



Bits and Bytes

ESU #3 Information Services and Technology Department

CIO Note

And they're off, the 2023-2024 school year has started. I hope all of you accomplished all of your goals this summer. The IST department is still finalizing a few projects and assisting districts with a few things but for the most part we feel it was a successful summer. We will continue to tie up any loose ends on items but we have already begun to think about fall projects and where we hope to be by January 1st 2024.

Mark and the Systems Network Team have been working hard assisting districts with summer projects. This summer saw two major cutovers, Conestoga and DC West both did a rip and replace network cutover. Although these can be nice because they allow districts the opportunity to rethink everything from segmentation to IP Scheme, they can also be a lot of work. In addition to that work they also did cutovers for BGP for several districts, upgraded several systems and completed two Proof of Concept projects that we will discuss at the first IST Committee meeting in September.

Anna spent a lot of time this summer working on the migration for the Powerbuilder upgrade. In addition they updated several systems for Flex Scheduler, Moodle and several forms sites. In July I was able to present the work we have done with several NebSIS districts with data dashboards using Google Looker. Several districts after the presentation stopped me to say how impressed they were with the flexibility of the NebSIS system.

The other big item for us for the last three years revolves around Cybersecurity. This was a big summer for Shawn as he was able to participate in the Cyberatanka event. Cyberatanka is a two week summit held at Bellevue University. State agencies and private businesses work together to work on cybersecurity simulations. This gives cybersecurity administrators an opportunity to work an event from the very start and test out new tools and mitigation strategies.

As we close the ticket on the 2022-2023 school year we are super excited about all we have accomplished. This next year will see a new Storage Area Network installed, increased integrations with partners such as Classlink, and migration to a new finance system. We will also plan on performing a pen test this fall, this will be our first in almost 15 years and in an effort to increase security will be moving to 0 trust networking.

We will plan on addressing many of these items at the first IST Committee meeting of the year on September 27th. One of the big items at the meeting will be a presentation by Secureworks. Secureworks is the company we have chosen to perform our Pen Test. I will start to work on the agenda the week of September 11th. If there are items that you would like addressed in the first meeting let me know. Have a great September everyone and it feels good to be able to say this again, Go Big Red!

Bill Pulte

ESU #3 Spotlight

Nate Kiolbasa



Nate just started at ESU #3 in June as a Systems and Network Engineer. Previously Nate worked at Papillion La Vista school district where he was on the network and operations team. Before Papillion, Nate was a part-time intern at ESU #10 in Kearney while pursuing his degree in Information Technology and Information Networking Telecommunications.

Nate married his wife Samantha this past February. Samantha is a third-year medical student studying at UNMC. They have a four-year-old German Shepard\Australian Shepard mix named Ozzy. They adopted Ozzy last year from the Lincoln Humane Society. In his spare time Nate likes to work out at Omaha Barbell, do yard work, and watch sporting events with his friends.

Links of Interest

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IST Committee Meeting Dates

- September 26th 2023
- November 28th 2023
- February 27th 2024
- April 23rd 2024