

Information Systems

In 2007, while working closely with the School's Technology Department, we coordinated the install of 6 pairs of fiber optic cabling to each of the town owned buildings, along with a connection to the athletic performance fields at the high school, the football field behind the middle school, and an additional 6 pairs available on Salem Street for future expansion to the Meadow Walk area. With the completion of the physical installation of the fiber, we can now begin to realize some of the project's benefits, and plan for future uses.

The main benefit realized from the fiber project was increasing our bandwidth between buildings from under 1 Megabit/second to 1 Gigabit/second, an increase of 1000 times faster. Programs which were unable to run properly or not at all over the old copper connection are now functioning as desired.

Another benefit we now have an opportunity to realize is centralized telephony. The town has appropriated funds for the replacement of our current phone system. Again, working closely with the School's Technology Department we can now deploy an IP based phone system for the Town Hall & Middle School. With the fiber now in place, we have the ability to deploy the two main phones systems at any one of the town owned buildings, independently, yet still have the ability to take advantage of a disaster recovery plan, by tying the two systems together for redundant fail-over. Upon the completion of the installation of the base phone systems for the Town Hall & Middle School, we hope to deploy remote telephone gateways to all other buildings in town, in order to consolidate telephony town-wide, and realize both financial & practical benefits of a centralized phone system.

Some of the other benefits of the fiber project we can begin to explore; include data backup consolidation, server consolidation and storage consolidation. We now also, have the option of building a video network to allow us to broadcast live video streams from any building, the football field, or high school performance fields. The additional fiber pairs give us the ability to utilize them for other options which may not have been considered at the time of installation or to bundle pairs together for increase bandwidth between buildings if necessary in the future.

Another major improvement tasked to the Information Systems Department was the redesign of the town's website. Working closely with all other departments within the town, we recently completed phase 1 of our transition to the new website. Phase 1 consisted of design, layout and training for the first 10 users of the website. Phase 2 will consist of adding streaming video from Lynnfield Local Cable Access and training any additional users who want to increase their presence on the town's website. Phase 3 will consist of evaluating additional online services now available as plug-ins to our new website.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Bongiorno, Information Systems Manager