

Episode 10 - Leveraging Microsoft Teams to Enable Virtual Classrooms

00:00 START OF PODCAST

Amit: Good morning. Good afternoon. Good evening, listeners, wherever you are. Welcome to yet another episode of EduTech Talks with Amit and Sam. This is Amit Pawar from Microsoft here in Singapore and it's a lovely day here in Singapore. And today, I'm joined by my colleague, Sam McNeill. And we have a surprise guest, which we'll introduce in a minute. So, over to you Sam, how are you doing today?

Sam: Oh, I'm doing really well, Amit, and thank you for the introduction and always fun to be recording our podcast together. It always seems to roll around very quickly and you know, I really enjoyed the last one we did with Bill Sluss from the engineering team up at Redmond around school data sync and gosh, we're starting to suddenly see, you know, a lot of different education institutes using school data sync now, right?

Amit: Yeah, absolutely. In fact, you know, my last month has been very much involved with customers leveraging school data sync, to take advantage of rapid provisioning and bringing their users up to speed in terms of getting them into the right Teams and getting them up and running and productive in a very controlled yet flexible manner. So it's been a real eye-opener for me personally as I'm helping customers, across the region take advantage of our platform. So it's enabling new scenarios for them in terms of wrap it up, you know, bringing up to speed, say up to 40-50,000 users in a day. So in fact I've been on a call with a customer here in Singapore in the last week. We've had, you know, 46,000 users validated and provisioned and up and running and leveraging Teams. As we're going to talk a little bit more about Teams later on today. I just thought I'd share that in our school data sync as the real enabler to make sure that you know, you have this controlled provisioning as well as onboarding experience.

Sam: Look, it's good and I know for our listeners, you know they're are pretty loyal bunch, but if they missed the last podcast where we talked about school data sync, it's out there on Spotify, it's out there on Apple podcasts. It's out there on Google podcast. Do check it out and have a listen to Bill Sluss, who's the product owner for the school data sync there. But I really want to introduce [Matthew](#) from St. Stephen's College on the Gold Coast of Australia who's a guest and we're going to bring them in nice and nearly because I think Matthew's got a hint of interesting stuff that our listeners are going to want to kind of hear from today. So Matthew, thank you for joining our podcast for the first time.

02:19 INTRODUCTION OF GUEST

Matthew: Thank you very much, Sam, Amit. It's great to be on here. I've listened to quite a few of the podcasts and had some really illustrious guests on this, so hopefully what I've got to share today is interesting.

Sam: Definitely. Well, we're adding you to that list of illustrious guests and it's a great introduction too, so you know, Amit, we often start our podcast with, you know, what's new in EduTech around the world, what's being kind of capturing our attention and our focus. Is there anything that you want to kind of share with our listeners as well that's kind of been top of mind for you?

Amit: Absolutely, Sam. So every time I go visit a customer I get to hear about new and interesting ways in which they're using our platform. And last month I've spent a bunch of time with the higher education institutions around Singapore and what's caught my eyes, their use of our Team's recording feature. So like we are recording this podcast today. A lot of customers are doing the same and they are using Teams to run their classrooms, they end up recording their lectures or tutorials or whatever. Uh, what happens with those tutorials and recordings is actually it ends up on this platform called [Microsoft Stream](#), and if you're not familiar with Microsoft Stream, I strongly recommend you look it up. Basically Microsoft Streams is, I think of it as a video-sharing platform that is private and is under the university or the education institute's control. So they have ability to create channels and share videos as appropriate. And so there is a security model around the videos as well. Beyond that, Stream also enables you to do things like transcription and enables you to learn about what's been said in that particular video, which can then be searched as well. What has been interesting is over the last kind of two or three months, we've introduced this new capability in Stream, which is called "Voice Enhance". So what happens there is we leverage AI, artificial intelligence, to actually enhance the voice and remove background noises from the video. So a lot of times in a classroom or a shared space, we end up having some kind of noises from fans, air

conditioning or general noise from people around us. We can actually get rid of that and focus in on what's been said by the individual who's talking at that particular time, which makes for a lot better ability for you to not only just transcribe the video, but also to then for the listener to actually go back in time, and listen to what's been said in a much more clear manner. So I've had a lot of good feedback. So from our customers, it also reduces the need for you know, specialized audio hardware. So you can now leverage what's already on your laptop or desktop or on your phone, as you create content using Teams or any other content for that matter, which can then be uploaded into Stream as a platform for you to distribute your video content.

Sam: Look, it's a great call out, Amit. And I think it's gonna be very timely, I think has Matthew shares a bit more about the work that he's doing at St. Stephen and later on in our podcast. But I agree with you, you know, classrooms can be kind of noisy environments. They can be a lot of ambient noise and to have, you know, some of those smarts inside of Stream to be able to filter some of that out to have a really clear recording is an important thing. And now one of my fun features around Stream is that you can get the free Stream app for your iPhone or Android phone and download stream videos for offline usage, which effectively makes them a bit like a podcast. Right?

Amit: Yeah, absolutely. I think that is a new scenario that we are, you know, I'm finding out, honestly as I'm talking to more customers is their use of Stream really gets enhanced when we can show the integration between Teams, but not, not only that, even their ability to ingest existing videos. If you've got a library of videos that you may have hosted on another platform or you have a bunch of MP4s or any other format that you want to convert and put it up for streaming, that can then later be consumed on different form factors of devices like your phones, your tablets, onto the web and obviously on desktop, it really is a change in the way the workflow of creating content, distributing content, all of this in a secure, well-managed way really changes the way we think about video as not just being yet another format, but, a truly first class citizen in our productivity scenario. So you'll see us doing more around that. And I can't reveal everything that was shown to us recently at the internal trainings that we had in Seattle. But I just want to create excitement with our listeners that what you've seen is not the end of the road. We've got a lot more innovation and enhancements to the stream platform coming in the next few months.

Sam: Yeah, interesting. I was talking to a higher education customer just this morning. We hit a 90-minute session together and it was really focused around learner support and helping all students have, equity of access to the learning materials. And it's interesting they were using zoom rooms for a lot of their distance teaching and they were getting MP4 videos at the end but they were very excited about the possibility of ingesting those zoom MP4s into Stream and the ending Stream work its magic with that transcription and then making it searchable across, you know, their learning platform as well. So it's a great call out for Stream. And I'm going to pick out one more, thing there around the security side of things because that was probably going to be my top of mind today. I was reading in the paper this morning just around how, you know, surveys from the BNZ bank, bank of New Zealand was suggesting that Kiwis were getting less interested in managing passwords and far more focused around biometrics. And you know, that's an interesting kind of observation from them and I think it resonates with you and I across the security play and that schools are trying to adopt. And we know that Microsoft has a very good security story around biometrics and my Surface Laptop 3 that I'm using, obviously here's Windows Hello that does the biometric around my face. I know that many of the Surface Pro devices have a fingerprint biometrics as well. And you know we've talked in the past about FIDO2 keys as well for biometric multifactor authentication. And it's exciting to see that perhaps at a consumer level and certainly at an education sector level, biometrics is getting in there to kind of strengthen that security story. Are you sort of, seeing some of the things to that, Amit?

Amit: Absolutely. In fact of, we've had a lot of interest in this, as we want to also include younger children into the conversation and sometimes having young kids remember passwords can be a challenge, let alone for adults. I think we all have suffered that. So having the ability to go password-less is really... a real lifesaver for a lot customers. It's a cost saver, but it's also enabling new scenarios, for example, where we can actually start using things like FIDO keys. So FIDO is a standard and the support that standard in Windows allows you to literally log in with a USB key without a password. And that really changes in a workflow in terms of having shared devices, having devices where you know, anyone can log in without really needing to know the password and that changes, you know, the time it takes to set up a meeting or a classroom and get productive in the classroom on a given device. So it's a nice way to think about not just being a security feature but also a collaboration and productivity enhancement capability that's built into the platform.

Sam: Totally. And I think, you know, we shared a really fun week in Redmond a couple of weeks ago and we heard, you know, sessions around Microsoft's approach to zero trust password-less future. You know, we had conversations around a conditional access that I talked about on the podcast last time, but I think we really need to perhaps get a security expert on our podcast, right, to perhaps talk about that zero trust architecture and how schools can move towards that from perhaps an older model of, you know, the firewall is the gate that protects everybody to how do you protect your identity in the cloud? I think that'd be an interesting podcast that many of our listeners would appreciate, some guidance on there from an expert but I want to kind of move along to Matthew cause we've been a bit remissive that not having him share his thoughts around here. Matt, is there anything that you've sort of seen top of mind or there's been working effectively in your school or elsewhere that you wanted to share with our listeners today?

Matthew: Well, I did want to bring up some of the apps that we've been using that have been around for a little while, but it's taken me some time to be able to bring it into the curriculum. And 3D builder and we're talking for the younger kids and lab through maybe six and seven. 3D builder has been around for a while and I've used it down all the way down to year three prior to this year, but we used that last year with a project that we did in year 7 digital solutions based around food waste and food insecurity and we created some things with 3D builder. We also used 3D paint to create new logos, new three-dimensional logos. We were able to then bring in the photos app and make some rich mixed reality videos where the kids could have the 3D logos spinning around in their hands, all done through their, BYOL computers. We're a Microsoft school and have been for a long time and it's great to be able to leverage those awesome apps that are there, nice and free and they're really quite innovative and contemporary. So that's something that has things been around for a while, but it's taken me a while to actually bring it into a big project for kids. And it worked really well last year doing it again this year, but I was triggered, my memory is triggering you talking about Stream, we use Stream here as well, where we're a big online learning school. We use the D2L Brightspace learning management system a lot, all their core curriculums on in courses and so on. And our teachers are great. They make lots of videos where you've got a light board where the teachers go and talk straight to camera and do their annotations on the light board. And so we've got a lot of videos that teachers have made over this year with our new year 12. I've got a couple of our leaders who wanted to do something called the morning show. So at the start of each week they wanted to be able to play a video to all of them, all of the kids in the college for a tutor group in the morning before classes start. So we had to work out the best way to do that. So I said, well, we'll use Stream. And then I found something I didn't know was there, even though I've used Stream quite a bit and that was the ability to have a channel and then embed that channel. So I've embedded their morning show channel on the front page of our LMS. So when they go there they see this latest video. And they also see the other ones as well and we can see the counts and the times they've been played and so on. So that's, I've got two episodes in there now, put another one up today or on Monday. I mean that's going to be a great catalog of the videos that the student leaders have made just to talk about what's coming up in the week ahead and so.

Sam: Fantastic. Thanks for sharing that Matthew. And I guess you know those 3D tools that are built into Windows 10 have high engagement and appeal for students. Just wondering if your students have taken that to the next level at all and explored any 3D printing of the models that they've been creating.

Matthew: Yes, we did. We bought some brand new 3D printers last year for really high-end 3D printers. So I've done 3D printing in the past, but in order to be able to understand how these printers work because they're really self-contained and so on, I incorporated 3D builder and they, whatever the kids made, which are basically fairly basic key rings with their names on there or the name of the app that we were studying on there, and they printed those out and took those home. So it took about an hour per print job. So I did, I did four print jobs at a time. So it took a while. But it was great for me. It made me learn how to use the hardware and the software of the printer and it enabled the kids to use a very basic 3D builder but also get something back that they've made.

Sam: Good stuff, good stuff. So you know, we've invited you on the podcast because you know you've been making some LinkedIn posts for a while now and you know, they get a lot of attraction in one in particular that you posted earlier this week. Really has stood out and got a lot of visibility underneath and it's around your use of Microsoft Teams to support some distance learning, really. And so I know we've kind of had you sharing a few thoughts already, but maybe give us a quick intro about, you know, your role and maybe a little snapshot of the school that you're working in as well. And then I'd love to dive a bit deeper into how you've been using and adapting it. And I guess starting the journey of using Microsoft Teams for supporting students that are not physically present in the classroom?

Matthew: Certainly before I do, I'd like to mention Microsoft some. I've been a Microsoft or I was a Microsoft Innovative Educator expert from about 2014 till around last year and we had a lot of really great teachers in there from Australia, New Zealand and so on, and one gentleman by the name of Michael Valentine, who works from a house-school over, in Western Australia. I know he's done a lot of distance-Ed type work using OneNote for a lot of the kids who are sort of out on properties but still studying through the house-school. So I thought it'd be apt to talk to say a shout out to Michael on Valentine's Day, but we recently had a situation, we've got a very large cohort of international students. So by that I mean the students who've come from overseas and studying here doing homestay or students who have come from overseas, they're living here with their parents and English is not their first language. So they often go and do intensive English classes and then get mainstream and so and so quite a few different permutations there. But for the start of this year, for the first and second week of this year, we have quite a few students away, couldn't make it into school. So the teachers were saying, well you know we've got this really great, really well filled it out Year 12 LMS courses, curriculums, they're all there online. What we don't have is that interaction with the teachers to maybe to get a bit of, to set the year up really well cause right at the start of the year the kids are new to the class. They're new to the subject and we really want to set this up but we can't get to them face to face. We can maybe give them some instructions via email, you know, all the coursework is there in our courses, but we're missing that connection to be able to talk to these kids. So, at the start of the year, there's a lot of things going on, and we had these teachers saying, Oh, I really need to send some videos to my students. And then we had the executive director of international education, Sam Holmes, came and said, "Can we live stream?" I said, "Well we can, let's work out the best way to do it.". So our phones used to run on Skype for business last year, but now that we switched our Telephony over to Teams as well. We're not a big Teams user, we haven't rolled it out to all staff and we haven't rolled it out to any students as such, where we are using in pockets so we can understand how it works. And I'd been using Teams for around about nine months or so. So I had a bit of an understanding, but I'd never use the live streaming or used it in this way. So we set out to do was make sure that we could do a couple of different permutations again to, to reach our students who couldn't come and be on site in the classroom. So I had a really good partner to help me there. His name's Pat Dare. He's a senior math teacher here at the college. Been here a long time, a big advocate of online learning, big advocate of making videos. And he helped me and we worked on the best strategy that we could use and that was to use Microsoft Teams. Basically we use the teacher's computer. We had a student because the teacher was at the class, at the front of the class working on the board. We had a student press record and press off-record, that that student, the producer. So they could also let any students in you come in to join the session or say, well I've got a question here through the chat and they could ask the question to the teacher. So using that combination and all our teachers have Microsoft Surface Book 2s. So we're pretty lucky in that regard. We've got, you know, really great Microsoft hardware as well. So that's what we did. We had different scenarios. We had A) we had live streaming, so one or two students or more in on the session live streaming, the lesson teacher at the front of the board and that's basically, sitting in the classroom virtually by that stream. The other scenario we had was, students, being live streamed but also we're recording the session as well. So we also realized that even though some kids are in the classroom too, they might want to access that video as well. Make it a bit of an equity thing in that regard. If the student missed it cause they weren't on campus, if they wanted to watch it again because they were on campus or they wanted to watch it again and they were part of the live stream, there was a video. And what I really loved, what made it so easy, you know, I didn't know this would happen was in the chat when the video's finished, video renders pops up and it gives you those really shipped really quick and easy options. So you've got share and that's the best one because when we share it, we can open out to everyone in the organization to watch as well. It would send it up to Stream and it will be housed there. That made it so easy because production after the videoing is time-consuming thing, often for teachers, especially if they have to go from class to class, the fact that it would save the video for the teacher and they could share it with everyone to dig it out straight to their kids really made a lot quicker. And the last permutation was just recording the video. The students couldn't make it to the session, but I record the video and then the teacher would email that out to all students in the class. So there were the main ways that we did it. We didn't do it with every class because we didn't have every class with students who weren't there. Some classes had more than others. Some were, you know, there was, more than the students who were in the class who were away. But we were able to sort of cater for all of them in that way and also cater for the kids who could turn up as well cause they could go and watch the video.

Amit: This is amazing, you know, for sharing this. I mean I'm just blown away by the adoption of this technology inside of your school, so I just want to peel the onion back a little bit. I feel like as you've mentioned, you've a great understanding of the platform and how you're leveraging it for different scenarios. It sounds like, you know, a lot of our listeners would benefit from the sharing that you've just done there. I've got a different question in terms of from everything you've mentioned, you've got your colleagues who are helping you set this up. You've got students who are involved that

to me talks a lot to the culture within the school. So there's a lot of listeners who are, you know, not only here to understand from a technology perspective, I would love for you to share from a culture perspective, what is the school and individuals in the school and yourself and your colleagues and also from a student perspective, what kind of culture are you driving towards that's enabling this. So it's not just, "Hey, you are a remote student and you happen to have joined the Teams or you have just happened to be listening to this on Stream.". What's the culture behind it to enable the learning outcome that really is leveraging and using the technology as purely yet another tool that is making this possible. Because to me Teams, is that platform that really is connecting people. So I would love to get you to share a bit more about the culture that you know, the journey you've been on a little bit before even getting onto Teams. What kind of things that you did, you're going to engulf this culture into your school?

Matthew: Well, in 2016 I actually worked for Microsoft as a teacher ambassador. So part of that was working remotely with the other two members who were in Melbourne and Sydney and we would just use exclusively, Skype for business in one night to do all their planning, all our work together. We did webinars using Skype for business, so I had a background of that sort of online webinar approach, so I was pretty comfortable with that. Teams is different somewhat, but still holds a lot of the same sort of functionality if not better and more elements. When you talk about the culture of the school, this is my third year at the school. I started in 2018 and I came in as an assistant director and the director at the time was a gentleman by the name of Peter West who is very well known within Microsoft. He was an MIE as well and I worked for him about 10-12 years ago at another school, but he's also very well known in the flip learning community and the blended learning community, and in LMS community and a huge advocate for online learning. So culture was something that I stepped into in a lot of ways that Peter and the staff at the school had built in the leadership team as well. I must add, certainly the principal, Jamie Dorrington one of that culture and wanting to be a school that leveraged online learning and technology to make learning more personalized for students, so I was very lucky in that regard. The culture was set up in a lot of ways. What happened was, as I said, I had, we had teachers saying rather than me saying our teachers, we've got to do this. We had teachers coming at me and saying it's not enough just to have the courses and tell them what to do. I need to have a connection and talk to these kids and I need them to be able to see me. When you talk about the human interaction that Teams has allowed, we've got to remember, we've got some senior kids who, this is the last year of school, it's the most important year of school and they're missing the first two weeks and they actually have exams. Exam book are coming up in the next one or two weeks for one of their units, A) they're missing, their really important start of the year. We had our LMS courses open over the course of the holidays so they could go in there and we had thousands of times where the students had gone in and looked at their courses to get ready for this year. But we had these kids who couldn't be on campus in the first couple of weeks of school and it's really important. Also there are slides in there they brought themselves to their home and the message was on board as only so much Netflix intertwined with my schoolwork. So to have a connection with their, friends and their teachers during these sessions was really, important to them and it's really great for their mental health. So it was great to be able to provide anyone in my position, which is that, someone in the E-learning, who's there to upskill and find out great learning technologies to bring into the classroom, what we actually want is level of demand, where people are coming to you and saying, help me find a solution to this. And you say, yeah, we should be able to do that. What's the best way? What's the easiest way? And the most efficient way to do, what you want to do? And it helps that we're a Microsoft school and we've got most of these tools already at our fingertips. We don't have to go and purchase something else or learn a new app or a new ecosystem as such. So their culture really is ingrained there. I'm seeing it now with virtual reality. I've got quite a few Oculus glass and I've been trying to, you know, build up momentum and now I'm getting teachers asking me, "Hey, let me get those headsets in. I've got something I want to do.". So I think their culture, Peter West and the principal and the leadership of the school, really big say in that culture. And we, you know, we've got some great teachers. The bottom line is they just want the students to do their best. This was the best thing to enable that to happen.

Sam: Matthew, so many little gold nuggets just hidden away and what you were sharing here. I'm going to try to pull out a few and maybe just short answers back to some of these here, but you've really touched on, I think one of the unique things about teachers, right? As they're at their heart, they really care about their students. They want their students to perform well and if technology enables and facilitates that, they're going to try and implement that in an effective way. Right. So you know, spot on and it's great that you've developed a culture where they're coming to you. You know, when I was last working in schools, I was at St. Andrew's College, kind of a similar school to St. Stephen I guess in, you know, we implemented a data project and the goal was to try to get our teachers data curious. And when we achieved that, they would then come to us and say, can you help us with data around this? Or how can I tell these groups of students are performing well? So you know, credit to what you, what you've done. Then I guess a couple of things. One, you know you

see the introduction of Teams, you're not using it extensively at the stage, but it is an important tool for kind of connecting and particularly around the mental health side of things. Are there any elements of the chat feature that Teams supports so well being used as part of this distance learning?

Matthew: So our students haven't got access to the Teams app as such yet. So what we did was we went into Outlook calendar or to the calendar in Teams and we would invite all of the students in the class to the session or just, well yeah, I think that's the main way we did it. And then they were joined by the browser and they would put in their name as a guest and then that way they would join sometimes if we didn't invite everyone, they didn't have the rights to see that video cause they weren't in the calendar meeting. So that's when we went share straight in the chat in Teams who could share and then make it available to our organization so that the students could find it really quickly, or when the teacher emailed the whole class and say, here's the link to the video from today, anyone could open it who got that link. We, as I said, we haven't rolled it out to students yet. Whether that's going to happen, you know, that's still something that got decided a little bit down the road. Certainly the goal this year is to build a Teams culture within the teachers and hopefully the admin staff as well. But what I've worked out, and I think what the message is with Teams, it's a different way of communicating. It's not a way to do what you've been doing before. So it's not a way to replicate a G Drive or it's not a way to just have a different way to email someone. It's a different way of communicating. So it's a different paradigm enabled by the tools within Teams. So for management, the use of OneNote, we are a massive OneNote school, not so much within outside of the class notebook context. Although down in our primary school, they have been using staff notebook for all, their primary school staff meetings and so on. They use that quite religiously. In secondary it's more the class notebook. In primary actually this is quite interesting. In primary, year five, six at the college it's touchscreen pen requirement, so whatever laptop you bring it's got a touch screen and pen. In our year five and six teachers, I've almost moved to a paperless scenario where they use OneNote exclusively kids print documents to one note and they use the pen to fill them out. It's really quite amazing to see. I've never seen such an extensive level of use and we're talking year five and six. I think at the moment we're just using it, scenarios I say to, we're looking to build the capacity in the teachers and admin staff.

Sam: Great. Right now, and I know you've kind of had to be quite nimble and agile here to respond to the situation of some of your students not being able to be physically at campus, but has it been any exploration of Bluetooth microphones that the teachers could wear just to improve their audio quality in a classroom? Kind of like what Amit was talking earlier around the stream recording side of things, any thoughts around Bluetooth mics for teachers?

Matthew: This stage, it's sort of the next phase where we can go after what we've had to sort of conjure up on the spot with something that was almost out of the box. Just worked great. I had been thinking about that. I've been talking to the IT department to think about maybe you could set up some rooms that are set up specifically. So teacher just comes in, there's already computer ready to be able to record the session rather than having to use your own computer. And for that there would be some better hardware available. So you wouldn't be relying on the hardware built into the laptop. Specifically, Bluetooth mics, no, not yet. But certainly we use a radio mic from the teachers to use on the light board. So for those of us who are listening who don't know what a Lightboard is; it's basically two pieces of glass with led light strips in between to illuminate them. And the teacher stands behind that, the whiteboard with the camera in front with a good lighting. And I use fluoro pens and they are right on the light board. So if you're doing equations or anything in science or anything like that, even Japanese, one of our Japanese teachers use it all the time for script writing and so on. They're right on the light board. They talk straight to the camera. It's not like in the classroom and you're looking over your shoulder when you're writing on the board and that sort of thing. And then in post-production they flipped the image so you can see that the writing, the correct way. So in that scenario we do have a radio mic to use there to get to pick up the sound. So it's quite professional. So I think maybe if we look through this period, if we look to see what we can do that may to make the quality a bit better, we do agree some of the feedback from the students, we ask these kids, you know, "How was it?". And they said, "Yeah, the lessons were great. Probably the resolution could be better.". Now that could be, you know, the angle of the laptop. Cause often you're on the desk at the front or it could be how close it is to the front of the room. Or it could be something to do with Wi-Fi connectivity or it could be a smudge on the lens, lots of different things. I think that's the next phase. If this is something that we want to do a bit more regularly, not just for people who are away, or for people who are away now and again. We have had teachers, since this sort of mass rollout of streaming and videoing, have individual students who are away and use it. Just yesterday I had a teacher show me some of year sevens who two year sevens sitting in the side of the teacher's computer with a student on the other end. He was away sick that

day and they were helping that student work through their work. I thought that was quite amazing. I think a little bit down the line we can look at something's a bit more permanently. Bit better hardware.

Sam: Yeah. Awesome. There's so much new technology landing in that space and we've got partners making hardware for dedicated teams rooms and mobile hardware that can be put in to kind of capture some of their audio effectively as well. And I know Amit and I, we present across Asia Pacific to audiences who speak different languages and we often put on Bluetooth microphone so that we can use the PowerPoint translator subtitles to output to Bahasa or to Malay and other languages as well. Right. And we've found that to be a pretty effective tool.

Amit: Absolutely. I think Sam, you know, I think we've hit on so many points during this conversation with Matthew. It's been quite rich in terms of the experience you've had here, listening to how St. Stephens College's transforming and the culture's transforming and the use of the technology is enabling new scenarios. It's been an amazing podcast for me as I'm listening to the conversation here develop over the last few minutes. Matthew, I think I want to hit on one point in terms of, you've mentioned a lot about you personally being a MIEE and for listeners who don't know MIEE is, that is Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert and that's a program that Microsoft runs to help educators as we have today. Matthew you are from St. Stephen's College in Queensland, Australia. We want to make our professional development available to as many teachers as possible and we do that through our education.microsoft.com website where we have what is called the Microsoft Educator Center and that has all of these trainings. Matthew, I'd love to understand a little bit more about that culture of also creating professional development. So you're learning the technology, but also learning about the use of that technology as you've mentioned towards and on throughout this podcast today. So as we are, you know, coming to our time for the day, I just want to make sure our listeners understand that this is not just something you can just start off without a lot of background. So to get that background, how has the MIEE and MIE programs helped you?

Matthew: My relationship with Microsoft, I'm talking back 2014 is as easily been the best thing I've done professionally. Of course, the people you meet through the program and as we move on through the years, we see what they are doing now. Like there's a gentleman, [Ben Hilliam](#) over in New Zealand working for education perfect...

Sam: Yeah, I used to work with [Ben Hilliam](#)!

Matthew: There's people from that program and what they've gone on to do and they're still great friends and with, there's a lot of them on the Gold Coast and in Brisbane, and we always catch up and we have people like Darren Rackemann at Hillcrest. He'll run PD sessions with Peta Jorgensen there as well as our MIE and is also now a Microsoft fellow from the Gold Coast, so they're running teach meets styles, a get-together every term. I mean I got as part of that program. I've got to go to Seattle. I'd never been to America. I went to Seattle in 2015 with a lot of these people I've just mentioned. And that was fantastic to go through look at the campus. Microsoft put us up for a week there and that was fantastic. St. Stephens College is a Microsoft showcase school as well, and I've got to go back to Seattle again with a part of that program last year. You know, I've always been interested in technology. I remember back when I was in year seven, that's in the 80s where I think my year seven teacher brought in a computer to the classroom and would let some of us use the computer to do some basic to do, some turtle programming. You know, it's always been an interest to me but joining the Microsoft MIE program and using, and leveraging the tools like the educator community, online learning a lot of teachers here at the school. I do it for this term. I'm doing a total online learning PD. I normally do, three or four PDs a term afternoons. So it's all, online this term. And one of the activities they had to do was do the introduction to one night, even though the great OneNote is in use already. A lot of, they did that and they sent me the evidence with the badge. So to be able to use those online resources as well is awesome. But the people and the places I've been with Microsoft that, that turned into becoming a Microsoft, teacher ambassador in 2016 as I said I worked for Microsoft and I went to schools and then trained teachers and OneNote was the big ticket item right there. And that was when Microsoft just had turned Minecraft into the Education Edition too. So that was very exciting, you know, and to be able to, I didn't know how to use OneNote till I came to Microsoft and now I use it every day all the time. It's just been the best thing for me professionally. I can't praise it enough for any teacher no matter what level you are. To have a go at the Microsoft Innovative Educator Program, I'm going to into there's, so many great things about it. I really can't praise it enough.

TIPS AND TRICKS 34:48

Sam: Awesome Matthew and I think you know, longtime listeners of our podcast will know that we've given many shout outs to OneNote and the work that [Mike Tholfson](#) and his team are doing to just continually evolve that product. But you know, also keep it front and center from an accessibility perspective. That's what really excites me about OneNote and actually as we look to wrap the podcast and move into sort of tips and tricks for our audience. That's the one thing I'm going to share today actually. So if any of our listeners were watching Bett London back in the middle of January, so about a month ago we announced a new feature coming to OneNote called OneNote Live Captions and I can just imagine for your distance learners students that are away from the class, but also students with accessibility needs, maybe they are hearing impaired, maybe the English speakers of other languages having OneNote captions, live captions turned on was amazing. So this is right now in private beta, it's going to be released in the US, summer. But this enables the teacher to use the Microsoft translator feature, put up a QR code that the students can enter into OneNote for live captions and then they will get a real time transcription of everything that teacher's saying directly into OneNote. Now they can pause that live feed, they can highlight, they can do markups and when they have played in the rest of the transcript will appear that they can see. They can also do real time translation of that. And again, that's using Microsoft's intelligent cloud and pairing the intelligent edge with the Azure cognitive services. And the best part is that it will automatically create a new sub page inside their notebook with the entire transcript and each session that they attend or put in the QR code for will create a new transcript page so I can just see the accessibility features there, for One Note just being awesome in helping those, remote and distance learners as well. So that's my tip and trick. Make sure you check out the video from the Bett London event and watch for that being edited to your OneNote soon. Amit, do you have a tip and trick and Matthew maybe after that if you've got anything to share?

Amit: Absolutely. Thanks Sam. I think, yeah, my tip or trick for this one is actually helping our customers browse the Internet better with the release of Edge Chromium on January. Well, I'm a big fan because I think I've been waiting a long time for a secure private browsing experience that brings the best of Microsoft and the best of open source with the chromium backend engine. What I really love about that is the ability for you to create an app out of pretty much any website. And I've been a big fan of that in terms of creating a custom look and feel for a website, which is a lot more, I think, pleasing, aesthetically pleasing, but also from a usability perspective, makes it a lot more usable than you have more real estate with a website being converted into app, for example, I mean, because they're just based on chromium. A Google alert is now fully supported and so are many of the Google services. So what I've been able to do is on Windows create a YouTube app using Edge Chromium, a critical alert app using Edge Chromium or even Twitter as an app. And there are many tutorials available on our website. So if you're interested, you know, to become an edge insider, I strongly recommend you go to [edgeinsider.com](#) and help us make a very secure and safe and productive browsing experience for our users across all platforms. By the way, it's not just available on Windows, it's available on Mac, iOS, Android and also come into Linux soon.

Sam: Amit, look, it's a great one. And we've talked previously about MDMs, mobile device management tools specifically Intune and Intune for Education. And with Chromium Edge being released you'll now be able to install Chrome extensions and apps and directly into the Chrome browser, but also the Edge Chromium browser, to, all through Intune. So a throwback to those, podcasts if you're looking at how to manage devices and apps on devices as well, check those out. But great call on it, Amit and Matthew, any sort of tip or trick that you might want to share with our audience that have been listening today?

Matthew: Well, I definitely think Microsoft has been really awesome in accessibility over the last number of years and everything that they're doing points towards at the apps in the processes being accessible to everyone. I think that's absolutely fantastic. One of the things that teachers have been using, especially down in our learning enhancement, and I had a teacher talk to me about this yesterday and how great it's going is just using a dictate tool in learning tools in OneNote. What I like about it and what will you sort of use it for is we get the students, they put a headset on and if they can read or have a really, it's creating a narrative or they're writing something for them to be able to, they say, I'm talking to reluctant writers for them to be able to talk about what they're thinking, form their ideas, form their sentences, and have those printout on the screen for them and they don't have to handwrite them, which is half the battle is such a great tool. So one of the thing about it, it's such an amazing learning tool and practice tool as well because to be able to speak clearly, to enunciate, to talk and have pauses at the end of sentences so the full stop goes in, all that sort of thing. To be real, have real clarity of speech using the dictate tool in OneNote is fantastic for that. And at the end of it, they've got, you know, a big chunk of text that they can then go and edit, fix up, copy, paste, and then they've got whatever they need to do. And it really takes that, those, the reluctant writers, it gives them the opportunity to have success without having to go

through the handwriting process. If anyone's seen my handwriting, you'd know how terrible it is. I wish I had this back in my day.

Sam: A great call out for more of the learning tools and accessibility. And I think as we close here, Matthew, just a heartfelt thanks from me, for what you've shared with our listeners today. You've given awesome detail and you've also shown that you know, when unusual circumstances strike and you can't get all of your students into the classroom, technology can be an enabler in the end, and you can actually rapidly deploy platforms like Microsoft Teams to achieve those learning outcomes that you've been seeking for. So thank you for sharing those with our listeners. I'm sure we're going to get some really positive feedback from this and Amit, you opened us up for the podcast today. Do you want to close us out with a final thought?

Amit: Absolutely. Thank you Sam for sharing and bringing Matthew to this podcast. I hope listeners have really gained a lot as I have personally or learning from all of the things that Matthew is doing. Awe are here to hear from you listeners in terms of feedback, any comments in terms of what you're hearing here? If you want to get us into, you know, talk about more details about any topics and we will definitely take that feedback into consideration as we bring more guests along as well. And let us know, if you want to hear more from our guests rather than just Sam and I talking to you guys over the podcast. So thank you very much again, Matthew and Sam for joining me. Signing off for this month for our podcast, EduTech Talks. This is Amit Pawar. Thank you very much.

Sam: Thanks guys. Thanks Matt.

END OF PODCAST