



Ohio City/County Information Technology Association

September, 2017

START WITH OCITA: THE "OCITA FIRST" INITIATIVE

NEWSLETTER

Hacked again: What does Equifax mean for local governments?

by Jason Sankey, President of OCITA

Goal ONE: Cyber Security

This year we committed to take a proactive approach in protecting our local Ohio governments against cyber security threats. This would be accomplished by focusing on a series of webinars and events that provide an opportunity for:

- Training sessions
- Establishing best practices that members can use
- Interactive information sharing
- Assistance from our OCITA community

Reality check

Although this sounds like an approach to be explored, clearly with the likes of Equifax the reality for local governments almost seems impossible to overcome. According to their financial statements, in 2016, Equifax posted gross profits of two Billion dollars. How does this correlate to local government's ability to arm ourselves with the adequate preparedness when there is such a large gap in funding sources in the public sector?



I think the answer lies with organizations like OCITA. There may be a financial limitations, but the potential of our organization provides the opportunity to leverage technology leaders throughout the state of Ohio. We just need to tap into the resource pipeline and start the discussion.

Challenge: OCITA First

I challenge our members to commit (once again) to turning to OCITA First! I've see an increase in collaboration within the group but I also see an opportunity to do more. Let's continue to leverage our member base of public and private sector technology leaders in our war against potential cyber threats.

Lessons in Leadership from the Bully Pulpit

by Brian D. Kelley, Portage County CIO

President Dwight D. Eisenhower is recognized as eloquently pointing out,

"You don't lead by hitting people over the head - that's assault, not leadership."

Today we have far too many leaders stepping into the bully pulpit with the false belief they can best lead by leveraging fear and intimidation to achieve goals and objectives. I have unfortunately found myself under such ineffective government leaders in my 26+ years in public sector IT. I am quite sure you have your own experiences with bully pulpit leadership. Such self-proclaimed dictators eventually stop listening to those they lead and those they lead quickly stop contributing, speaking, and totally disengage from the leader. Organizational efficiency, productivity, and competencies quickly decline to the point where the organization becomes dysfunctional.

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Technology in Crisis

by Brittany Harnish, OCITA member



When you think of a social media platform like Twitter, what comes to mind? Perhaps you are reminded of random musings, compressed political rants, or comments on mundane activities. But what about a plea for help in the midst of a natural disaster? Or information on where weather-beaten residents can get food and water? While technology has been criticized for its contributions to growing social alienation and a decline in genuine personal connections, it also can bring people together in unexpected—and sometimes life-saving—ways.

As recent hurricanes ravaged the southern coastal states, social media platforms and mobile apps proved invaluable to many. Stranded residents were able to post to social media with pleas for help, alerting rescue workers who otherwise would not have known their location. Others used the medium to distribute details about food assistance, shelter, and road closures. Social media has been a powerful tool for facilitating aid, providing critical information, and keeping concerned families and friends updated on how their

loved ones have been coping with the storm and its aftermath.

Several apps saw growing popularity as well. Zello allowed people with a wireless connection to utilize their phones like classic walkie talkies, communicating to groups of up to 2,000 people. GasBuddy provided information to fleeing residents about which gas stations still had fuel and power, as many stations were experiencing a shortage due to high demand. Snapchat's Snap Maps function allowed people to view content being shared in the affected areas, offering real-time updates on the situation. Google Maps created a "crisis map" for those attempting to escape Hurricane Irma's wrath, keeping it as updated as possible on road closures.

At times, it can feel as though the world is too connected. When a crisis hits, however, technology can have a tremendous positive impact, allowing people to get the help they need, to offer assistance, and to plan for survival.

Sources:

Newcomb, A. (2017, August 28). Social Media Becomes a Savior in Hurricane Harvey Relief. Retrieved September 14, 2017, from <https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/social-media/social-media-becomes-savior-hurricane-harvey-relief-n796701>

Newcomb, A. (2017, September 8). There's an App for That: How Tech Became a Lifeline for Harvey and Irma. Retrieved September 14, 2017, from <https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/hurricane-irma/there-s-app-how-tech-became-lifeline-harvey-irma-n799806>

Leaders who embrace the bully pulpit never survive long in the organization and move often from organization to organization leaving a path of destruction and victims scattered behind them. So how can you become a results oriented leader without becoming a bully?

Here are 7 ways to tell a bully from a true leader.

1. A leader leads by example. A bully dominates and intimidates others and says, "do as I say or else."
2. A leader shows interpersonal skills and empathy for others and motivates. A bully lacks empathy for others, ridicules and demotivates others.
3. A leader can communicate with all levels and backgrounds and understand their motivations. A bully surrounds himself only with people who acquiesce to him.
4. A leader believes in the abilities of his people and knows they will do well. A bully has low expectations of everybody.
5. A leader shares information and is transparent. A bully withholds information and uses it as a weapon.
6. A leader is assertive when necessary. A bully is aggressive and uses power plays.
7. A leader is emotionally mature (high emotional intelligence). A bully is emotionally immature (low emotional intelligence.)

- (Posted by Grant Schneider on November 29, 2013 in Strategic Leadership)

For those of us in leadership positions or aspiring to be leaders we must avoid stepping into the bully pulpit. If you find yourself already in the bully pulpit, consider stepping down out of it and rise up to be an effective and true leader!

~ Carpe diem! There is much to be accomplished!

SAVE THE DATES!

Please join our annual gathering of local government and state IT officials to share ideas, opportunities, successes and lessons learned. There will be plenty of food and lively conversation. **All are welcome!**

OH

DIGITAL GOVERNMENT SUMMIT

OCTOBER 17-18, 2017
COLUMBUS



government
technology

Tuesday, October 17 at 4:30 pm

Annual meeting agenda:

1. Invocation
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of minutes
4. Financial Report of the Treasurer
5. Ice breaker
6. OCITA 2017 Year in review
7. General business
8. Roundtable discussion: Capitalizing on what's next

Ohio Union

Ohio State University

1739 North High Street
Columbus, OH 43210

<https://ohiounion.osu.edu/>



Cleveland I-X Center
October 30 – November 3
OCITA Fall Event: November 1

OCITA is partnering again with the Information Security Summit. This time we are pleased to host our annual fall event leveraging this partnership. We will have ISS security expert speakers as we continue our 2017 focus on GOAL ONE – Cyber Security.

Don't miss out on this extremely informative event. Also, November 1st is **free** to OCITA members. Register by clicking on the following link and selecting the OCITA fall event registration site: <https://www.informationsecuritysummit.org/ssw-2017/>.

Cleveland I-X Center

1 I-X Center Drive
Cleveland, OH 44135