NETWORKING 101

WEST VIRGINIA NETWORK (WVNET)

SPECIAL EDITION 2012 YEAR IN REVIEW

From the Director...

What a year this has been at WVNET! It began in January with a visit from Governor Earl Ray Tomblin and a high-powered delegation from WVU. This was preceded by visits from Senators Prezioso and Beach and followed by visits from State Auditor Glen Gainer and his ERP Team, Chief of Staff Rob Alsop, Delegate Barbara Fleischauer and Chief Technology Officer Gale Given. They all came to discuss our plans for a new Data Center and how the state might collaborate with us when it was finished.

This was the year WVNET, with the support of a $3.5 million federal grant backed by the Governor, upgraded its network to a 20G optical ring. It runs from Pittsburgh [with 3ROX] to Morgantown [with WVU] to Charles-ton [with State Government] to Huntington [with Marshall University] to Columbus [with OARNet], and then back to Pittsburgh for complete self-healing redundancy. This is allowing us to lower our cost for internet access by more than 30%. Since doing this, WVNET has taken the role of Internet2 provider for the state from Marshall. All K12 schools, libraries, colleges and state agencies will continue to have access to this rich, superfast network to reach supercomputers and all kinds of new educational materials. And this all happened just in time since West Virginia was hit first by the Derecho, and then by Hurricane Sandy. Through it all, through the incredible efforts of our Network Staff, the WVNET network never stopped working!

*Continued from above...*It was a year of software and hardware upgrades and new programs to help our schools. WVNET did a massive upgrade of the K12 Oracle mail system. We set up a virtual learning system by taking over hosting Blackboard from Fairmont State and initiating an online RBA Program called WVROCKS. Our staff installed a brand new P770 IBM server to better host our 12 campuses running Banner. We instituted DegreeWorks and Argos and took over maintenance of the P-20 database. We also set up Digital Campus Academy, a self-paced online learning tool. And we were chosen by Cisco to partner with RENCI at Duke University to test their first GENI Rack and get it certified. This will soon be required for scholars seeking certain types of NSF grant funding. WVNET is proud that its work on Software Defined Networking [SDN] has been recognized nationally. Finally, WVNET was chosen by Air.U to partner with WVU in the first rollout of their Whitespaces Super Wi-Fi solution. Its goal is to bring wireless last-mile solutions to rural areas in states like West Virginia.

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On the education and training front, WVNET hosted the very first completely virtual K12 Technology Conference which was attended by several hundred very satisfied customers from schools across West Virginia. Additionally, after a gap of three years, we hosted our traditional WVNET Technology Conference for Higher Ed. In March, WVNET began hosting the Association for the Study of Higher Education [ASHE] and also hosted a Research and Education Summit for Federal Agencies such as the National Oceanographic & Atmospheric Administration [NOAA], the National Energy Technology Laboratory [NETL] and the National Radio Astronomy Observatory [NRAO]. These were joined by representatives from Internet2, 3ROX, OARNet and WVU.

Last but not least, WVNET updated its 5 Year Plan. We saw the retirement of several employees who had been with WVNET for 35-40 years. And we saw the first interns from WVU in almost 20 years join several outstanding new staff members. The year has rushed by so fast for me that some days it seems like a blur. It's only when I stop to catch my breath and look back that I see how much extraordinary work has been done by a group of WVNET employees as good as any people I have ever worked with in my long career. They get up each day and come to work to make things better for you, their customers. This year they did a simply incredible job. Thanks to them all – thanks to all of you for coming to us for your technology needs – and to each and every one of you – MERRY CHRISTMAS! – Dan O'Hanlon, Director

Happy Holidays from WVNET