

Technology Status Report

Rob Geiger, Manager of Information Systems

Vision: We create secure, safe, reliable, and easy-to-use Technology Information Systems that support the learning needs of students and staff.

Mission: We plan and deploy technology services and maintain Technology Information Systems by providing friendly support in a timely manner.

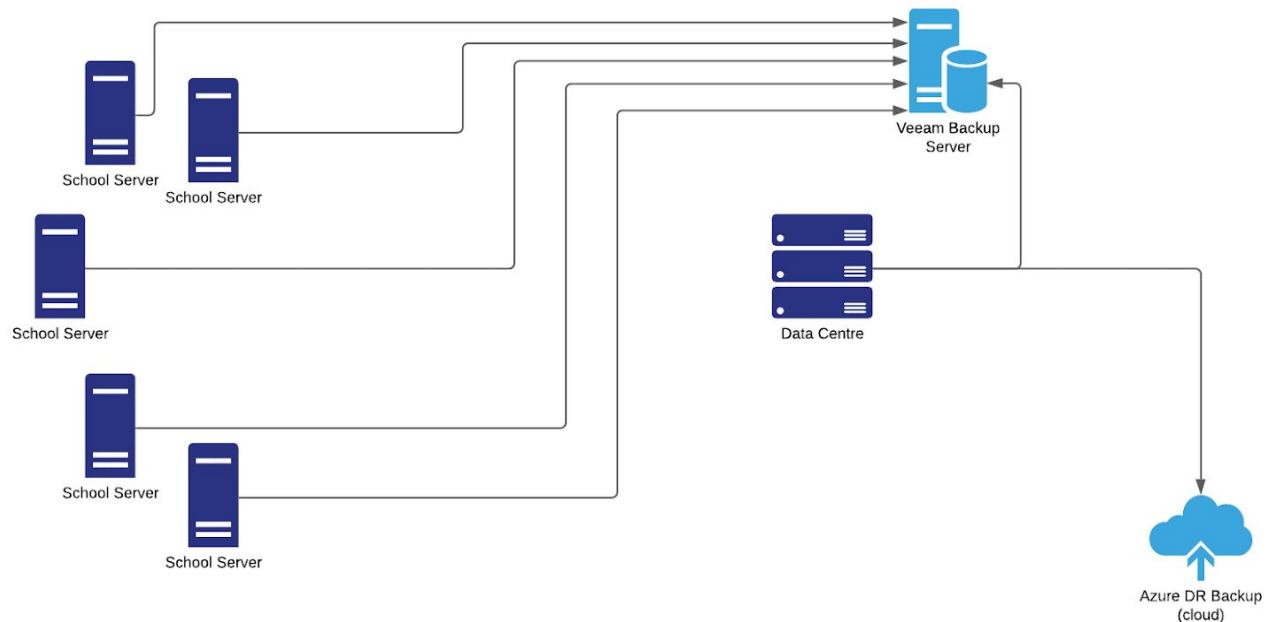
HARDWARE: CURRENT STATE

Laptops and Desktops

Teachers have been given new Windows laptops and Chromebooks as part of the recent LINC discussions. Teachers were given the choice of getting either device. 68% of teachers chose a Chromebook and 32% chose a Windows laptop. Teachers will own the Chromebook (if they chose one) in 2 years. Windows laptops are owned by Chinook.

Backup Server Refresh

We purchased a new backup server and installed this in February 2019. This completes our primary data centre server refresh. As part of this upgrade process, we changed software from CommVault to Veeam. CommVault's licensing model is much more expensive than Veeam and we will save enough money by using Veeam that it will be zero cost after four years compared to what we were paying for CommVault.



Chromebooks



We purchased additional Chromebooks for students last spring and these have been distributed to schools. We are getting closer to a one to one model for students with now approximately 8 Chromebooks for every 10 students. We have another year before we have to seriously consider replacing existing Chromebooks. After that we'll have to replace the hardware on a regular basis (a portion every year).

Emergency Generators

The emergency generator installation is expected to be completed by March. This will be a huge improvement in our network reliability.

Phishing Attacks

Phishing attacks against Chinook School Division are frequent. Principals are the most often impersonated employees and school staff are the most frequent targets. We continue to use KnowBe4 as a tool for staff education because this is our best defense against phishing attacks.



HARDWARE: FUTURE PLANS

School Server Upgrades



Our school servers are now over 6 years old and need to be replaced. This will be a significant expenditure and we have started the planning process for this upgrade. We have been replacing the hard drives in the devices frequently over the last 12 months.

Future Hardware Purchasing Plans

Our current Chromebooks have a life expectancy of 4-6 years. This is typical and expected with technology.

The best financial practice for technology infrastructure is to plan for hardware renewal every 5 years by budgeting every year so that the cost is regular and expected. We recommend this practice begins with the next budget because we will need to start refreshing student hardware (currently Chromebooks) in the 2021-22 school year. This will require a significant expenditure at that time.

NETWORK

Firewall Upgrades

We purchased new firewalls in July and we have been configuring and installing them over the last few months. We are about 70% finished with that process. Upgrading our firewalls was necessary for a few reasons:

1. Our firewalls were over 5 years old and the software was no longer upgradeable on them.

2. The old firewalls could not handle the higher bandwidth at some of our schools.
3. Licensing and support for the old firewalls was becoming cost prohibitive. Over a five year period, the reduced cost of licensing saves us more money than the actual cost of the hardware itself.

Bandwidth Upgrades

25 schools had their bandwidth increased in 2020. This includes an increase from 1gb to 2gb at our data centre. These bandwidth increases bring us up to the new CNET minimum speeds.

Financial Report to November 30, 2020

Sharie Sloman, Controller and Rod Quintin, CFO

Revenues: Overall year to date revenue of \$20.35M is 24.5% of budget.

Expenditures: Year to date expenditures for most areas including Governance, Administration, Instructional and Transportation are closely aligned with budget planning. Plant Operation and Maintenance costs are cyclical in nature dependent on weather and maintenance activity.

Overall, the year-to-date expenditures of \$23.29M are at 26.5% of budget.

The operating deficit is currently at \$2.94M which is on track with the budgeted shortfall of \$4.61M.