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League Elects New Officers, Directors-at-Large



Front row, from left: Aztec Mayor Sally Burbridge, Treasurer and Red River Mayor Linda Calhoun, President. Back row, from left: Eagle Nest Mayor Richard Cordova, Vice President and Cloudcroft Mayor David Venable, President-Elect.



New Directors-at-Large. From left: Artesia Mayor Phillip Burch, Santa Fe Councilor Joseph Maestas and Roswell Councilor Steve Henderson. Each Director will serve two-year terms.

The Five Ws of Data Backup: Questions You Need to Ask

By Clint Nelms, COO, Sophicity

Reprinted from Sophicity's CitySmart Blog

Too often, many businesses and organizations have a data backup solution in place and assume it's working. As long as it appears to back up your data in some form, you feel fine. But if you've had an unchallenged data backup process going on for even just a few years, you might want to ask some questions.

That's because many data backup systems still fail to restore data when an emergency occurs. Assumptions...well, you know the saying. Too many businesses and organizations still assume their data backup is working when they have no clear idea of what's being backed up, how it works, and even who is backing it up.

Answering the following five questions is essential for understanding if your data backup solution needs an overhaul or a serious upgrade.

1. WHY are you backing up data?

This may seem like an obvious first question. But different data has different priority. Often, businesses and organizations will spend a lot of time and money backing up everything—even old, uncritical documents that take up a lot of space. It's good to spend time assessing your data. What's the most mission-critical data that you need to restore the quickest? What's next in priority? Is there any old data that does not need regular daily or weekly backups?

(Continued on page 4)

Edgewood Court Clerk Named Municipal Court Clerk of the Year

Kathryn M. Smith, municipal court clerk for the Edgewood Municipal Court, has been named New Mexico Municipal Court Clerk of the Year by the New Mexico Association of Municipal Court Clerks. She received the award during the Association's Professional Development Conference July 24 in Albuquerque.

Smith was nominated for the award by Edgewood Municipal Judge William White and Edgewood Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Ring. Smith has been an employee of the Municipal Court for approximately 11 years.

In his nominating letter, Judge White said: "Kathy was appointed as Court Clerk in 2003. Though she at first alternated her court duties with her previous administrative role, she enthusiastically embraced the additional workload and was indispensable in working with the judge, the Administrative Office of the Courts and with Justice Systems Inc. in order to acquire the equipment and training required to automate the Court."

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League General Counsel Randy Van Vleck Named Outstanding State League Counsel



Randy Van Vleck, the League General Counsel, has been named Outstanding State League Counsel by the International Municipal Lawyers Association (IMLA). He will receive the award September 13 in Baltimore.

IMLA established this award to honor those attorneys who serve as counsel to their state league of cities or association of counties, towns or other local government entities and who are recognized for their valued service to the members of their organizations and for their skills as attorneys.

Like other IMLA awards, this award expects the recipient to exhibit the traditional qualities of excellence in the practice of law, but also seeks to recognize a practitioner who has provided outstanding service to local governments and who possesses an exemplary reputation in the legal community, the highest of ethical standards, exceptional legislative achievement, and who is devoted to improving local governments.

The Awards Committee supports the goal of diversity in the membership and leadership of the profession. As such, promoting and achieving diversity is considered carefully in selecting a person to receive this award. To be eligible, a nominee must meet the following criteria:

- to be selected a nominee must be in-house or outside counsel to a state league or association of local governments or special districts that is a member of IMLA;
- the nominee must have substantial experience in representing the state league or association;
- the nominee must be an active participant in IMLA; and
- although the nominee’s excellent qualities and service exemplified throughout their years of practice will be taken into consideration, the award primarily recognizes outstanding achievement during the course of the preceding year.

Other considerations include: demonstrated commitment by the nominee to the practice of local government law and representing the nominee’s association and helping its members; use of innovative or creative problem-solving in the nominee’s practice; demonstrated commitment to serving local governments and teaching local government law to the association’s members; scholarly publications or presentations; exceptional accomplishments by the nominee in serving local governments; contributions by the nominee to the public and to the legal profession; and a high level of professionalism and exemplary integrity, diligence and personal conduct.

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2. WHERE are you backing up data?

A recent article from Network Computing indicated that many organizations still use tape backup. That means a majority of organizations—possibly yours—rely on outdated, corruptible technology when better data backup solutions exist. Manual onsite data backup with traditional storage devices like tape, external hard drives, or thumb drives places your data at critical risk. It's better than nothing, but too many things go wrong with these solutions. At a minimum, you need to back up your data both onsite and offsite through automated servers or a cloud solution to ensure full security and disaster recovery.

3. WHO is backing up your data?

In too many circumstances, non-technical people are saddled with handling manual data backups such as tape or external hard drives. When someone wears too many hats, data backup can easily fall off someone's to-do list. Professional IT staff or an IT vendor needs to handle the complicated processes of data backup to ensure that your data is captured, tested, and recoverable in case of a disaster.

4. WHAT are you using to back up your data?

As mentioned above, manual data backup solutions have become outdated and high-risk. Typically, businesses are better off if they use an onsite server to back up data but the risk of full disaster still exists if your building is destroyed or severely damaged. Using the cheap storage of the cloud helps with offsite backups, and using cloud applications ensures that you can access your data from any location. Sometimes, you might still find a need to use an onsite redundant server (or servers) for certain applications where a server failure might risk data loss or interrupted business continuity.

5. WHEN do you back up your data?

This is also why it's important to ask "Why?" Depending on the importance of particular data, you may want to back it up every hour, every day, or every week, or at least every day for mission-critical or highly used data. For example, you might use an onsite server to capture hourly snapshots of financial or ecommerce data during the day. For all files (including non-essential documents), you might send a daily snapshot at the end of each day to the cloud. Having a regular schedule that is automated and enhanced by modern technology avoids issues of infrequent data backup (such as every week) or forgetting to back up data.

It's also worth noting that cost may inhibit you from thinking about answering these questions and looking for a better solution. First, consider the cost of data loss. If a server fails or a disaster hits, what will happen? That's usually a sobering thought and highly encourages many businesses to make the investment. But second, technology has significantly advanced to the point where many modern data backup solutions are comparable or even less costly than traditional tape or server backups. When you add automation and reliability to your cost-benefit analysis, it definitely doesn't hurt to shop around for a better solution.



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The Airline Safety and FAA Extension Act of 2010

By Mike Lewis, Farmington Airport Manager

Will this legislation be the final nail in the coffin of Air Service for many small communities? The Airline Safety and FAA Extension Act of 2010 became law in August of 2013. This new regulation requires that first officers for all airlines possess the same amount of total flying time and ratings that, before this rule was enacted, was only required of the captains. (1,500 total flying hours) Prior to this rule Regional and Major Carriers required that the first officer candidates possess at least 250 total flying hours and a commercial/instrument rating.

Due to a severe lack of pilots that meet these new requirements, many carriers have been forced to cancel flights, and in some cases service to communities altogether. Due primarily to these flights being cancelled, enplanements from Four Corners Regional Airport in Farmington have declined by 49% over last year. Even more worrisome, Clovis is losing its only air service. This is the same issue that has caused Pueblo, Colorado, Moab, Utah, Ely, Nevada, and 17 other cities throughout the west to lose their only air carrier. Even though the carrier was receiving federal subsidies to serve these markets, it was forced to cease service specifically because they did not have enough pilots to operate the schedule.

Please help by becoming informed and following the easy steps on the following website to let your House and Senate members know that something must be done. <http://takeflighttomorrow.com/>

It's Pittsburgh with an "h"

Pittsburgh is the most misspelled city in America, according to a recent study by ePodunk. The spelling of the city in western Pennsylvania has long been a point of contention. The U.S. Board on Geographic Names ruled in 1890 that the final "h" should be dropped from the names of all cities and towns ending in "burgh," but the citizens of Pittsburgh mounted a campaign to keep the traditional spelling. The board relented in 1911 and restored the "h." All these years later, people remain confused.

Pittsburgh isn't the only confounding American place name. See the full list at right for the 15 communities misspelled most often.

ePodunk prepared the list by analyzing 6 months of search entries on its Web site, which profiles communities across the country. After compiling a list of misspellings, ePodunk searched for incidences of the misspelled versions on the Web and in major publications (through electronic information services such as Lexis/Nexis).

For further information, contact [Laurie Bennett](mailto:laurie@epodunk.com), CEO of ePodunk, at laurie@epodunk.com



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- Representation and advocacy on the federal level,
- A vast pool of geographically diverse members to connect with,
- Its own distinct set of programs designed to help your city save time and money, and
- A plethora of NLC resources and publications to help your city navigate the most difficult local government challenges.

A promotional poster for the National League of Cities Congress of Cities and Exposition. The top left features the NLC logo and the event title "CONGRESS OF CITIES AND EXPOSITION" in a red box, with "AUSTIN, TX | 2014" below it. The bottom left shows a large crowd of people at a concert. The right side of the poster has the headline "COME TO AUSTIN, TX LIVE MUSIC CAPITAL OF THE WORLD" and three bullet points: "TALK ABOUT THE ISSUES...", "GET SOLUTIONS...", and "CONNECT WITH PEERS...".

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