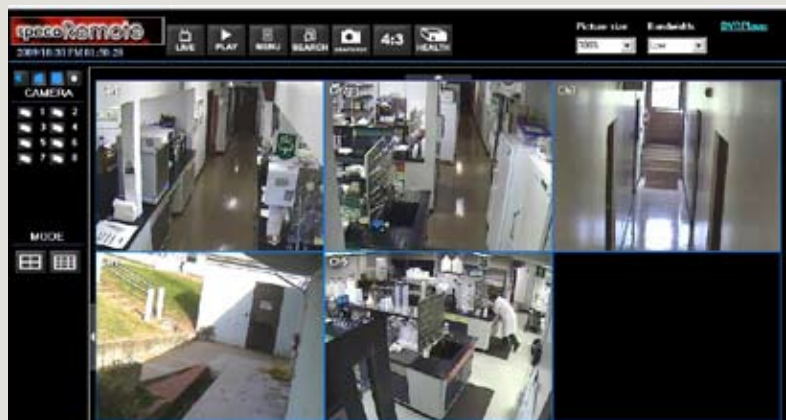


INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Information Technology (IT) Division has operational, strategic, and fiscal responsibility for the innovation, implementation and advancement of technology within the West Virginia Department of Agriculture. The Division provides network administration, end-user support, and support for WVDA information systems.

Card Access & Video Surveillance System

In February, the WVDA began installation of a new Card Access & Video Surveillance System, which operates over the WVDA's wide area computer network. The card access system uses proximity cards that have embedded RFID (Radio Frequency Identification Device) electronics. These cards double as the employee Department ID and key cards for all locations. Employees can be granted access to, or access may be revoked within only a few minutes of notification of employee changes.



The video surveillance system provides video surveillance of high-security locations within the department. Video footage is locally stored on digital video recorders with 30 day's capacity. Video streams from all locations are available at the Guthrie Agricultural Center to authorized individuals.

Web Filtering System

In March 2009, the Information Technology Division implemented a Barracuda web filtering system, which provides individual user reports for internet traffic, statistical network analysis reports, and blocking of malicious software. The filter provides the capability to manage users with specific permissions appropriate for staff members as determined by their supervisor.



State MPLS Network

During the first two weeks of June 2009, the WVDA migrated to the statewide MPLS (Multi-Protocol Label Switching) network. This included the upgrade from Frame-Relay T1s to clear channel T1s in Moorefield, Inwood and Donated Foods locations. The Guthrie Agricultural Center was upgraded from Frame-Relay T1 to 33MB Ethernet. The new MPLS network is a more robust and reliable data network that provides double the broadband bandwidth in remote locations and 20 times the bandwidth at the Guthrie location.

Electronic File Server

Migration to the new electronic file server began in April 2009 and continued through June 2009. The new server replaced one that was too small, too slow and out of warranty. In addition, the file directory structure has been redesigned to more closely match the organization of the WVDA, which permits quick deployment and better security for shared document storage.

Microsoft SharePoint Server

In the fall of 2008, the IT Division implemented a Microsoft SharePoint Server for use by all divisions. The server is a web browser-based interface that provides employees the ability to share, collaborate and broadcast information to groups of employees. The SharePoint division pages are customizable and allow designated employees to manage content.



TimeTrex Time and Attendance System

The TimeTrex time and attendance system allows supervisors and employees to eliminate multiple, disparate systems and combine them into a more central data repository. This will allow managers and employees to submit their current leave requests, grant time, and timesheets into one system and allow them to generate ad-hoc reports and employee audits in real time. The tentative projected date for full implementation is January 2010.



COOP (Continuity of Operations) and Disaster Recovery

In addition to disaster recovery plans, the IT Division has now developed plans for COOP (Continuity of Operations) as it relates to the information technology infrastructure. This plan will provide the ability to make backups of all servers and provide portability of those servers to a secondary site.

Video Conferencing Upgrade

In the spring of 2009, upgrades to our current video conferencing system began. The previous system that provided video conference capabilities between the Guthrie Agriculture Complex and the Moorefield Laboratory office was limited to communications only within the WVDA network. The system was upgraded to an IP host-based system that now allows communications with other agencies and external entities.