource is designed to help school leaders deal with the many issues surrounding technology and education

Space is limited. We encourage each division to send up to four administrators. There is no cost for the workshop and a continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. Please contact Karen Richardson (karen@ivyrun.com) to register. Deadline for registration is October 31.



Conference Calendar

December 8-10, 2003, Roanoke, VA
Educational Technology Leadership
Conference [Conference Website](#)

January 22-24, 2004, Orlando, FL
FETC 2004: The Florida Educational
Technology Conference [Conference
Website](#)

March 14-16, 2004, Roanoke, VA
Virginia Society for Technology in
Education Annual Conference
[Conference Website](#)

June 21-23, 2004, New Orleans, LA
National Educational Computing
Conference [Conference Website](#)

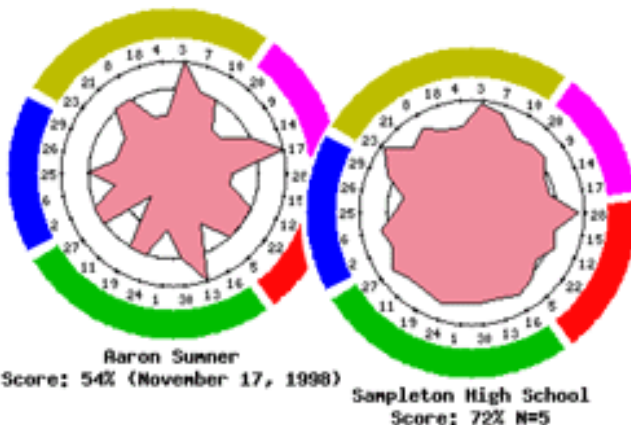
Newsletter Contact: Karen Work Richardson
karen@ivyrun.com

Profiler Helps Spread Expertise

The TAGLIT survey that is part of the VITAL program provides a snapshot of technology integration and makes a great planning tool. Another online assessment tool called Profiler is designed to help school divisions find out the level of expertise of individuals and then share that expertise with others. It is an online collaboration tool that helps develop a community of technology learners and teachers within a school.

Registration to use Profiler is simple. Once registered, users can create and administer surveys. After taking a survey, a participant gets a “badge” which graphically displays the results of the survey. As you can see from the picture below, it looks a little like a wad of gum on the bottom of your shoe. Survey takers can compare their results to the group results and view each others’ badges to see which participants have expertise in various areas. In addition, for each survey question, users can view a list of those who scored higher on that particular question. So, if a teacher wanted to learn more about using a digital camera, she could look at the badges for other teachers in her building and find someone who indicated they were proficient with a digital camera. In addition, Profiler includes links to online tutorials so users can learn more about particular subjects on their own.

Want to learn more? Visit the Profiler website at <http://profiler.hprtec.org>. The site includes a demonstration survey and easy instructions for creating an account and developing your first survey.



Teachers Tell Their Stories with Blogs

In a previous edition of the VITALNews, we talked about “blogs,” which are essentially online journals. We highlighted one English teacher’s use of a blog to help his students publish.

A recent article in Teacher Magazine discusses how school teachers are using blogs to tell their stories of frustration, learning, and success. You can [read the article online](#) and then explore the links to a variety of education-related blogs.

Don’t forget: VITAL has a blog which is periodically updated with website of interest to the VITAL community. The address of the blog is <http://vitalnews/blogspot.com>.

Alignment Workbook Available from DOE

The Division of Technology at the Virginia Department of Education has developed an Alignment Workbook designed to help school divisions align their technology plans with the Virginia Educational Technology Plan, which was released recently. Other resources are available to help with technology planning. Access all these items at the [Division of Technology homepage](#).

VITAL can help administrators develop technology plans for their divisions and individual schools. Just contact us to set up a workshop. Meanwhile, you can browse our [resources for technology planning](#), which are available online.