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Progress Continues on Next Generation Network Project

With final rates for the Next Generation State Network, the expansion of the network continues to move forward. DIS has had great response from customers regarding the new network and is working with many agencies at this time on the rollout of the network.



Activity on the State Video Network Project

With the recent completion of the major upgrade to the state video network, we want to know what you think. DIS will release a video network customer survey in the near future to gauge customer satisfaction with the recent network cutover and the operations of the new network. We value our customers' feedback, and would like to hear from you. When you receive the survey, please take just a moment to complete the survey so that we can use your feedback to continue to improve the state video network.

DIS recently worked with the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) to provide additional bandwidth at county offices. ADH recently received a grant through the Arkansas Telehealth Oversight and Management Network (ATOM) to provide the bandwidth. With the current network rates, DIS was able to provide ADH with at least 1.5 Mb of additional bandwidth at each office and up to 10 Mb at some offices.

DIS is also working with the Pulaski County Special School District and the vendor to provide more bandwidth throughout the AT&T territory of the district. The school district will soon have 100 Mb of bandwidth in the district high schools, 50 Mb in middle schools, and 20 Mb in elementary schools to connect back to the district office.

Customers in the CenturyLink territory of the network, will see some reduction in rates in the near future. DIS is in negotiations with CenturyLink to try to reduce rates for 10 Mb and less of bandwidth in the territory. CenturyLink has delivered its plan for the rate reduction to the Office of State Procurement for approval. Also, DIS recently awarded the network Internet bid to AT&T again, and rates are lower than last Fiscal Year. DIS is seeing a significant reduction in the Internet provider rates, which is significant and will help DIS costs go down. Also, long distance rates will soon be up for bid, and DIS is hopeful that with the bid award those rates are lower as well. If you have any questions regarding the Next Generation State Network project or any rates, please contact your customer account manager.

DIS is also currently working with the Arkansas Department of Education and education technology coordinators to schedule system tests prior to the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year. We want to schedule time with each school district to ensure that all video network systems and equipment



IT Planning Wrapping Up for FY14/15

The deadline recently passed for agencies, boards, and commissions to submit IT plans for fiscal years 2014 and 2015. Approximately 90% of all entities have submitted those plans

as of July 1, 2012. If you haven't submitted your agency's plan, please submit that as soon as possible.

The enterprise architecture team is in the process of analyzing all IT plans and looking for shared service and other technology opportunities. The team is trying to identify any redundancy throughout technology in Arkansas state government and manage diversity to improve the state's operations and cost effectiveness. Through the results of the IT plan survey the enterprise architecture team may also be able to help agencies find better technology solutions to meet their needs.

Some of the areas that the enterprise architecture team is focusing on right now are mobility and cloud solutions. With that in mind the team also has to find secure solutions for the enterprise. With the IT planning survey winding down, the enterprise architecture team will analyze the results and compile summary statistics. That summary will be presented in the near future.



State IT Leader Meeting Scheduled

This quarter's state IT leader meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 2nd from 1:00 – 4:15 p.m. at the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service auditorium. The

theme for the meeting is mobility. Speakers are scheduled to discuss topics such as challenges and opportunities for state government in regards to mobility, mobile device management, mobilizing government applications, and more.

Please join us on August 2nd. If you haven't already, you may RSVP to Jamie Lafave at Jamie.lafave@arkansas.gov.

are working properly in each location. This testing will minimize some of the problems that typically arise with the beginning of the school year. We will also work with higher education to test those sites that have not been on during the summer semesters.

DIS is working to add capacity to the network, in order to meet network growth. We have added more video network customers recently, and we need to add more capacity to accommodate the added users. Also, the record feature that is provided on the improved video network should be available for customers for testing and recording on a limited basis as the school year begins. The video network team plans to work through the school year to have this feature fully available to customers. Users will have the ability to record sessions conducted on the network and use the recordings as needed. The basic video network rate includes the record feature.

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