BCIT wins Computerworld Laureate Award

Bexar County Information Technology has been named a 2013 Computerworld Honors Laureate for the in-house developed *My Bexar Community Dashboard* in the category of Emerging Technology. The Honors program, founded in 1988, recognizes organizations and individuals who have used information technology to promote and advance public welfare, benefit society and business and change the world for the better.

The *My Bexar Community Dashboard* case study was selected from more than 700 nominations to become one of 269 Laureates from 29 countries. The selection was made from a panel of distinguished judges who evaluated the humanitarian benefits and measurable results of applying technology to meet a specific social or business need.

Cathy Maras, Bexar County Chief Information Officer, will accept this award at a black tie Honors Awards Ceremony and Dinner on Monday, June 3rd at the Mellon Auditorium in Washington, D.C.

My Bexar Community Dashboard is an interactive application that allows its users to click a location on a map or enter an address, which will bring up nine windows of jurisdiction information about that location (along with links to related emails, websites and social media). "Places" shows what city jurisdiction the location is under, along with County, State and National representation; "Bexar County Elected Officials" presents the elected representatives to major offices; "Political (Local)" shows the area's elected representation, including the County's Commissioners Precinct, Constable Precinct, Justice of the Peace Precinct and City Council District (where applicable); "Political (Regional)" shows the State and Federal legislators; 'First Responders" shows the Law Enforcement and Fire/Rescue jurisdiction; "Residential" shows neighborhood association, school district and local college board of trustees information; "Elections" contains a direct link to the Elections Department and Elections Administrator; "Water" shows aquifer, watershed and floodplain information; and "Reference" provides map grid, satellite quad and postal information. Before, citizens had to browse various websites to access the same information and navigate to find emails, representation and social media accounts.
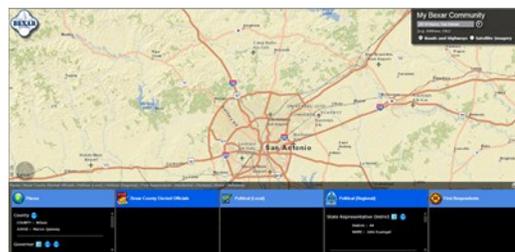
You can visit the My Bexar Community Dashboard at: http://map.bexar.org/community/

All Laureate case studies will be inducted into the program's International Archives and featured online at http://www.cwhonors.org.

Coming Soon: Unified Messaging!

Unified Messaging allows you to receive voicemail messages via Outlook and Smart Phone!

Visit the Technical Support intranet for more information

Bexar County Information Technology will be setting up a new voicemail system called Unified Messaging (UM) to every Department within the next 6 months. Currently all voicemails are accessed by dialing ext.52988 and listened to on your desktop phone. The new messaging system will continue to allow you to listen to new voice mails through your desktop phone by dialing ext.12988 and the new features will include voicemail and email alerts and can be listened to via your computer speakers. Our current Intuity Audix is out of warranty and BCIT decided to explore other options. As a result UM being a Microsoft product was made available through the Bexar County Enterprise Agreement at no additional cost.

BCIT Communications has provided UM Guides to ease the experience, these are now available via the Intranet: http://bcit-priv-web1/com/index.html

Are Your Passwords Safe?

Having strong passwords is obviously an important part of lowering your risk of a security breach on both your personal and work-related accounts. But what is a strong password and how do you create one that you can remember?

SplashData, a company that offers a line of password management applications called SplashID Safe, puts out an annual list of "worst passwords" in an effort to inspire people to create tougher passwords. The top three "easy" passwords on their current list: "password," "123456″ and "12345678″ have not changed since last year. New ones include "jesus," "ninja," "mustang," "password1″ and "welcome." Other passwords have moved up and down on the list. SplashData's top 25 list was compiled from files containing millions of stolen passwords posted online by hackers. (See chart below.)

The most surprising addition is probably "welcome." "That means people are not even changing default passwords," SplashData CEO Morgan Slain said. "It doesn't take that much time to make a new password."

To create easy-to-remember passwords and still make them strong, it can help to

#	2012 Password	Change from 2011
1	password	Unchanged
2	123456	Unchanged
3	12345678	Unchanged
4	abc123	Up 1
5	qwerty	Down 1
6	monkey	Unchanged
7	letmein	Up 1
8	dragon	Up 2
9	111111	Up 3
10	baseball	Up 1
11	iloveyou	Up 2
12	trustno1	Down 3
13	1234567	Down 6
14	sunshine	Up 1
15	master	Down 1
16	123123	Up 4
17	welcome	New
18	shadow	Up 1
19	ashley	Down 3
20	football	Up 5
21	jesus	New
22	michael	Up 2
23	ninja	New
24	mustang	New
25	password1	New

have a "system" or a "formula" for crafting them. For example, select a familiar mnemonic like "every good boy does fine" and use the first letter of each word as the core of your password (egbdf). Then, capitalize every other letter (EgBdF); add some combination of numbers (e.g., first day of current month and year, 04-01-13). The result would be "EgBdF040113", a much stronger password than "password". And to make it even more robust, add a special character or two.

Guidelines for choosing good passwords are designed to make passwords less easily discovered by intelligent guessing. Common guidelines include, but are not limited to:

◊   Having a password length of 10-14 characters, if permitted

◊   Avoiding passwords based on repetition, dictionary words, letter or number sequences, usernames, relative or pet names, romantic links (current or past), or biograph-

ical information (e.g., ID numbers, ancestors' names or dates)

◊   Including numbers, and symbols (if allowed by the system)

◊   Using capital and lower-case letters (if case-sensitive passwords are allowed)

◊   Avoiding the use of the same password for multiple sites or purposes

◊   Avoiding the use of something that the public or workmates know you strongly like or dislike

"Even though each year hacking tools get more sophisticated, thieves still tend to prefer easy targets," Slain said. "Just a little bit more effort in choosing better passwords will go a long way toward making you safer online."

So, does it really matter if you use passwords that may be easy for others to determine? Well, they do expose you to a greater risk of snooping and identity theft. And you'll be sorry if you find out the hard way!

What a Difference A Year Makes - Print Shop Update

The BCIT Print Shop celebrates its second year of existence on May 2, 2013. In that short a time it has become a full-pledged print shop handling the bulk of the County's printing needs. In doing so, the BCIT Print Shop is able to provide the same print services that had been previously outsourced, at a lower cost and in a timely fashion.

Expansion plans:

The Print Shop is continually expanding to meet the printing requirements of the County.

We hope to extend the current location to include the previously known training room (room 108). Our goal is to move the mailing machines to the redesigned training room by mid-May. This will centralize the bulk mailing in one area as opposed to having it intertwined with other equipment in the Print Shop.

Address Correction Software:

Since the Print Shop has grown in such a short amount of time, we've also enhanced our address mapping and geolocation software. Aside from utilizing the address verification on the

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mainframe, we are now able to use the Coding Accuracy Support System (CASS). for pre-sort mailing discounts by using the Presort Accuracy, Validation, and Evaluation program (PAVE). We also purchased software that gives us the ability to acquire National Change of Address (NCOA) updates. These software applications are used by our Applications Development programmers when processing Tax Statements, Justice of the Peace Warrants, Bexar County Sheriff Office (BCSO) outstanding warrants and soon to be used on Jury Summons.

Form Generation Software:

Along with the enchantments to the printing and mailing solution we also purchased form generation software. This software is used by Applications Development programmers to create forms from scratch. The process improved form creation efficiency by 80%, reducing corrections and modifications to forms from weeks to minutes.

New Equipment:

Xerox 1000 Color Press: A "big" addition to the print capacity the of Print Shop is the Xerox 1000 Color Press. It occupies almost twenty seven (27) feet of floor space. The Xerox 1000 is capable of printing high speed color graphics, booklets with cover insertion, tabs, coil punch and book trimming. It is able to print 100 pages per minute.

The Roland VS-640. At 64" wide, the VS-640 is Roland's largest, fastest and most versatile VersaCAMM printer/cutter to date, designed to produce signs, banners, vehicle graphics and wraps, fine art posters, packaging prototypes, labels, decals, POP displays, heat transfers for

apparel and more. We currently print banners and posters that range from 5.6 feet by 8 feet. The media capability is matte, glossy, adhesive, canvas and vinyl.

New Application: WebCRD

We are implementing a new way to get your print request to the Print Shop - WebCRD software. This application will assist in accepting print shop orders from the internet via a browser, allowing the preview of the request and automatically submit to print the request. Supplies will be easily tracked to enable the operators in keeping of inventory used. This project has started and is estimated to be completed by May 2013.

Our biggest demands have been Notebooks and Notepads of all sizes. Followed closely by training manuals, business cards, brochures, pamphlets and letterhead. We printed and mailed out an estimated 805,000 tax statements a year.

The Print Shop is located in room 140 of the Courthouse Annex building at 203 W. Nueva. Please call (210) 335-0106 for information about processing your printed needs.

Helpful Phone Numbers
HELP DESK..335-0222
BCIT ADMINISTRATION..............................335-0200
BCIT TRAINING.......................................335-0236
COMPUTER OPERATIONS 335-0100
COURTHOUSE OPERATOR 335-2011