

BCCS

Keeping You Connected

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Pulse Newsletter

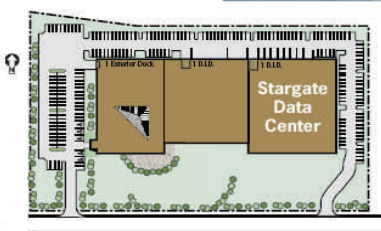
A newsletter of the Bureau of Communication and Computer Services

Volume 2, Issue 4

January 2009

Alternate Data Center

Stargate Data Center
Oak Brook, Illinois



"The alternate data center will allow CMS/BCCS to provide an additional level of business continuity capabilities."

CMS/BCCS continues to provide and maintain computing, data storage, and network infrastructure in its current data centers for many agencies' critical IT applications. However, the growing needs for sustainable high reliability has caused CMS/BCCS to assess the susceptibility of its primary data center to natural disasters and other threats. Such a risk analysis led CMS/BCCS to find an alternate data center with sufficient distance from the Springfield primary data center through a rigorous RFP effort. Four vendors responded with good technical proposals. The RFP evaluation team diligently reviewed each vendor's proposal and scheduled visits to each vendor's proposed data center site. The team created a composite score and made a recommendation for award to Stargate Properties in Oak Brook, Illinois. This recommendation was reviewed and approved by CMS procurement for publication in November 2008, and contract negotiations are currently in progress.

BCCS anticipates the first phase of deployment to begin by June 2009. This first phase will include 2007 Exchange D/R and the relocation of the State's secondary PKI installation.

The alternate data center will allow CMS/BCCS to provide an additional level of business continuity capabilities for the critical components of the State of Illinois computing infrastructure. ●

Electronic Pay Stub System (EPASS)

In an effort to promote a greener environment and reduce long-term costs to taxpayers, BCCS and the Administrative and Regulatory (A&R) Shared Services Center implemented the Electronic Pay Stub System (EPASS) to all CMS employees on

December 5, 2008, which allows access to pay stubs electronically. CMS employees will continue to receive paper copies of their pay stubs until further notice.

Utilizing advanced technology that ensures a trusted connection, the EPASS system is accessible via the internet to CMS employees who have an "Illinois.gov account" from anywhere in the world, at any point in time. In addition, EPASS maintains historical pay stub information for seven years from the date of implementation and provides you the capability to readily access income information for your mortgage institution or financial advisor.

If you share a network account or do not have an "Illinois.gov account", you will need to contact your IT Coordinator to be assigned an "individual" network account in order to access the EPASS system.

Please remember to call the Service Desk at 1-800-366-8768 or 217-524-4784 for any difficulties you may encounter accessing the EPASS system. For questions regarding your pay stub, please contact the Shared Services CMS Payroll Division at 217-558-6593 or 217-558-6589. ●

GROSS EARNINGS		DEDUCTIONS	
REGULAR PAY	2875.75	FEDERAL TAX	257.35
FLICA	2687.44	STATE TAX	648.14
STATE TAX	648.14	OTHER DED.	0.00
OTHER DED.	0.00	NET PAY	1324.63
NET PAY	1324.63		

CMS BCCS Business Services now resides in the Bureau of Communication and Computer Services building at 120 W. Jefferson, 3rd floor, Springfield, IL 62702.

It's Good To Be Green!



Green Energy! Are you aware of your household power consumption? It makes sense to be very aware for environmental and financial reasons. Be aware of the little things we seem to overlook.

There are many federal, state and power company websites to view energy saving metrics. One web-

site states that every home has "little monsters" that make life more convenient, but yet gobble up power from outlets.

Did you know that small amounts of energy trickle out of many other places like the glowing lights on appliances and electronic components? These are in a standby mode, but use bits of energy even when turned off.

Your microwave clock is using power in a passive standby mode just as your wireless phone base station is pulling energy in an active standby mode. In fact, the lights may be the only things in your house that actually turn all the way off! Most of your other household items are still using energy. Your coffee maker, computer, printer, stereo, television, as well as, your rechargeable razors and toothbrush are still using power if plugged into an outlet. Even the power cords that charge your cell phone, iPod, and laptop will still draw power as long as they're plugged into an outlet, whether the device is fully charged or altogether absent. If you have a high-speed modem and router, chances are they're awake and blinking 24/7. So, be practical, save yourself some dollars and unplug those little life conveniences that are used occasionally. ●

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



Universities Take Note!

The CMS BCCS Agency Relations (AR) team strives to keep contact information for your university current. Before BCCS can process any Information Technology (IT) and Telecommunications orders, we must have your signed paperwork on file. Please remember to update us whenever there are changes to your contact information.

Please take a minute to visit the BCCS Website for the updated BCCS Contact form and instructions. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at

CMS.BCCS.AgencyRelations@illinois.gov. ●

Enterprise Vault® (Email Archive Solution)



CMS/BCCS has procured a solution that will provide email archiving and journaling for Enterprise Exchange email network users. This solution includes a product from Symantec called Enterprise Vault®. The Vault will enhance the capability and usability of Outlook/Exchange archived messages for customers of the Enterprise Exchange Email Network.

The Vault provides a method to store archives centrally and allows users to search and access their archived email from both the Outlook Client and OWA (Outlook Web Access). In addition, archiving will be a central repository for keeping official record email on a lower cost storage platform. Other benefits include reducing the size of active mail boxes, eliminating the usage of PST files and providing an easy to use search and retrieval solution that will enhance the user experience as well as reduce the impact on Enterprise Exchange Email Network system resources. Journaling will centrally record all inbound and outbound email messages for eDiscovery purposes for one year.

A pilot with CMS/BCCS users with the Enterprise Vault started in early December. It is anticipated that rollout to agencies will begin in January 2009. Enterprise Vault is being provided to agencies as part of the normal PIM rate. ●



State of Illinois Communications Conference May 11 and 12, 2009 Springfield, Illinois

- NIU 2.14.08 Event
- STARCOM 21
- SIREN
- SCIP
- IEMA Demo
- IWIN
- ILEAS
- ISP

Featured Speakers:

Northern Illinois University's (NIU)
Melanie Magara
Assistant Vice President of Public Affairs

AT&T's
Torri Behnke-Spiegelhalter
AT&T Government Advocate Program
and Homeland Security Director

Email the Winter Blues Away!

Granting Mailbox Rights

Did you know that you can define someone as a delegate in email?

Delegate access levels are:

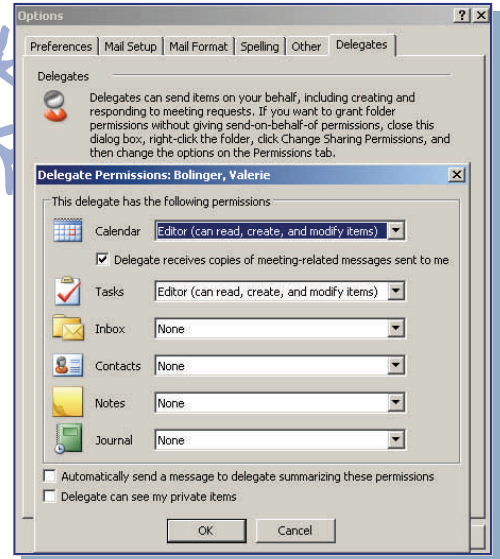
- **Editor:** Can read, create, and modify items in folder
- **Author:** Can read and create items in folder
- **Reviewer:** Can read items in folder

Different access levels can be assigned to different individuals for different folders. To establish delegate access rights:

- Click tools, options and click the delegates tab
- To add someone, click the add button
- Either type in the name of the individual or select from the list displayed
- Click OK

The delegate permissions screen now shows the individual you've selected to assign delegate rights and displays the folders you can establish rights to.

- Click the down arrow next to each component and set the rights for this individual
- Check to send a message to this person notifying them of the rights you've assigned. You can also allow this delegate to see any items that has been classified as private.
- Click OK



Blackberry Tips

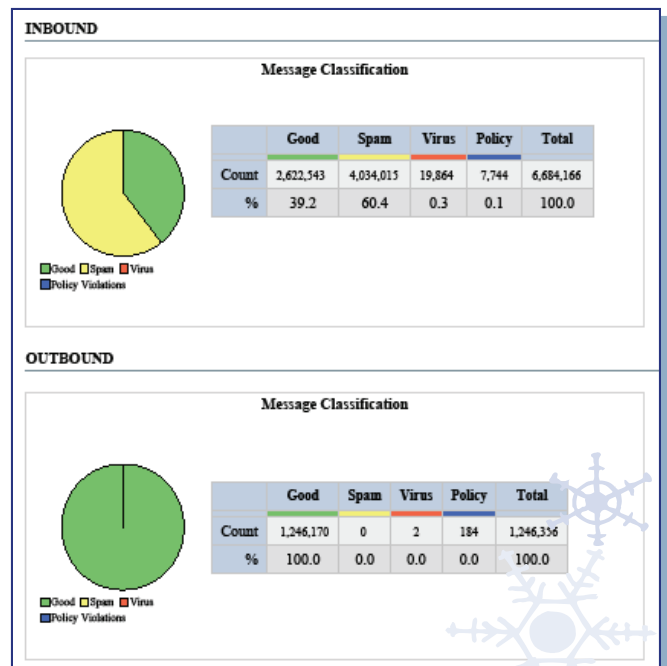
To keep your blackberry refreshed and before you call the Service Desk, try pulling your battery pack out about once each month. This acts as a type of "reboot" if you are not getting data or are unable to send or receive. Don't forget to dial *228 to receive automatic updates and signals from newly installed cell towers.



When you are typing on your blackberry, typically, time is of the essence and you want to be able to benefit from all available short cuts. Use these short cuts a few times and they will become second nature!

- Hold the letter key down for it to be capitalized
- Press the **space** key twice for a period to end a sentence
- If you need to use a symbol, pres the **sym** key and click on the symbol
- To type an accent or special character, hold the letter key down and roll the trackball
- To select text, hold the **shift** key and roll the **trackball**
- To select whole lines, press the **shift** key once and roll the **trackball**
- To cancel text selection, press the **escape** button
- To copy text, roll the **trackwheel** to select and click the **trackwheel** and select copy. To paste, press the **trackwheel** and select paste

November 2008 E-Mail Statistics



Ameren Illinois Environmental Project



Most of you have probably noticed the construction on First and Washington streets in Springfield. AmerenCILCO and the

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) are collaborating on a coal tar remediation project.

AmerenCILCO completed environmental sampling of surface and subsurface soils and groundwater at the site to determine if contaminants were present. Based on the results of the analysis, remediation of subsurface source materials was completed. In late June, work began inside the site's west building. The next phase began in September, and will last at least until April, 2009. The buildings have since been demolished and the contaminants were placed within the large temporary fabric structure (tent) that was erected over the remediation areas.

The tent structure is equipped with a sophisticated ventilation system to filter the toxic emission generated by the coal tar and vehicle exhaust. The system will maintain the inside air at a lower pressure than the outside air, which reduces the possibility of accidental release of these vapors into the outside environment. Indoor air is vented to the outside through special filters that capture dust and vapors. This system should significantly reduce tar-like odors in the area. Monitoring is continually performed to ensure that no harmful chemicals are released into the environment.

As you can see, great care is taken to ensure the public is protected during this project.

ICN Regional Meeting



For the past several years, the Illinois Century Network (ICN) has held regional meetings at locations around the state for constituents, vendors and prospective users. The month of October found BCCS/ICN staff traveling to six locations in Illinois to meet with constituents to

discuss future plans and needs of the network, as well as share concerns and ideas. We were able to speak with approximately 300 attendees and hope to continue dialogue on a myriad of topics raised during those visits. Among the topics discussed, were: ICN trends; how the ICN is typically used; everyday challenges and how we hope to alleviate those challenges; the need for ever increasing bandwidth; and how the ICN favorably compares to the commercial competition.

If you are interested in hearing more about the ICN or want to receive information from us on a regular basis, please do not hesitate to contact the ICN at cms.bccs.icn@illinois.gov. Additional information can also be found on our website at: <http://bccs.illinois.gov>.

FY2009 SSRF IT Service Rates

CMS announced rate adjustments for the services provided by BCCS and billed through the Statistical Services Revolving Fund (SSRF) in Fiscal Year 2009. All FY 2009 SSRF IT Service rates were sent to entities that receive CMS BCCS Services. Please contact Ted Hasara at (217)-557-1966 or ted.hasara@illinois.gov if you have questions.



Tonia Pratt, Norma Cannon, Jan Roebuck

Ellen Moss & Rich Beagles

Stacey Matterna, Melissa Camille, Rosemarie Mills

Telecommunications Conference and Workshops

In October, 128 attendees participated in a Telecommunications Meeting and Workshop sponsored and planned by BCCS. It was an opportunity for the agency Telecommunications Coordinators to gather and hear the latest news and trends. The second half of the program included in-depth discussions and hands on training of specific Telecom applications.

Emergency Preparedness Briefing

In December, BCCS invited Torri Spiegelhalter from AT&T to educate our agencies in some of the many facets of Emergency Preparedness. Not only did the audience benefit from her training and experience in the arena, but they also heard from Darryl Dragoo, EMAP Accreditation Manager for the State of Illinois and Steve Nation, Assistant Chief Technology Officer for CMS/BCCS. We hope to see the agencies at future educational sessions provided by our many vendor partners.



Rafael Diaz



Darryl Dragoo, Mike Moos, Diane Hoots, Gretchen Jarrett



Torri Spiegelhalter