OCITA

Ohio City/County Information Technology Association

Newsletter

March 2016

On Behalf of OCITA, Welcome to the 2016 Newsletter!

We have some exciting events planned for this year! We realize it is not always easy to find time in your busy schedules to take a day out and attend these events, but we really hope you will be able to join us. We have sent out information to existing OCITA members and LinkedIn on events as it becomes available. Visit our website for updated information throughout the year.

Do you have an event coming up you believe would be of interest to other local government IT employees? Go to our Calendar page and follow the "Let us know about it" link.

If you have not yet applied for **membership for 2016** and you want to become a member of OCITA, please go to www.ocita.org and click on "Sign Up" to register. (NOTE: If you joined OCITA in 2015 on or after September 1st and have already paid for your membership, we are extending that membership through the end of 2016.) As a reminder, the yearly membership fee for an individual is only $25, or if there are several members from your government organization who would like to join, you can register up to 4 members for $50. If you are a private organization and would like to be one of our sponsors, vendor memberships are available for $250.

About the newsletter…

Welcome to the first issue of the OCITA newsletter! The newsletter will be distributed to members periodically in an effort to better community upcoming OCITA events. It will also be an extension of our information-sharing resources. Main contributors will be the OCITA Executive Team, but all OCITA members should feel free to submit interesting topic ideas, articles, IT tips and tricks, or any other contribution you would like to see distributed to members.

Be sure to check out our website for updates:

www.ocita.org

Upcoming Events

OCITA SPRING EVENT

May 19, 9:00am – 2:00pm

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton Ohio

FREE to attend

This year's Spring Event morning session will focus on big data creation, storage challenges, best practices for government and its impact in the public sector. The afternoon session will focus on recovering the big data, challenges and best practices utilized for government.

Register at: ocitasignups@gmail.com by April 15

CLEVELAND PREMIER CIO FORUM

June 21 - 22

Cleveland, Ohio

FREE to attend

The Premier CIO Forum is the premier practitioner-driven conference designed for and by CIOs for peer-to-peer exchange on technology and business integration best practices. We partner with the SIM Cleveland Chapter to create an atmosphere where IT Executives can network with their peers while also discussing technology, leadership and the business challenges that are seen in the ever-changing technology world.

Register at: https://www.premiercio.com/register/

OHIO DIGITAL GOVERNMENT SUMMIT

October 25 – 26

Columbus, Ohio

Government Technology's passion is helping spread best practices and spurring innovation in the public sector. The Ohio Digital Government Summit is designed to do just that. The summit has an advisory board that gathers public sector and private sector leaders to create an agenda designed to make that passion relevant and actionable to the state and local government organizations attending the summit.

More information: http://www.govtech.com/events/Ohio-Digital-Government-Summit.html

More information about all events at OCITA.org

It's Tax Season !

From the Desk of Thomas F. Duffy,
Chair, MS-ISAC

It's tax season, which means it's also time for tax scams. Some tax scams occur when fraudulent tax returns are filed in the victim's name while other variants occur when the malicious actors call the victim and pretend to be Internal Revenue Service (IRS) agents. In addition, there are malicious actors who use the tax season to spread malware and phishing emails.

Tax scams where the malicious actor files the return in the victim's name include both identity theft and identity fraud, as well as tax fraud. This scenario occurs when the malicious actor finds or receives information about the tax filer, including the filer's name, address, date of birth, and Social Security Number. The malicious actor then uses this information to file a malicious tax return, citing as many deductions as possible, in order to create as large a tax return as possible.

The other variant of tax scams occur when the malicious actor contacts the victim and tries to convince the victim to do something, such as immediately paying a fine or providing their financial information so a refund can be issued. In these instances the malicious actor uses what they know about the victim, often information gained for a data breach or social networking website, to convince the victim that the caller has access to the victim's tax information. Frequently during these calls the caller will pretend to be an IRS agent.

In the third type of tax scam, malicious actors use tax related spam, phishing emails, and fraudulent websites to trick victims into providing login names, passwords, or additional information, which can be used in further fraud. Other emails or websites may download malware onto the victim's computer.

- Watch for "spoofed" websites that look like the official website but are not.
- Don't be fooled by unsolicited calls. The IRS will never call to demand an immediate payment or require you to use a specific payment method such as pre-loaded debit or credit cards, or wire transfers. They will never claim anything is "urgent" or due immediately, nor will they request payment over the phone.
- The IRS will not be hostile, insulting, or threatening, nor will they threaten to involve law enforcement in order to have you arrested or deported.
- Sometimes malicious actors change their Caller ID to say they are the IRS. If you're not sure, ask for the agent's name, hang up, and call the IRS (or your state tax agency) back using a phone number from their official website.

Recommendations

If you believe you are the victim of identity theft or identity fraud, there are a couple of steps you should take:

1. File a report with your local law enforcement agency.
2. File a report with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at www.identitytheft.gov.
3. File a report with the three major credit bureaus and request a "fraud alert" for your account (Equifax – www.equifax.com, Experian – www.experian.com, TransUnion – www.transunion.com)

If you receive spam or a phishing email about your taxes, do not click on the links or open any attachments, instead forward the email to phishing@irs.gov

Further Information

- Tax scam information from the IRS: https://www.irs.gov/uac/Tax-Scams-Consumer-Alerts.
- Security Awareness for Tax Payers guide by the IRS: https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p4524.pdf .
- Identity theft information from the FTC: https://www.identitytheft.gov

If you owe taxes, the IRS will first mail you a bill, before contacting you through another medium.

Does your city or county have an exciting story you would like featured in the newsletter? Email stories to OCITA Secretary Steve Decatur at sdecatur@co.geauga.oh.us

Around the State...

County of Summit Office of Information Technology unveils a new custom developed software named truBalance.
The truBalance application is a Real Estate Tax Settlement application built to assist the tax settlement process. The scope of the application is as a distribution engine for property tax collection dollars to each of the County's taxing authorities. The process includes accounting for the taxes collected, allocating them to the proper taxing authorities, distribution of the collected payments, and reporting in detail of what has been distributed. truBalance replaces a resources intensive process that consisted of over 3100 spreadsheets, took up to four weeks and four people and was prone to data entry errors. truBalance reduces this process down to a single person in 1-3 days, alleviates the data entry errors and can track every cent of the $390M+ collected per tax collection.

"Our application development group are true professional developers and project managers. They have developed a world class application that saves time and provides improved check and balances on the tax settlement process" says Mark Petit the county CIO.   **By Eddie Mink, Summit County Public Health Senior Network Administrator**

Time to Get Moving

Using Technology to Get Fit

"More than 80% of the American workforce has a sedentary job that entails sitting pretty much all day long—sometimes for upward of 10 hours at a time with very little intermittent movement. While our ancestors had to walk everywhere to do anything, we've become a nation of butts glued to chairs—and the resulting effect on our bodies hasn't been pretty (ahem, see pancake butt). The cumulative lack of physical activity throughout the workweek can quickly contribute to unwanted weight gain and changes in shape and endurance—like the inability to walk up a flight of stairs without feeling winded (not to mention health complications like increased risk of stroke and diabetes)."
- http://www.byrdie.com/what-exercises-can-i-do-while-sitting-at-my-desk

Let's face it, most of us in IT are part of this 80% that pretty much sit around all day for prolonged periods of time. Sitting is part of our job requirements whether we like or not. That's definitely been me for my 25+ year public sector career. For most days, my longest walk has been from the parking lot to my desk in the morning and the return trip back at the end of the day. I have had a lot of grandiose dreams over the years of getting up early to work-out, however, I have failed at being able to discipline myself to make it routine. My sedimentary lifestyle over the years has taken its toll on me physically and mentally and I will admit things had been progressively getting worse. I really wanted to make

changed for the better, but I lacked a realistic solution that would work well for me. Everything changed for me on January 9, 2016, when I got a FitBit. I was amazed at how it could capture and track my steps, floor climbing, and many other work-out related stats. I started moving, stepping, and climbing floors at our eight story county administration building during working hours and after-hours in the building and wherever else I could find places to walk and climb stairs. Fitbit friends invited me to join weekly challenges and I accepted. My name is Brian and I am now a Fitbit addict! Twenty-seven days later I have taken 270,353 steps, climbed 557 total floors (the Empire State Building is 102 floors), and I have walked 124 miles. Last Friday I climbed 61 floors at work! On some days I am burning 5000 calories easy with my new active lifestyle. In less than a month I feel better than I ever have, I sleep better, and I am more productive with what I accomplish at my desk and in my life after-hours. I am excited where my steps will have taken me a year from now. Well, I would like to share more, but I have to get moving!

By Brian Kelley, CIO Portage County