

Now What?

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Your School Board has just reviewed its technology plan and has realized that they need additional computers to meet the growing student enrollment. Without further thought the total technology budget is spent on new computers. As the teacher in the classroom you now have tremendous tools at your fingertips. You switch them on and nothing happens. No software!!

Relax! There is still hope for you. Since you now have high expectations and a low budget you have to be resourceful. There are an ever increasing number of opportunities for you to access the internet, e-mail, and tools of every kind.

Internet:

If you do not have a connection to the internet then here are some suggestions:

1. If you do not have local access to a free internet service provider ISP you may sign up for the \$20.00 per month telephone service (BCTel, NewTel, Telus etc.). Then you can use free internet access after hours and on weekends to dialup numbers that are otherwise a long distance call)
2. There are several free internet providers that give you unlimited internet time. The catch is that you may have to view the banner ads that scroll across the top of the screen. (No big deal).

Below is a site to try:

- o [NetZero](#) (unfortunately it is quite a large download file)
3. Check with a local ISP in your area that may give your school free internet access as a community service. Tell them that you will give them credit on your web page and a link to their site.

E-mail:

The service that can keep you in touch with other schools, friends, and education partners is the use of e-mail. E-mail can be free even if you do not have regular internet access. Here are some ways to sign up:

1. [Yahoo](#) has a good service
2. [Email.com](#)
3. [Excite](#)
4. Old favorite [Hotmail](#)

These sites allow you to attach files to e-mail and have simple text formatting.

Faxing:

If you do not want to use the faxing capabilities that come with Windows 95 or 98 here are some

alternatives:

Without using a dedicated line, fax machine, and potentially long distance charges you can log on to some free faxing services. [Callwave](#) and also [eFax.com](#) will give you a separate fax "phone number". This means that you do not have to tie up your only school phone line to receive faxes. If you want to send faxes you will need to log on to a different service such as [j2 Global Communications](#). [j2 Global Communications](#) has a 'Plus' service which costs you on a usage basis but allows you some different choices.

Virtual Offices:

These allow you storage space, calendars, data and file storage, address books, and web browsers. These are handy for setting up homework hotlines for parents. They can then check what homework has been assigned to their children, read school publications, catch up on announcements etc., once given a password. Check out [Visto](#), [MagicalDesk](#).

Website Hosting:

As an Seventh-day Adventist school my choice of web host is [TAGnet](#) where most of our schools have a site. Other sites are [Yahoo](#) and others.

Educational Software:

This is a huge subject and can take you just about anywhere. May I suggest that you register for the course 'Internet in the classroom' at [CUC](#). They will not disappoint you.