

# Packetville Press

Newsletter for Educators

## Take note ...

· Bureau of Labor Statistics 2004-2014 employment projection (<ftp://ftp.bls.gov/pub/naws.release/ecopro.txt>) lists Information Technology (IT) as one of the fastest growing occupations. It's predicted that software engineer jobs will increase 48% and that there will be a 55% growth in jobs for network system and data communication analysts.

· If your students are ages 12 and up, you'll want to browse the resources in Cisco's *Virtual Field Trips* ([http://www.cisco.com/web/learning/netacad/career\\_connection/promoteIT/VFT](http://www.cisco.com/web/learning/netacad/career_connection/promoteIT/VFT)). Here you'll find a video highlighting the need for IT professionals and information about the Networking Academy. Accompanying the video are resource materials that will help you introduce and use the video to stimulate interest in IT careers. The first virtual field trip is ready for your students and more will be added later. Bookmark this site and return soon.

## From Packetville to the Networking Academy

Facts you should know....

Consider how use of the Internet has expanded just in the past few years. Couple that with the need for professionals who understand how the Internet works and how to keep it running smoothly. Throughout the world there's a demand for people who know Internet Technology (IT).

You've probably heard that careers in technology have many benefits and that the pay is usually very good. Even so, it's often difficult to turn your students, especially your girls, on to careers in IT. Perhaps this is because they really don't understand what an IT career might be or how many different types of IT careers there are? Perhaps it's because they think only nerds would consider IT, or maybe they have the idea that they are not smart enough to take on technology? The bottom line is that most kids haven't the vaguest idea what IT really is.

So it's Packetville and the Networking Academy to the rescue.

Packetville, Cisco's online educational community for students ages 8-14, is

designed to give your students an understanding of the Internet and of careers related IT. It's a great place to get your students thinking about their plans for the future.

Tell your middle and high school students about the Networking Academy, (<http://www.cisco.com/web/learning/netacad/index.html>), which features a curriculum of basic and advanced Information Technology (IT) skills.

The Cisco Networking Academy Program can help high school and college students along the path to an IT-related career. The Networking Academy program blends

instructor-led teaching, hands-on lab exercises and online curriculum with embedded assessments. In addition, the Networking Academy Program courses are designed to map to

standard industry IT certifications and academic standards.

Check to see if a Cisco Networking Academy Program is offered at your high school.

It's a good idea to introduce both your students and their parents not only to the content in Packetville but also to the advantages of the Networking Academy program.

# Think IT



## Learning about Careers in IT....

1. Have your students play the games *Penny's Search* and *Career Capture*. Although *Career Capture* specifically targets IT careers, *Penny's Search* also introduces your students to careers in music, science, and medicine that rely upon IT. The games are a great way to learn while having fun.
2. Use the lessons provided for *Penny's Search* and *Career Capture* to help your students better understand the content in the games. All the materials you'll need for the lessons are available for download.
3. Have the girls in your club chart their own career paths as you lead them through the *Go Girl: Check out the Cool Careers* lesson activity.
4. Try the **Career Clusters Information Survey** (<http://www.careerclusters.org/CCInterestSurvey.cfm>) with middle and high school students. It's a tool you can use to help your students identify careers that will be of interest to them.

# Packetville Rocks

## What's to Do in Packetville?

Activities for your students ...

1. Your students can send Packetville postcards.
2. Surely you have some jokesters in your classroom. Why not have them create some Packetville or Internet jokes such as: If your router sent your dog through the Internet, what would you say? (Doggone)
3. Community service is an important part of Packetville. Browse ideas for using your students' technology expertise to help others in their community.
4. All kids love stickers and adults do, too. Using the images of Packetville characters, your students can create their own stickers. Instructions for making stickers are available in both the student and educator sections.
5. The catchy *Peter Packet* music and lyrics can be downloaded. Maybe your students will create their own background music with an Internet theme?
6. Have your students draw a map of the Internet. There are links to help get them started.
7. If you have a group that adores drama and overacting, they should love presenting the *Wildly Wireless Melodrama*.
8. Link your students to *Penny Says*, *Cool Techie News*, and *Young Heroes* for neat net info.
9. You'll find activity ideas in both the student and educator areas.
10. —And finally, don't forget the games. They'll be your students' favorite activities.

Packetville

<http://www.cisco.com/go/packetville>

Networking Academy

<http://www.cisco.com/web/learning/netacad/index.html>

## Internet & Computer Safety

What safety information is available for you in Packetville?

Like most teachers, you are probably concerned about Internet and computer safety—cyberbullies, hackers, viruses, social networking, and all the other problems associated with Internet use. You'll find lots of help with tackling these problems in Packetville.

The interactive, video-type games *Peter Packet* and *Penny's Search* give your students a better understanding of computer viruses and hackers and the difficulties they can cause for everyone online. The game content provides an excellent background for class discussions on how to avoid viruses and why hackers do what they do.

In the Educator area of Packetville, you'll find a link to *Ask Peter*. This is an area where you can ask questions and send them to the Packetville staff. It's also an area where you can learn from the questions others have asked. Suppose you're interested in helping your students learn how to deal with cyberbullies they may encounter online? Suppose you suspect that some of your students may be bullying others online? In *Ask Peter*, you'll find an article that describes cyberbullying and gives links to other sites on this topic.

Also in *Ask Peter*, there is information on safe sites. For your younger students, you might want to provide sites in your browser's Bookmarks/Favorites. Then they can zip off to the sites without typing in an incorrect Web address that might take them to an unacceptable site. For the older students, one of the best methods of keeping them within the boundaries you set is to give them a list of starter sites. That way, they won't go on a reckless Internet search to find the information they need for their classwork/homework. This method will save them time, which they'll appreciate, and will help to keep them on appropriate sites.

If you're looking for some easy steps to keep your students safe online, check out Packetville's *Ten Tips for Teachers about Online Safety*. The tips include modeling positive behavior, developing an Acceptable Use Policy (AUP), making the consequences of not abiding by the AUP clear, showing your students how to identify and deal with dangerous situations, helping them understand why they cannot give out personal information to those they have only met online, insisting that they tell you immediately if they encounter anything online that makes them feel uncomfortable, and encouraging them to learn as much as they can about the Internet in order to keep themselves safe.

