



# Bexar County IT News

November 2013



## Personal Computer Replacement Program



BCIT has been working with Dell Premier on the Personal Computer Replacement Project (PCRP). The objective of the project is to efficiently replace older Bexar County computers with more up-to-date models. The current replacement cycle is 4 years

Some features from upgrading the PCs include faster processor speeds, more hard drive storage, more Random Access Memory (RAM), Microsoft Office 2010, and Windows 7 Operating System (OS). Some ways to self-diagnose the computer system is to first look to see what OS the computer is running. If it is running Windows XP that could be one indication that the computer may be up for replacement. This can be found by rebooting the computer and seeing what OS is displayed on the splash screen (the screen that reads “Windows” as the computer boots up). Another sign that the computer may need to be replaced is the model number of the computer. Model numbers that are 780 or lower usually need to be replaced. This number can be found on the front of the computer’s tower near the CD/DVD player. The main indication on whether a computer system is due for replacement is by the date on the “Property of Bexar County” sticker on the top of the computer’s tower. The computer systems are under warranty for 4 years after the date located on this sticker.

As well as the PCRP program has been working, we have learned over the years that occasionally PCs are passed over for one reason or another. Sometimes PCs are kept in storage and brought out when needed. Other times, they cannot be located. BCIT would like the assistance of our customers to make sure we and Dell Premier have not missed any computers and if we have, to get it corrected as quickly and efficiently as possible. If you notice any computer systems that are out of date, please notify your supervisor. All supervisors who become aware of computer systems that are up for replacement, please email the helpdesk with the computer’s BCIT ID# along with the 7 alphanumeric digits in the “Property of Bexar County” sticker. This will assist Bexar County Information Technologies and Dell Premier in getting those PCs replaced and under a new 4 year warranty contract. If there are any questions please contact the Bexar County Information Technologies helpdesk at 210-335-0222.

## The M.I.L.E.S. Program

The DA’s office has collaborated with the CIJS team to help kick start a new Pretrial Diversion Program. On September 23, 2013, Bexar County District Attorney Susan D. Reed unveiled the M.I.L.E.S program. The program is for young adults ages 17 to 21, who have been arrested in Bexar County with no prior arrest record and charged with a misdemeanor offense, and gives

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them the opportunity to avoid a conviction on their record. The M.I.L.E.S program is a tribute to Ed Miles, Jr.; it's an acronym for "Meaningful Intervention Leading to Enduring Success". Ed Miles Jr., a U.S Air Force veteran and Director of Community Projects for the Bexar County District Attorney's office, who aided young adults and deterred them from a life of crime. His efforts to help the youth will be carried on by the M.I.L.E.S program.

With the M.I.L.E.S program, young adults who are eligible will have the opportunity to have their criminal charges dismissed upon the completion of the program. First time offenders who have not been charged with family violence, driving while intoxicated or most sexual offenses, may apply to enroll into the program within 60 days of their arrest. When the defendant is enrolled into the program they are put on short-term Pretrial supervision, which suspends their court appearance. Charges are dismissed once the defendant has completed the supervision successfully. Defendants who participate in the program must pay a \$50 application fee, a program fee, and any restitution. The goal of this program is to help correct the behavior of young adults and give them the opportunity to succeed without being deterred by their criminal record.

For defendants to enroll in this program, their attorneys who are registered with the eDiscovery portal, must fill out and submit the web-based form on the District Attorney's website at: <http://bcdiscovery.bexar.org/PDP/SitePages/Home.aspx>. Once submitted the attorney must print a copy and take it to the DA Cashier at the Paul Elizondo Tower, along with the \$50 non-refundable application fee. When the DA Cashier receives this information from the attorney, they then submit the application to the DA screeners. The screeners review the applicants' criminal background, gang database, and any previous Pretrial interventions. If all is cleared, the screener then submits the application to the DA Committee. The committee does the final review of the application and determines whether or not the applicant is approved for the program. When approved the application is sent to be acknowledged by Pretrial Services. After the defendant's successful completion of the M.I.L.E.S. program, they once again have a clean slate.

## Become a Google Power Searcher

Most of us know how to do a search on Google: type your query into the box and hit enter. Once the results come back, users select what type of results they want, such as images, maps, recipes, etc. But did you know that you can get better, more specific results by using some simple search techniques? You can also



get information straight from the results page without ever having to leave it simply by using certain formats in your query.

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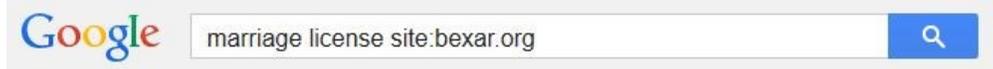




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Listed below are some of the most useful tricks and tools that can be used with a Google search. For a complete list of tips and tricks, visit Google’s Tips & Tricks page at [http://www.google.com/intl/en\\_us/insidesearch/tipstricks/all.html](http://www.google.com/intl/en_us/insidesearch/tipstricks/all.html)

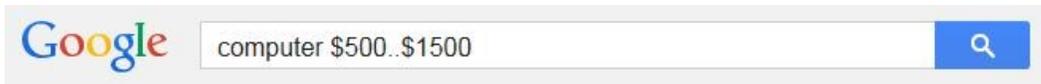
To search a specific website, include the website address prefaced by site:



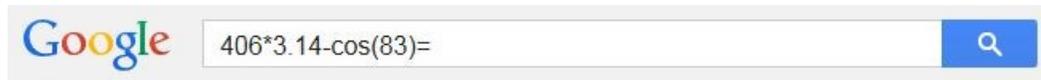
To get your results in a specific file type, include the phrase “filetype:” followed by the 3-letter file abbreviation:



To search products in a price range, include your max and min values with .. between the two:



Enter a complete math problem and get the results, plus a calculator to do more problems!



Google also has built-in tools that can be triggered by searching specific terms.

- ◆ Searching “measurement to measurement” (e.g.: miles to km) triggers the conversion calculator
- ◆ Searching “currency in currency” (e.g.: USD in pesos) triggers the currency conversions tool
- ◆ Searching “time location” (e.g.: time Japan) gives the current time at the desired location
- ◆ Searching “weather location” (e.g.: weather San Antonio) gives the current weather
- ◆ Searching “define:word” (e.g.: define: balderdash) shows the definition

## News Flash: The Mainframe (Still) Isn't Dead

A very-much-alive Mark Twain famously commented that reports of his death were greatly exaggerated.

Mainframers know that the same is true (and always has been) regarding reports and predictions of the mainframe's death, including Stewart Alsop's unwise 1991 suggestion in InfoWorld that the last mainframe would be unplugged in 1996, immortalized by the Computer History Museum.

As we approach the 50th anniversary of the mainframe, it's clear that Alsop's lesson hasn't been learned: publications, pundits, industry competitors, and occasional customers predict and believe that the (mainframe) end is near. Even worse, they can't be dissuaded, no matter how often they've been wrong or how compelling the evidence is regarding the mainframe's ongoing

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use. In addition, there's ongoing new adoption, architecture evolution, improving capabilities, increasingly impressive price/performance characteristics, and more.

The mainframe (still) isn't dead - it's very much alive and will be for quite some time. There are many reasons for this; let's look at a few.

Gloom-and-doomers, and people with an interest in it being so, point to an alleged mainframe skills shortage which will drive big iron to extinction. But before holding a nostalgic memorial, they should learn about major efforts which are replenishing the mainframe staffing cadre.

First, there's SHARE's (an IBM User group) zNextGen project, known as "a user-driven community of over 900 members, representing 24 countries for new and emerging System z professionals that has the resources to help expedite your professional development skills." zNextGen's foundational and introductory sessions are great preparation for the many more detailed topics found throughout the week at SHARE conferences. However, zNextGen is more than just a group of sessions at SHARE conferences - it's one of SHARE's many vibrant communities with discussion forums across broad topics: Ask The Experts, Welcome to the zNextGen Communication Forum, and zNextGen Mentor Program. Expert topics range through IMS and CICS, LPAR manipulation, IODF, z/OS paging, etc. "Welcome" provides tips on benefiting from conferences, a pointer to Assembler Boot Camp, and links to SHARE webcasts, and a (somewhat stale but potentially useful) mentor/mentee discussion.

Second, IBM's well-established Academic Initiative is a free world-wide program providing educators with training materials, curriculum guides, and software/hardware needed to teach in-demand business and technology skills. It links educators and learning institutions, System enterprise computing sites, and current and future mainframe professionals. The Academic Initiative for System z, called "zAI", offers learning resources, courseware, certifications, software and system access, events/classes/conferences, case studies and spotlights, and a vibrant community orientation. zAI's mission is simple: to prepare for retirement of the enterprise computing Baby Boomer generation, those of us born 1946 through 1964 whose careers followed mainframe evolution from the initial System/360 through today's zEnterprise and beyond. While zAI has a global orientation, to determine and meet specific requirements, it frequently organizes local meetings of technology academics, industry leaders, and mainframe professionals. Over one thousand schools use zAI programs with many offering multiple courses, certification programs, minors, and concentrations.

And third, Marist College is a long-term flagship of System z enterprise computing. It offers both classroom learning and instructor-led online classes in systems and application programming, permitting study -- including labs, virtual classroom discussion, and projects -- at student convenience in seven certificate programs.

So it's clear, paraphrasing and reversing the classic Saturday Night Live line about Generalissimo Francisco Franco still being dead, the mainframe (still) isn't dead and isn't even heading in that direction.

