MC • QUARTERLY

A Word from MC's CEO

As the other articles in this and previous newsletters well document, the Management Council has broadened our service array to better meet ITC needs and provide greater support to ITCs across the state.

We leverage the grants and contracted services we perform for ODE and other state agencies in ways that enable ITCs to provide greater connectivity and bandwidth for schools while improving the security profile for schools and ITCs. The 100GB upgrade is well underway; we are working closely with OARnet to expand the middle-mile backbone for all ITCs. The MC assets coordinating the Security Working Group of ITCs have led to more robust security and better processes across the entire OECN. The long-awaited sunset of the venerable state accounting and payroll software (est. 1979!) has been accomplished, with 100% of the schools in Ohio moving on to contemporary solutions that will meet their current and future needs. Working with ITCs, we have launched the Ohio

Education Job Board to address the current teacher shortage; our Connectivity Champions are expanding broadband access for families at events across Ohio; INFOhio is supporting the statewide literacy priority, our PEBT project with JFS and ODE is providing critical support for some of Ohio's students most in need, and our FAFSA initiative with ODHE is making post-secondary options attainable for more graduates. Finally, to expand the leadership skillsets and cooperation among ITC leadership, the Management Council has largely underwritten Executive Leadership Training for people in leadership roles at ITCs. The vaunted Center for Creative Leadership is leading this training; CCL provides the Ohio School Leadership Institute training for Ohio Superintendents as well as training for Fortune 500, government and military leaders around the world. I am extremely proud of the talented group of individuals and teams at the MC and across the OECN.

– Geoff Andrews

Connect & Collaborate 2022 — Well Attended and Highly Praised

Connect & Collaborate was held at the Renaissance Polaris-Westerville in Columbus on September 26-27, and finished with a buzz of excitement and energy. With close to 200 attendees, 60 presenters, 36 breakout sessions, 12 exhibitors, 5 corporate sponsors, and 4 keynote speakers, it held professional and educational value for all who attended, whether as an attendee, presenter, or exhibitor.

Hosted by the Ohio ESC Association, OTESCA, and the Management Council, this two-day conference is specifically designed for Ohio's PreK-12 support professionals from educational service centers, information technology centers, other regional providers, and school districts.

Connect & Collaborate 2022

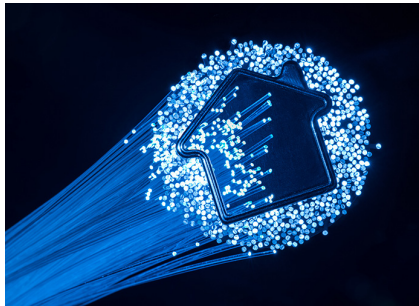## INFOhio Progress on PHP 8 and Patron Update Migrations

Have you noticed an increase in the number of web maintenance notifications from INFOhio? To continue providing the best possible security, INFOhio is in the process of migrating its many web tools — including IWonder, GO!, and the main INFOhio website — to PHP 8. To keep downtime to a minimum, INFOhio is using development or staging sites to rebuild and upgrade before pushing the contents to production. Some sites will require only a few updates, while others will require additional work. The goal is to complete all site migrations and upgrades by the end of November.

INFOhio's other major migration involves moving the Patron Update Procedures from the Open VMS or Alpha servers to the Symphony-hosted solution. They are on track to have

this completed for all ITCs by the end of the calendar year to coincide with the retirement of the Classic fiscal software. The Patron Update Procedures run nightly so that school libraries have the most accurate records about their patrons and their school library borrowing privileges. The migration requires close collaboration with ITC team members as they test, make adjustments, and re-test before fully switching to the new environment. Once migration is complete, ITC staff will find it easier to manage the Patron Update Procedures. Documentation for the Symphony Patron Update Procedures is available in the ITC INFOhio Material in Management Council's Community.

Increasing Broadband Internet in Ohio

Ohio stands to receive hundreds of millions, if not a billion dollars, to increase fiber broadband to unserved and underserved communities. As part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, broadband deployment is a priority in the legislation for communities to increase their internet presence and participation in the twenty-first century economy. Included in the bill is the $1 billion Middle Mile Grant, which will allow states to increase middle-mile fiber infrastructure from points of presence (PoPs) throughout the state.

ITCs could help to serve as those PoPs along the route that Broadband Ohio has designated as the most critical. Ohio's Middle Mile Plan will ensure the infrastructure exists to facilitate the last mile of connectivity; those applications were due from the state September 30, 2022.
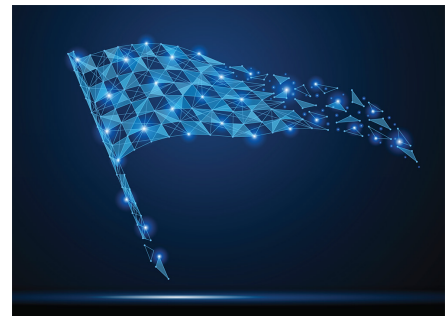
The $42.5 billion Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Grant will fund last-mile initiatives throughout the state. This prioritizes unserved locations that have no access or access to lower speeds (under 25mb download/3mb upload) and underserved locations that have speeds below 100mb download/20mb upload. States have a longer time to plan for these funds, as the application is not due until the end of 2023.

Ohio is designating a consultant to assist with the middle mile and BEAD grants as the funding becomes available. Also included in the infrastructure legislation is the $2.75 billion Digital Equity Grant, which will allow public and private entities to receive funds to ensure people and communities have the skills, technology, and capacity to reap the full benefits of the digital economy. Broadband Ohio will rely on Information Technology Centers to be a vital piece of the broadband puzzle moving forward.

Crossing the Classic Migration Finish Line

What once seemed like a distant dream has now become a reality. SSDT has officially migrated the final school off classic USAS and USPS and onto redesigned products. This is a major milestone that should be celebrated by all those that helped SSDT to reach this point. Special thanks is given to all ITC staff members who put forth herculean efforts over the last several years to make these migrations a success.

The classic products served schools for decades and have earned their retirement. Though the sunset of these products warrants celebration, focus continues on the future, and expanding and improving current software offerings to better serve the Ohio educational community.

Make Resource Access Easy for Your Schools: Share IP Range Updates with INFOhio

INFOhio provides your schools with easy access to licensed and purchased digital resources through the INFOhio website using several authentication methods. The method that is simplest for your students and teachers is IP recognition. When users visit the site from an IP range recognized as associated with an Ohio school, users are given a single-click access to premium resources such as Scholastic BookFlix, the World Almanac for Kids, or Gale eBooks. Additionally, using school IP addresses allows INFOhio to collect basic district-level use data that is shared with districts so they know how much their district benefits from the resources. Please help make it easy for your schools by verifying the IP ranges on file for your ITC by emailing support@infohio.org.

A Busy Summer for the Ohio Connectivity Champions

Over the last several months, the Ohio Connectivity Champions have been attending events throughout the state to inform caregivers about the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) and assist libraries in closing the digital divide within their communities.

Connectivity Champions have been attending events including the Ohio State Fair, TutorSmart Toledo, Cuyahoga Falls Library Back to School Events, Twin Valley Back to School Event, Ponitz CTC, Columbus City Schools Family Resource Fair, Collins Career Center Open House, Akron Public Schools Backpack Adventure at the Zoo, and many more. Champions educate caregivers about the $30 discount for eligible households and aid in navigating the enrollment process.

Connectivity Champions have also partnered with several local libraries hosting trainings on ACP enrollment and providing guidance on other digital skills necessary to

participate in the twenty-first century economy. Some of those libraries include Findlay-Hancock Library, Akron Public, Cuyahoga Falls Library, Columbus Metro, Troy Miami Public Library, Way Public Library, and others.

Please reach out to the Ohio Connectivity Champions about events in your community that might benefit from their presence: 844-512-6446 or connectme@ohio-k12.help.

MC Store Info and Updates

Did you know that you can view your order history in the MC Store? In the drop-down menu, select the green arrow next to **MC Store** and then select **My Store Account**, where you will be able to view your order history, as well as your ITC's order history. You can also export this data as an Excel/CSV document or print it.

New to the Store: The products in the store have been updated to include average turnaround times to fulfill an order for a specific product. This information can also be found on the Products and Services page in Management Council's Community!

Management Council Implementing Salesforce

The Management Council has purchased licensing for the Salesforce Service Cloud. This platform will be used by many of the state-level support teams and several ITCs. MC is currently working with the implementation firm on establishing security requirements and processes. The transition to Salesforce will begin in mid- to late-December and be fully implemented by the end of February. The timeline will be communicated once finalized.

The move to Salesforce is an exciting transition; additional features will be explored and implemented in the future. Questions can be directed to: Missy Balbaugh (melissa.balbaugh@managementcouncil.org) or Mike Osborn (michael.osborn@managementcouncil.org).

The Management Council

ODE Reaches out to Teachers Looking to Return to the Classroom

In collaboration with the Ohio Department of Education, the Management Council is collecting contact information of educators with expired licenses who are interested in returning to the classroom. The Teacher Reinstatement license is a modified process to renew an expired license. To be eligible, teachers must have an expired license over one year. If you have an expired teaching license, you may receive an email from the Ohio Department of Education. If you are interested in knowing more, please visit the Licensure Options for Educators Returning to Ohio Schools at: education.ohio.gov/Topics/Teaching/Licensure/Licensure-updates-for-new-and-re-entering-teachers.

Upcoming Events / Meetings...

10/26 .... MC/ITC Directors Meeting
11/11 .... MC All-staff Meeting
11/13-15 .... OSBA Capital Conference
11/15 .... MC BOT Meeting
12/7-9 .... MC/ITC Training – CCL
1/18........... MC/ITC Directors Meeting
1/19........... MC BOT Meeting
2/14-16 ..... OETC Conference
2/21-23 ..... MC/ITC Training – CCL

Welcome MC New Hires...

Kim Connett, Technical Support Specialist
Deanna Schumm, INFOhio Technical Support Specialist
Jasmine Gardener, Customer Service Associate

MC will be Closed in Observance of...

11/24-25.... Thanksgiving Holiday
12/23 .... Christmas Eve Holiday
12/26 .... Christmas Holiday
12/30 .... New Years Eve Holiday
1/2 .... New Years Day
1/16........... MLK Holiday
2/20.......... Presidents Day

Enjoy the seasons...

Next newsletter: January 3, 2023