



After many trials, Argo Community High School (IL) found an EdTech solution that meets the needs of everyone on staff.

Argo Community High School in Summit, Illinois has a socioeconomically and racially diverse population of nearly 2,000 students. In their search for an EdTech monitoring and management solution, the staff also had diverse needs. Nick Simov, Director of Technology, Brett Lettiere, Humanities Department Chair, and Instructional Technology Coach and math teacher Scott Ball share how they've used NetRef in their first year of implementation, including how it's helped support teachers and students in the transition to remote learning.



The Discovery of NetRef

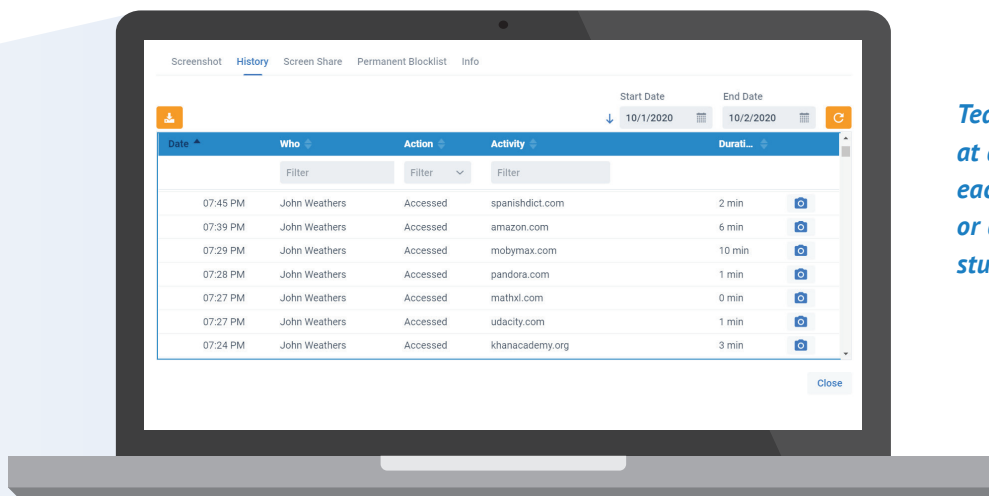
Simov tried demo after demo, but as a Windows school, other device monitoring and classroom management solutions did not meet their needs, especially in a remote environment. Argo needed a solution that allowed for mobile access and helped guide students' learning experiences. After numerous trials of other products, Simov talked with a NetRef rep at a conference. "I probably spent two hours in the booth asking all kinds of questions. He was able to answer anything and everything I asked. I left very hopeful after that experience." Soon after that meeting, Argo decided NetRef was the right fit for them and began using it during the 2019-20 school year.

During the adoption process, as a NetRef admin, Ball found the program easy to train faculty to use. "The user interface is probably the best one I've seen. . . I honestly don't have to train very much because it's a pretty intuitive setup."

Students (and NetRef) Go Remote

Now that Argo is fully remote, Ball says NetRef has been helpful in virtual classroom management, troubleshooting, and testing. During assessments Ball can monitor what's on students' screens. And if a student has a question about a section of a test, he can address the question through NetRef's chat function. He also says NetRef makes it easy for more than one teacher (such as the classroom teacher and SPED teacher) to co-manage students' engagement, especially during remote learning.

Lettiere also utilizes NetRef during testing to keep students locked into specific testing sites. Additionally, he's found the student browser and app histories to be helpful during remote learning. If he suspects a student isn't engaged, he can take a screenshot of their history and then message the student to encourage them to get back on task.



Teachers can look at a history of each of the sites or applications a student has used.

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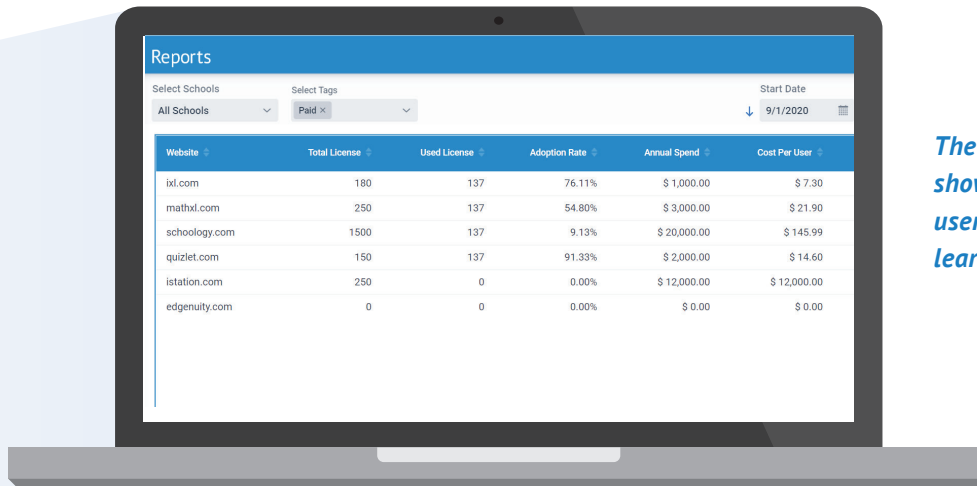
One of the reasons I chose NetRef is the fact that it's the most versatile solution... I wanted a solution that allows teachers to use it to the level of their abilities and desire of how they want to guide the learning experience in the classroom... I wanted it to be flexible enough to allow some teachers to limit more, and other teachers to limit less.

~ Nick Simov, Director of Technology

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The Importance of Reporting

At a district level, Simov finds the ability to measure EdTech ROI particularly impactful. He reviews the reports to see which paid websites are visited the most. “We invest heavily in technology... Knowing that students take advantage of it and teachers leverage that tech helps me sleep better at night.”



The image shows a laptop screen displaying a 'Reports' dashboard. The dashboard has a blue header and includes filters for 'Select Schools' (set to 'All Schools'), 'Select Tags' (set to 'Paid'), and 'Start Date' (set to '9/1/2020'). Below the filters is a table with the following data:

Website	Total License	Used License	Adoption Rate	Annual Spend	Cost Per User
ixl.com	180	137	76.11%	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 7.30
mathxl.com	250	137	54.80%	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 21.90
schoolology.com	1500	137	9.13%	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 145.99
quizlet.com	150	137	91.33%	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 14.60
istation.com	250	0	0.00%	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
edgenuity.com	0	0	0.00%	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

The ROI report shows the cost per user for purchased learning programs.

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NetRef is perfectly capable of scaling up and down either inside the classroom or outside the classroom... I think it's the most versatile solution that helps not just the teachers keep students on task but helps me justify expenses and plan for growth.

~ Nick Simov, Director of Technology

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