



CHURCH IT RoundTable

Possible Topics

These are suggested topics/questions only and meant to create discussion, nothing is set in stone and any and all IT-related discussion is encouraged. During the Roundtable, please feel free to bring up or discuss any issue not listed.

❖ FIREWALLS/SECURITY

- What kind of firewall software/hardware do you use?
- What vendor provides your antivirus, spy ware, etc. protection?
- What security policies do you enforce in your software, hardware and network?
- What are your most troubling/time-consuming security issues?

❖ EMAIL/WEB

- Do you host your own web/email services or do you outsource it?
Benefits/Disadvantages
- Which email/web software platform do you use and why?
- What type of hardware do you run services on?
- What do you do for redundancy/reliability?
- What spam/filtering solutions do you use?

❖ VPN/REMOTE ACCESS

- Do you provide off-site access to staff members? What products/solutions do you use to provide this?
- What type of remote access software do you use to remotely diagnose problems?



- What security measures do you have in place to ensure secure access for remote workers as well as maintain the integrity of your network?
- What policies do you have in place for remote access equipment? Must the staff member use church-owned laptops/desktops or can they use their own equipment?

❖ **SERVERS, WORKSTATIONS, MOBILE DEVICES**

- Have you standardized on a particular vendor for your server/workstation equipment? If so, who and for what reasons?
- How have you integrated mobile devices (Palm, Blackberry, etc.) into your operations and how has it benefited the staff?
- How many servers do you currently support?
- What Operating Systems do you use on your servers/workstations? Why?
- What security policies do you enact on workstations? How are these policies created and enforced?
- Has your ministry done anything with virtualization of servers or equipment?
- Do you currently use thin-clients or other equipment?

❖ **NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE**

- Do you currently segment your network? If so, by what methods? (VLANS, PHYSICAL INTERFACES, VIRTUAL, ETC.)
- How many switches/hubs/routers/firewalls/etc do you support?
- What tools do you use for monitoring/management?
- Which vendors provide your core equipment? Why?

❖ **IT STAFF & BUDGETS**

- How much money/resources are allocated to your department on a monthly/yearly base?
- How many IT staff do you currently have on a paid or volunteer basis?
- What departments/people does your department report to?
- What areas is your department responsible for?
- What do you spend your budget on?



❖ **BACKUP/DISASTER RECOVERY**

- What equipment/policies makeup your backup plan?
- What does your department's disaster recovery plan look like?
- How reliable/easy is your current backup solution?
- What services/vendors help you manage/implement effective backup/recovery solutions?

❖ **PHONE SYSTEMS, TELEPHONES, VOICEMAIL**

- Is your department responsible for phone systems?
- What equipment/vendors help you setup/manage your systems?
- What are your monthly communication (phone, data) expenses?
- What voicemail system do you use?
- Does your church currently use VOIP or has it been considered?

❖ **TECHNOLOGY SPACES**

- Does your church currently have a dedicated room/space for I.T. equipment?
- What physical security systems/policies do you currently have in place to safeguard equipment?
- Does your staff have their own dedicated offices or do you share a common area?
- How do you monitor physical changes in environmental, electrical or other issues?

❖ **FUTURE/CURRENT EXCITING PROJECTS**

- What exciting projects are you working on?
- How much of your time is dedicated to "dreaming" or vision-planning?

❖ **VOLUNTEERS**

- Does your department use volunteers? If so, how have they helped/hurt your department?
- Do you provide server/resource access to volunteers so they help manage systems?
- Do volunteers play vital helpdesk/support roles in your church?



❖ **PERSONAL/SPIRITUAL**

- How does your IT position affect your ability to worship/participate in your church in a volunteer capacity?
- What time management tools/tricks do you use?
- When do you turn the pager/cell off?
- What events/resources do you use for personal or spiritual growth?

**AGAIN...PLEASE FEEL FREE TO BRING UP ANY TOPIC YOU WISH.
THESE ARE ONLY MEANT TO INITIATE CONVERSATION!**