iStable: New Application Technology to Revolutionize an Industry

City of Dayton Leverages RFID Technology to Improve Road Safety
A Journey—Courtesy of Professional Networking

By: John Huelsman, Board Chair, Technology First

How many of us are reluctant to get involved in professional organizations? We’re too busy, we don’t see the value of it, or perhaps we’re too introverted (we are IT people after all). There are certainly many reasons we can think of not to join. There are also many reasons to get involved. I’ll like to share my journey through the years as my involvement and use of networking within professional organizations has evolved and progressed... how I got started, how my involvement evolved, and the value I’ve received (and continue to receive) from it.

My journey started back in the early 2000s courtesy of a contact made via my employer’s Oracle Account Representative. My employer at the time was looking to invest in an ERP system and we wanted some contacts from local companies to speak with about their Oracle experiences. I was put in contact with Dave Deakin, the IT Director of YSI, Inc. at that time. After a couple of discussions with Dave regarding his Oracle experiences, he happened to mention he was a member of an organization called the Dayton CIO Council and he invited me to join him at one of their meetings. Several IT leaders from the biggest companies in the Dayton area were in attendance such as Mead, NCR, Lexis-Nexis, and Reynolds & Reynolds. I’m not afraid to admit I was quite intimidated at the time, representing a mid-sized manufacturing company from the northern reaches of the Miami Valley. However, over time I began to realize we all shared the same challenges, the only differences being the scale or scope of the challenges.

The value of professional networking became glaringly obvious to me in a Dayton CIO Council meeting several months later as I was sitting next to Mike Gutman, the IT leader at Miller Valentine at the time. He asked a simple question, “So, what projects are you currently working on?” Turns out, his team and my team were working on the exact same phone system upgrade. His team had a few months ahead of mine in the project timeline and offered to meet with my team to share their experiences. As a result of this meeting, my team shaved several weeks from our project timeline and mitigated significant project risk. This was the “aha” moment for me as I realized there could be substantial, tangible value in establishing contacts and getting involved in the IT community.

My participation in the Dayton CIO council eventually led to my involvement in the Technology First organization. Technology First is an IT industry trade association creating a community for individuals to grow their business, share knowledge, learn new skills, seek new opportunities, and explore the future. Its goal is to transform the Dayton region into the gold standard for the best-connected Information Technology community. After getting involved with several sub-committees, such as the planning committee for the Taste of IT Conference (coming up November 12th — don’t miss it!), and the Membership Committee. I was asked to join the Technology First Board of Directors. This has proven to be an invaluable experience for me as I’ve met and become friends with some amazing IT and corporate leaders, learned how non-profit organizations operate, and learned much about various other community organizations in the Dayton area. A few years ago I was asked to join the Technology First Executive Committee, and I’m humbled to serve as the Chair of that committee today. It’s an exciting time for Technology First and the Dayton IT Community and I’m blessed to work with some of the best IT leaders in the Dayton area.

In closing, the benefits for me personally with my foray into professional networking so far have been many-fold. I treasure being a part of the fellowship and comradery of the IT leaders in the Dayton area. I’ve grown personally and professionally due to the mentorship of this dedicated group. Establishing friendships that extend beyond work is something for which I’m truly grateful. My involvement in these great organizations has also allowed me to stretch my personal and professional boundaries and to expand on leadership skills I use every day. Important as well is the satisfaction attained in knowing that you are a part of organizations, such as the Dayton CIO Council and Technology First, that are having a positive impact on the continuing development of the IT and business communities of the Dayton area. So get involved! Put yourself out there! You may be surprised where it all might lead. Looking back, I know I am.
According to the American Horse Council, there are 9.2 million horses in the US with over 800,000 being race horses. These hugely valuable assets are being tracked on a day to day basis largely the same way that they had been tracked for the last 200 years, with only paper and pen.

With the maturation of cloud and mobile, the technologies finally exist to support a workforce that, famously, does not like to use desks.

Sogeti is engaged in building a software service that combines Windows 8 Metro applications and web based portals with cloud based processing and storage. The software platform is designed to change something that humans have been doing for 5,500 years—raising horses.

Lee Midkiff, who has been successfully founding companies in the mortgage and bankruptcy businesses aiming to provide easy access to information for professionals in new and insightful ways, is the visionary behind this effort. He is now a horse owner and felt the day to day operations of tending to these horses was too outdated. He engaged Sogeti’s Southwest Ohio office to design and build the solution, and iStable® was born.

One of the main requirements for iStable® was for it to be useful regardless of location. Sogeti architected the system to be “data anywhere” capable by using wireless & mobile data connectivity and cloud based services and storage, utilizing Windows 8 Metro modern UI application development alongside Microsoft Azure cloud platform for service, file, and data storage. Rich UI components along with hybrid web/metro development practices bring out an extremely user friendly and beautiful client side experience. The applications can run on either Windows 8 desktop or tablet, and as long as an internet connection is available, access the data from anywhere, which is especially important in a fluid and geographically changing environment. The system supports both synchronous and asynchronous uploading of files, pictures and videos, which can be viewed within the applications. Videos are encoded for streaming playback within the applications.

iStable® provides the equine industry with the most robust, cloud-based management application available to horsemen worldwide. Mr. Midkiff says, “We’ve worked hard to create a platform that provides equine professionals with a natural work-flow and data collection solution, while providing owners with a means by which to gather additional insight into the day to day care and status of their equine assets. We truly believe that iStable is well positioned to revolutionize the way data is collected, managed and disseminated in the thoroughbred racing industry.”

iStable® provides users with features typically not found within browser-based software. It allows the entire horse operation to track all aspects of the horse, including its care and race information, while making that information visible across the organization and by other equine professionals involved in the care-chain.

iStable’s® operations module allows barn managers and other farm employees to easily review all the day’s outstanding tasks within a facility, as well as to update them from one centralized task screen on a tablet. Once updated, all items are logged and billed accordingly based upon a client’s billing profile. Updated activities are instantly available within the administrative console as well as via the owner’s web portal so that owners geographically removed from their equine assets may stay up to speed on the care their horses are receiving, and allows users to instantly log activities including vet procedures, medications administered and other one-time activities.

iStable®’s administration module provides configuration, scheduling and control services.

- For racing and training operations, the platform provides an easy interface to track nominations, entries, and results. All nomination and entry information is contained in one easy-to-navigate section.
- Set-up all of direct billing items, as well as 3rd party billed services, can be directly managed from the platform’s administrative
console. It controls which items are billed directly and for how much, as well as which logged items are to be billed by a 3rd-party specialist or outside service provider.

- Scheduled tasks
- Horse profile information
- And much more

iStable’s owner portal is a web based portal that owners can log into and see the day to day activity for their horses, along with recent pictures and video.

Horses are not just a collection of statistics and history, they are also beautiful animals. As such, the platform natively stores videos and pictures of the animal for easy access to the user as well as other documents that are part of the horse’s records.

The system uses all of this information to bring summary reporting to the user.

Dan Ward, Sogeti Senior Manager, says, “Sogeti is proud to be a partner in building an application that is first-class and strategically designed for years of growth.”

(To learn more about the upcoming iStable release, visit www.istable.com)
At Sogeti, IT is our business™. We can help you transform your industry with a local touch, global reach approach. For more information, please contact me at Brian.Hammond@us.sogeti.com

The Sogeti Team.
**BLOGS**

**Fuzzy Lookup Excel Add-In**

The Fuzzy Lookup Add-In for Excel performs fuzzy matching of textual data in Microsoft Excel. It can be used to identify fuzzy duplicate rows within a single table or to “fuzzy join” similar rows between two different tables. I used it yesterday to match two lists, each with a person’s name, but not exact matches. Worked very well and was a BIG time saver.

The download package can be found at:


Paul can be reached at paul.moorman@gmail.com

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**USB 3.1**

How many attempts does it take to plug in a USB cable? For me, it’s about 3, although 1 1/2 should be the mathematical answer since it should be upside-down only half the time.

Fortunately a solution is forthcoming with the next generation’s USB 3.1 cables being bi-directional, so there is no upside-down. Of course it’s also faster (what new tech isn’t!) and is built for the future (ditto), but fixing its most annoying feature is the best.

And wow, it only took 17 years.

The Year of the Desktop

By: Mike Ellis, Sr., System Engineer, RoundTower Technologies

We’ve heard for the past few years that, “This will be the year of VDI,” but virtual desktops just haven’t taken off as we thought they would. The problem was VMware was trying to push everyone to VMware View, and sometimes it just doesn’t fit — the truth is that a virtual desktop fits into less than half of all End User Computing models. Now, with the release of the Horizon Suite, VMware can finally address a larger piece of the End User Computing business.

Project Horizon has been in the works for over three years. VMware started to make a push for VMware View as a full desktop experience, but the desktop is only half of the puzzle. End users also need applications delivered, regardless of the platform — as soon as the end user had a mobile device or could get to a web browser they wanted access to all of their internal company apps. It began with a VMware ThinApp package and publishing it to an application portal for users to access, much like Citrix has today. This is part of the Horizon Suite of products called Horizon Workspace.

A few thoughts on Horizon Workspace: it is the first solid version of the VMware’s application catalog. VMware has been using this product, previously known as Horizon Application Manager, for some time. This product has a number of components to deploy in your environment: there are five back-end servers, a web client, and a number of OS-specific clients. This version also supports RSA for two-factor authentication. Although it is an application delivery portal, and has very similar feature and functionality to Citrix and those products, the delivery method is not the exact same. Horizon Workspace has web applications and ThinApps, but there is no streaming of a windowed application that is running local to the server like ICA apps. This is just something to keep in mind when comparing the two products.

You may be asking, “Well, it’s nice to deliver applications, but what if I want a full and rich desktop experience?” When you combine Horizon Workspace with Horizon View 5.3 you can! There are actually two ways to deliver a full desktop: first, by publishing the Horizon View client to allow the end user to connect directly through the same client they might use! There are actually two ways to deliver a full desktop: first, by publishing the Horizon View client to allow the end user to connect directly through the same client they might use through the PC- or Mac-based ThinApp client (e.g. USB, PCoIP, audio, unified desktop in a browser. This experience is similar to that of GoToMyPC or LogMeIn web-View client to allow the end user to connect directly through the same client they might use through the PC- or Mac-based ThinApp client (e.g. USB, PCoIP, audio, unified desktop in a browser. This experience is similar to that of GoToMyPC or LogMeIn web-View client to allow the end user to connect directly through the same client they might use through the PC- or Mac-based ThinApp client (e.g. USB, PCoIP, audio, unified desktop in a browser. This experience is similar to that of GoToMyPC or LogMeIn web-View client to allow the end user to connect directly through the same client they might use through the PC- or Mac-based ThinApp client (e.g. USB, PCoIP, audio, unified desktop in a browser. This experience is similar to that of GoToMyPC or LogMeIn web-View client to allow the end user to connect directly through the same client they might use through the PC- or Mac-based ThinApp client (e.g. USB, PCoIP, audio, unified desktop in a browser. This experience is similar to that of GoToMyPC or LogMeIn web-View client to allow the end user to connect directly through the same client they might use through the PC- or Mac-based ThinApp client (e.g. USB, PCoIP, audio, unified desktop in a browser. This experience is similar to that of GoToMyPC or LogMeIn web-View client to allow the end user to connect directly through the same client they might use through the PC- or Mac-based ThinApp client (e.g. USB, PCoIP, audio, unified desktop in a browser. This experience is similar to that of GoToMyPC or LogMeIn web-View client to allow the end user to connect directly through the same client they might use through the PC- or Mac-based ThinApp client (e.g. USB, PCoIP, audio, unified desktop in a browser. This experience is similar to that of GoToMyPC or LogMeIn web-View client to allow the end user to connect directly through the same client they might use through the PC- or Mac-based ThinApp client (e.g. USB, PCoIP, audio, unified desktop in a browser.

The biggest announcement of the Horizon Suite was the introduction of Horizon Mirage. This is the product originally brought over from the Wanova acquisition, but it has really come to be a long way and is fully integrated into the VMware End User Computing product suite. Horizon Mirage 4.3 is the other piece of the desktop; it is designed for the physical world, built with remote office and remote users in mind. It addresses what I believe to be the rest of what VDI cannot touch. In fact, now in Horizon Mirage 4.3 you can manage Horizon View full and linked clone desktops.

Horizon Mirage 4.3 is a backup, management, and migration tool for desktops. It has a few concepts that break a desktop or image into multiple layers.

There are some considerations when applying this model to your current image or desktop software. Most importantly, I want to point out that the Application Layer needs to be captured, just like ThinApps. There are other application deployment methods available that companies might already have in place, such as the ability to apply any application to the base layer or deploy independently using a tool like SCCM. Every situation has some unique characteristics; getting some help to design it might be in your best interest.

Horizon Mirage takes managing desktops to the next level, but remember — it’s not a bare metal image deployment tool. For that you would need Acronis, Microsoft SCCM, Symantec Ghost, or some other kind of PXE boot implementation tool. It relies on the Windows-based Mirage client or Mac running Fusion Pro to manage backup and migration tasks of the current OS into the Centralized Virtual Desktop (CVD). So what does it do so well that something like SCCM doesn’t? Windows 7 migrations are wizard based and actually easy to follow. Backup of an image is fast and consumes less bandwidth than traditional backup tools especially over a WAN. Deployment of a new image is seamless and can be done in the background while a user performs their job. At the end of the day they can be prompted to reboot to install the new image. Management of the desktop doesn’t require poking huge holes in firewalls or using always on VPN connections. One of my favorite features is the flexibility of the client license; you can install the client on ANY machine but only license the ones you want to manage.
Lastly, I want to go over the Mirage components and describe how they fit into the rest of the end user computing model. Mirage really has only 4 basic backend components. First is the Mirage Management Server, which has a MMC console for remote or local access. Second, the Mirage Server is usually part of a clustered deployment and behind a load balancer for large scale out deployments. Third is the Branch Reflector which is used for remote office deployments to deduplicate data before sending across a WAN link. Lastly, there is also a file portal with allows end users to access files from their CVD from any web browser.

Finally I want to make a few predictions. I currently have no knowledge of the roadmaps for Horizon Suite or integration paths for Horizon Mirage but I will predict that some of these tools and management consoles will start to feed together. I wouldn’t be surprised if eventually you could take a CVD or a View Image and cross deploy it to either a View Pool or a group of physical desktops. I also would not be surprise if VMware provides a zero touch bare metal deployment method into a Mirage CVD.

If you have questions about Horizon or how VMware can help your Desktop Support staff, feel free to engage us. We want to help make this the “Year of the Desktop” — and this time, we really mean it!

The Year of the Desktop

Why Big Data is Important to Real World Problem Solving

By: Kelli Chastonay with Software Information Systems (SIS)

Everyone has heard the term Big Data, but what does it actually mean and how is it helpful to you? Big Data is not just about managing high volumes of data but also how you are able to interpret and clean up that data so it’s not as chaotic and unstructured. So how does one make use of what Big Data has to offer in a productive and profitable way?

Data in great amounts is often hard to understand and expensive to store. However, when properly parsed, it unlocks patterns and allows viewers to predict future trends. UPS, for instance, uses vehicle sensors to predict part failures in their vehicle fleets. They’ve also had great success using analytics to schedule preventative maintenance.

By using this method instead of their old “replace these parts every X months” procedure, UPS has saved a lot of money. How much? Well, since UPS has nearly 100,000 vehicles in its service, Forbes estimates that the company’s savings measures in the millions.

Here’s another example of Big Data analytics in action: by 2050 the world population is estimated to grow to approximately 9.4 billion people. According to IBM researcher and engineer Ulisses Melo, the food production to feed this growing population will need to increase by close to 70 percent. So how do we tackle this problem? You guessed it! Big Data.

By analyzing weather patterns, soil quality, crop yields, and costs for labor and equipment in real-time, farmers will be able to make the best, most informed choices to increase their production. IBM has coined the term Precision Agriculture.

This is merely one example how Big Data can solve all types of problems — from shipping to farming. But how should you tackle the enormous tasks related to collection, storage, and analysis of your Big Data?

Kelli Chastonay manages solution design services and sales for Information Management, Big Data, Data Security and Business Analytics for SIS clients.

Kelli Chastonay
The Challenge — Ensuring Safe Roadways

Community safety is a top priority for the City of Dayton’s Civil Engineering Group charged with maintaining Dayton’s roadways. Now, picture an area of roadway where an asphalt patch is beginning to deteriorate. Left unchecked, this deterioration becomes a pothole. Potholes are a serious hazard, potentially causing collisions and injuries, as well as untold damage to vehicles. When issuing permits to make openings in the roadway, the City of Dayton requires contractors to permanently restore the pavement and warrant their work against defects. If defects (potholes or sunken street cuts) subsequently appear, the City of Dayton holds utility companies and their contractors responsible for fixing the problems, but the process of determining who is responsible for the repair can take hours or even days. The longer the delay, the longer a pothole is left waiting for repair, creating a potential safety hazard for drivers.

The Process — Tedious and Time Consuming

When a defect in a pavement repair is reported, it triggers a search for key information, such as:

- Date the repair was completed
- Contractor that performed the repair
- Utility companies (such as DP&L, Vectren, AT&T, etc.) responsible for the repair

After retrieving this information, the City of Dayton notifies the responsible party and takes appropriate steps to resolve the problem. The process of investigating and scheduling repairs can be lengthy and time consuming. Administrative staff must search through vast quantities of records and permits to find which contractor last worked on a specific section of road.

The Vision — Improve Safety, Reduce Costs

If City of Dayton engineers could know instantly which utility company was responsible for a repair, it would free up time for other essential duties — improving safety while reducing costs. This was the vision of the City of Dayton’s Civil Engineering Group as it sought a more efficient way to maintain roadway administration records. They wanted a reliable, proven solution to reduce the time and cost of providing safe roads for the community.

The Solution — Passive RFID Technology

To make their vision a reality, the City of Dayton called on CDO Technologies, a recognized expert in deploying RFID systems. CDO designed and implemented a passive RFID solution tailored to meet the City of Dayton’s unique needs. The solution begins with the application for a road work permit. Along with each permit, contractors are issued RFID tags — the size and shape of narrow straws — coated in a protective plastic that withstands the heat and pressure from the asphalt. When restoring the street cut, contractor personnel place an RFID tag on the subsurface before laying the asphalt. The tags lie roughly two inches below the surface, at 50-foot intervals (for longer trenches).

Since deploying the solution in late 2012, the City of Dayton has issued nearly 2,500 tags to contractors. Routine field checks have yielded nearly 100% contractor compliance for tag installation. Now, when a pavement defect is reported, workers simply scan the area with a handheld RFID reader. Tags provide the name of the responsible utility, contractor who completed the work, date completed, and permit number.

“We are excited to go live with this ground-breaking technology to keep our constituents safe and our roadways up to date.”
- Andrew Marks, Engineer in Training, City of Dayton, Department of Public Works, Division of Civil Engineering

Issues:
- Deteriorating asphalt patches creating roadway hazards
- Tracking responsibility for repairs
- Man-hours spent in tedious research

(continued on page 9)
The Results — Faster Repairs in Fewer Hours

Using CDO Technologies’ passive RFID solution, the City of Dayton can now provide safer roadways more economically. The City of Dayton believes CDO’s solution will reduce man-hours spent investigating, scheduling, and making road repairs by 80%. No more waiting or tedious searches. The information is fast, accurate, and available immediately in the field. The City of Dayton expects to save the equivalent of nearly $60,000 in manpower each year that is currently spent determining the owners of street cuts.

In addition, the permit numbers tie into a larger database with more comprehensive information about each project. Armed with more data about each failure, the City of Dayton can better track issues by location and monitor contractor compliance. This positions the City of Dayton to strategically address current defects and reduce future ones.

Benefits:
• Timely repairs make roadways safer
• Holding utilities accountable saves taxpayer money
• Tracking performance today may yield future improvement
• Engineer’s time is available for other essential tasks

Technology, Cont. (continued from page 8)
Using large images as a prominent design element on web pages continues to be a popular web design trend today. Unfortunately, images also increase the size of your web pages and, on average, make up about half of its “weight”. If it takes too long for a website to load, it is very likely that images/photos used on the site are not properly optimized, and could cause users to quickly navigate away from your site. Optimizing your images will reduce your website’s page loading times, reduce bandwidth, and improve the browsing experience for visitors.

What Does “Optimizing Images” Mean?

If you have a landing page with an 800KB image, the page is going to take longer to load than if you used a 50KB image. Images hold data other than just the pixels we see on the screen and this data can add unnecessary size to the image. Optimizing images means the file size of an image is reduced/compressed from the original source file to a size and quality setting that is visually acceptable to use in a web page. Optimizing your images can drastically improve your site’s performance. While it may not be noticeable

Image Optimization Tools

Resizing the resolution of your web image is the first step to optimization. The best way to decrease your image’s file size while maintaining its visual aesthetics (e.g., not making it look like a pixelated monster) is to use Adobe Photoshop. I know that not everyone has Photoshop, but thankfully there are a number of other great free tools out there that can help you optimize images easily.

If you’re not currently using an optimization tool, I would urge you to choose one. I have always used Photoshop for many years, but started using ImageOptim (for OS X) recently and have seen a savings on average of 10 – 20% in file sizes. This may not sound like a lot, but over the course of time that is gigabytes of saved bandwidth. ImageOptim’s interface (GUI) is very simplistic, which is something I love about it, and it also compresses images very quickly.

Here are some other great tools you can use:

For (OS X): Imagealpha, JPEGMini, Pixlr, FastImageresize, TinyPNG
For (Windows): RIOT, PNGOUT, Free Image Optimizer, FastImageresize, TinyPNG

File Formats

Graphic applications allow you to save images in a number of different file formats. The most commonly used file formats online are JPEG and PNG. JPEGs are better suited for photographs as they contain many colors. The format uses compression in order to reduce file size. PNGs, on the other hand, are more suited to screenshots and website design images, such as icons and buttons. This is due to the fact that PNGs use a lossless compression technique so the quality is higher. However, this also results in larger file sizes.

These are the file types I typically use:

- Photos: JPEG, PNG-24
- Low complexity (few colors): GIF, PNG-8
- Low complexity with transparency: GIF, PNG-8
- High complexity with transparency: PNG-24
- Line art: SVG
Things To Remember When Optimizing Your Images

1. Optimizing your images will reduce file size, but it will also affect the quality of the image. Quality can also be notably reduced if you compress an image too much. It is therefore important to get the balance between image quality and image file size right.

2. Most graphical editing applications like Photoshop allow you to reduce the quality of an image for the web. Use the “Save for Web” option to help reduce file sizes of (JPEGs, PNGs, or GIFs. (File > Save for Web and Devices). If you are saving your file as a JPEG, don’t forget to save it as “progressive” for a much better compression.

3. Make sure that your images are 72 ppi (resolution). Do not upload images at a resolution of 300 ppi, as this makes for huge file sizes and slow loading times, and it isn’t necessary for on-screen images.

4. PNGs are almost always superior to GIFs and are usually the best choice.

5. Use GIFs for very small simple graphics (e.g. less than 10x10 pixels, or a color palette of less than 3 colors) and for animated images.

6. Use JPEGs for all photographic-style images. Do not use BMPs or TIFFs.

7. Reduce the white space around images. Some developers use whitespace for padding—which is a big no no. Crop your images to remove any white space around the image and use CSS to provide padding.

8. Use proper file formats. If you have icons, bullets, or any graphics that don’t have too many colors, use a format such as GIF or PNG-8 and save the file with lower amounts of colors.

9. Make sure your images Alt text description is properly labeled. If the image for some reason doesn’t load or a user has images turned off, Alt text would appear in its place, and should accurately describe what the missing image looks like.

10. Lastly, after reducing your photos and image sizes, don’t forget to use proper file names for all your images. Proper file names help search engines “see” what is on the image to make sure that images will display in search results. If we name our photo IMG_1234.jpg or DSC1100.jpg, search engines wouldn’t understand what this image is about and they wouldn’t be able to index it properly. Rename your images to be more descriptive and reflective of keywords within the content of your website.

(IMG_1234.jpg vs 1970-Fiat-500-Sedan.jpg)

Optimizing your images with these tips in mind can yield great benefits for your website’s loading times, browsing experience, and SEO. Although I understand that it can take a while to shrink and replace all of the images on your site, at the end of the day, it’s always important to keep your eye on the prize! Optimized images are a major stepping stone on the path to a faster site, which translates to a happier visitor.
MEMBER MENTION

Afidence IT Celebrates New Opening with Open House & Ribbon Cutting

Cincinnati-based Afidence IT celebrated the opening of its first secondary location in Miamisburg with an open house and ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, August 6. Afidence IT specializes in providing IT strategy assessment, managed services and enterprise resourcing for a variety of companies in the greater Cincinnati-Dayton area.

“We’ve been a part of the Dayton community for a long time, and we are excited to anchor our relationships here with this new location,” said Bryan Hogan, president and owner of Afidence IT. “In addition to our clients, we’ve built excellent partnerships with organizations like Aileron and Technology First, so establishing a permanent presence in Dayton is a logical next step for continued growth.”

Afidence’s new office is located at 4900 Lyons Road, Suite C in Miamisburg. For more information contact Afidence IT at (937) 747-4206 or visit www.afidence.com.

Edaptive Computing, Inc. Appraised at CMMI Maturity Level 4

EDAPTIVE COMPUTING, INC announced that ECI Software Research & Development Group has been appraised at Maturity Level 4 of the CMMI Institute’s Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI). The appraisal was performed by Henry Schneider of Process and Product Quality Consulting. CMMI is a process improvement approach that provides organizations with the essential elements of effective processes that ultimately improve their performance. An appraisal at maturity level 4 indicates that the organization is performing at a “quantitatively managed” level. At this level, the organization and projects establish quantitative objectives for quality and process performance and use them as criteria in managing projects. ECI is one of the eight companies in the US with this rating.

ECI pioneers innovative solutions for rapid analysis, optimization, and assurance of complex systems and processes to a variety of U.S. Department of Defense and Commercial Sector customers. ECI leverages its core competencies in software development, modeling & simulation and electronics design to provide solutions in the areas of Acquisition Support, Technology Transition, Cyber Security, Risk Management, Workforce Analytics, Supply Chain Analysis, Business Process Analysis, Healthcare Analytics, and System of Systems Analysis. ECI was founded in 1997 and is a SBA certified small disadvantaged business headquartered in Dayton, Ohio, with an office in the National Capital Region.

CMMI is the result of more than 20 years of ongoing work at Carnegie Mellon University by members of industry, government, and the Software Engineering Institute. Powered by Carnegie Mellon, the CMMI Institute is working to build upon CMMI’s success, advance the state of the practice, accelerate the development and adoption of best practices, and provide solutions to the emerging needs of businesses around the world.

Level 3 to Acquire tw telecom

Level 3 Communications, Inc. and tw telecom announced that they have entered into a definitive agreement. The combination leverages the highly complementary strengths of the two companies to create a stronger, more nimble, customer service-oriented competitor to meet customers’ increasingly complex local, national and global communications needs.

Transaction Highlights

• Highly complementary business and assets with a focus on a world class customer experience; positions Level 3 as a premier global communications provider
• Generates significant financial benefits expected to be accretive on a free cash flow per share basis after first year following transaction close
• Combined company enterprise value of $25 billion creates a stronger competitor to deliver significant customer benefits

To ensure a successful integration, the companies will begin the planning process immediately that will be executed by a select team from both companies. The companies expect to benefit from their close geographic proximity, previous integration experience of both companies and tw telecom’s fully integrated operating platform.

“The transaction is attractive from a financial perspective, as it is deleveraging and is accretive to Free Cash Flow per share after the first year,” said Sunil Patel, executive vice president and chief financial officer of Level 3. “In addition, the combination is expected to provide $240 million of annualized synergies, with $200 million from Adjusted EBITDA savings and $40 million from capital expense savings.”

Benefits of the Transaction
Combination Delivers Significant Benefits to Customers:

• Level 3’s global customers will benefit from tw telecom’s deep metropolitan footprint and buildings connected to the network, enabling a higher quality and more reliable on-net experience for customers doing business in North America.
ANNOUNCING A KEYNOTE PRESENTATION:

Data-Driven Marketing and the Digital Enterprise

Today’s digital, consumer-empowered landscape means one sure thing for organizations: the rate of change will never be slower than it is today. Leading brands seeking a competitive advantage will choose to transform themselves before their competitors and customers force that change upon them. And organizations who embrace data-driven marketing will create the most compelling customer experiences, keeping customers engaged and fueling sustained growth.

Michael Lummus
Digital Marketing Solutions
Teradata Applications

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2014
SINCLAIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE PONITZ CENTER
7:30 AM UNTIL 5:00 PM

TICKETS
• $150 for an Individual
• $390 for a half table (3 Tickets)
• $690 for a full table (6 Tickets)

Please contact
Michelle Marek
for more information
937.229.0054 or
mmarek@technologyfirst.org
MEMBER MENTION, CONT.

(continued from page 12)

- Tw telecom's customers will benefit from Level 3's extensive local-to-global footprint, with owned network and data centers in more than 60 countries and significant global subsea networks.
- Existing and prospective customers of both companies will benefit from the combined product portfolio, targeted at helping enterprises and carriers manage their growth in an efficient and secure manner.
- Both companies have developed a strategy and commitment to delivering an excellent customer experience, which will be a key pillar of the combined company.
- The combination of the two companies creates a stronger, more nimble competitor to the incumbents.

Tech Thursday ~ Prize Winner

Jon Scruggs from Hobart
was the August 21, 2014, Tech Thursday's
EVENT PRIZE WINNER!!!
Sponsored by: TEKsystems

NEW JOB POSTINGS

Application Developer ....................................................Precision Strip Inc
Data Analyst ...............................................................Sinclair Community College
Technical Support Representative ................................Edict Systems, Inc.
UX & Digital Design Manager .......................................Crown Equipment Corporation
Business Analyst / Application Developer ........................Elliott Tool Technologies Ltd
Paid Web Development Intern .......................................OmniSpear, Inc.

For more information about these jobs and other jobs, please visit: http://www.technologyfirst.org/component/employment_exchange
information technology
training and development

UPCOMING COURSES FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

SEPTEMBER
Essential Skills for Managing Projects
9/18-19, 8:30am-4:20pm, $695

OCTOBER
Developing Android Mobile Apps for Business
10/8-10/10, 8am-5pm, $1,595

Advanced Skills for Managing Projects
10/10, 8:30am-4:30pm, $449

Professional Scrum Master Certification Training
10/22-10/23, 8am-5pm, $1,295

Monthly Featured Class
Professional Scrum Master Certification

Learn from the experts and take your career to the next level!

Offered through an affiliation with scrum.org, this course is the standard course developed by Ken Schwaber, the originator of Scrum. The Professional Scrum Master course covers Scrum basics, including the framework, mechanics, and roles of Scrum. But it also teaches how to use Scrum to optimize value, productivity, and the total cost of ownership of software products. Students learn through instruction and team-based exercises, and they are challenged to think on their feet to better understand what to do when they return to their workplaces.

The course is created by and endorsed by Scrum.org, the International Curator of the official Scrum agile process and is taught by a certified scrum professional trainer who has been rigorously assessed by Ken Schwaber (the inventor of Scrum) and the scrum.org committee.

Audience
Product managers, Product directors, Founders, Product VP, Program managers, Engineering managers, Product designers, Lead developers, Persons responsible for the successful use and rollout of Scrum in a project or enterprise.

Assessment
After class, attendees will have 14 days to take the Professional Scrum Master I online assessment, which consists of 80 multiple choice questions. If they score 85%, they will receive PSM I certification. The cost of the first attempt is included in the price of the PSM class. Subsequent attempts are $100 USD each. Students are also eligible for the PSM II certification.

CompTIA Mobile App Security+ (Android Edition)
10/29-10/31, 8am-5pm, $1,595

NOVEMBER
Project Management Professional (PMP) Certification Exam Boot Camp
11/3-11/16, 8am-6pm, $1,625, $1,425 if registered by October 1st.

All classes are held at Miami Valley Research Park, 1900 Founders Dr., Kettering unless otherwise noted.

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