NETWORKING 101

WEST VIRGINIA NETWORK (WVNET)

A VISIT BY GOVERNOR'S CHIEF OF STAFF

Chief of Staff Rob Alsop stands in front of Associated Architects, Inc. drawing of new WVNET Innovation Center

May eleventh two thousand twelve just might be recorded in the history books as one of the most phenomenal events WVNET has ever experienced. *Governor's Chief of Staff Rob Alsop (pictured at left with Dan O'Hanlon at left, Rob Alsop at right, staff member Josh Friend far left)* came to WVNET for a meeting with WVNET and WVU on a proposed new data center and presentation by Charleston architect Paul Tennant. WVNET Director and Deputy Director Dan O'Hanlon and Allen Daugherty respectively, staff members and an entourage of some of the finest representatives from WVU's powerhouse, representatives from a Charleston-based architect and a contractor joined the Chief of Staff in the conference room . After a brief *Meet and Greet with WVNET staff members* in which Chief of Staff Rob Alsop said to employees *"Thank you for the hard work you do for the State. We really appreciate everything you do,"* Mr. Alsop toured the WVNET facility, including the NOC (Network Operations Center) and administrative office areas to see first hand the need for a new data center and administrative office

BBL Carlton Presentation

building. While the weatherman cooperated and it was a rain free day, WVNET CFO Donna Meadowcroft still had rain barrels of a sort snuggled up to the edges of her office roof line for collection purposes when the weatherman isn't quite so kind to her circumstances and her *"other duties as assigned"* becomes monitoring the indoor rain level. Mr. Alsop saw first hand the wear and tear on a building aged not quite so gracefully, i.e., water-spotted ceiling tiles, missing ceiling tile areas in places where it just makes better sense to not put them back, the lack of energy efficient lighting, HVAC with —- no, does it really in this day and age —- could it possibly have any *EER* at all? While some staff members like it hot and others like it cold in terms of temperature, they have learned to live with whatever there is if they want to work here and WVNET is staffed with some of the finest IT and support staff professionals in the State. It was clear that lack of available office space for new hires is quickly becoming another issue as WVNET meets customer demands in the areas of several new service offerings and meets the need for increased support for others. By the time the day's activities and presentations were over, it was obvious the time has come for WVNET's new Tier 3 data center and administrative office building. The approximate $25 million cost needed to fund the data center remains a challenge.

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Rob Alsop visit/pictures continued...

WVNET Director Dan O'Hanlon talks with Chief of Staff Rob Alsop in WVNET Data Center

WVU's Russ Lorince (from left), Mark Six, Narvel Weese, William Hutchens, Fred King and David Satterfield await WVNET Data Center Tour

Photos courtesy of WVNET Staff Member Randy Long

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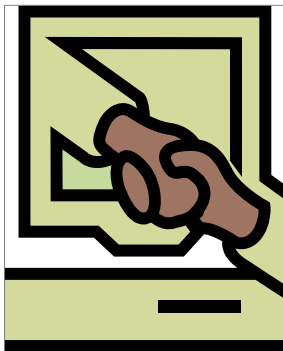
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Update

WVNET Installs New K-12 Email Server —- WVNET is pleased to announce the installation of the Oracle Communications Unified Communications Suite by the Systems Support Group led by Richard Lynch along with the assistance of Bonnie Lynch in the role of WVNET liaison to the West Virginia Department of Education. In particular, the Oracle Communications Messaging Server component of the suite brings the new convergence webmail interface to K12's 75,000 mailbox user community. This feature rich Ajax and Javascript environment provides a sophisticated email interface usable from any computer without needing to install special software. The new Oracle software package also supports more traditional email clients like Thunderbird and Outlook Express using IMAP and POP3 protocols. Our implementation of this cutting edge enterprise class package uses load balancing across multiple virtual servers within the WVNET data center giving several levels of redundancy and assures maximum uptime of this important service.

WVNET Attends 3ROX Member Meeting —- Deputy Director Allen Daugherty and Telecommunications Network Specialist Frank Seesink *(pictured right to left)* attended the 10 May 2012 3ROX Member Meeting at Robert Morris University near Pittsburgh, PA.

WVNET Hosts the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) — WVNET began hosting the ASHE in March of this year. ASHE uses online tools to collect and review proposals for their annual conference. The last few years, ASHE has experienced challenges with their hosting service as the number of proposals submitted exceeded 1000. With WVNET's hosting, ASHE reports the system handled the load without any trouble and they received a record number of proposals (1281). ASHE uses a custom proposal review system. The review process handles 12 divisions, 24 division chairs and over 600 volunteer reviewers. Thanks to WVNET, ASHE can now easily handle additional proposals to review to provide a successful conference. WVNET is proud to host this national organization of 2,000 educators including many in West Virginia. The website allows the

organization to manage their membership needs, elections and conference in addition to the proposal submission/review process. By moving to WVNET, the organization can keep their investment in the custom process for a few more years. *Kim Nehls, Executive Director of ASHE, said, "ASHE just experienced our greatest number of proposal submissions, and the process was smooth sailing! I am very grateful to WVNET, the IT Staff, and in particular Dana Keith, who helped us navigate the transition and manage the proposal submissions with aplomb. In previous years, the proposal system was slow, cumbersome and very much in danger of crashing. I cannot tell you what a relief it was to have strong technical support behind us this year. Thank you for everything."*

Dan O'Hanlon and WVNET Innovation Center

Dan O'Hanlon briefs WVNET Staff Members

Rob Alsop and Dan O'Hanlon at Data Center

Speaking of WVNET Updates, *here's a big* ***HAPPY BIRTHDAY*** *to the following staff members with birthdays in May: George Cook, Lola Fincham, Yvonne Howdershelt, Mike Karolchik, Ben Mays and Dan O'Hanlon.*