Chair’s Corner

I hope all of you are doing well and getting to relax a little bit after what I am sure were busy sessions. It is really hard to believe that it is already the end of May. It seems like I just started my term as NALIT chair, but there are just a couple of months left. It has been a pleasure serving as chair and working with the NALIT members who are serving on the planning committees. With every conference call that we have, my admiration and respect grows for all of the great people we have working to make NALIT the best staff section at NCSL.

What a great year. Our PDS in Santa Fe was a huge success, and planning is well underway for another great Summit and our next PDS. I want to thank everyone who helped to make this year great. Our officers: Vice Chair Terry Clark, Secretary Linda Wettstone and Past Chair Troy Adkins. Our directors: David Coles, Vinay Dattu, Manish Jani, Glen Johnson, Kevin Kumpf and Jenny Wilhelm, and all of our committee members. I really appreciate all of their hard work and willingness to serve.

We all know that none of this would be possible without Pam. Her dedication to NALIT and to each of us is truly amazing. I know she makes it very easy for people like me to be able to serve as chair. She is always there to answer any question, she keeps us on task and she is willing to do as much or as little as we ask her to do. Thank you Pam for all of that you do!

I hope everyone will be able to attend the Legislative Summit being held in Seattle, Aug. 3-6. The Executive Committee is finalizing a very good program. Some of the topics are Remote Public Testimony, Data Breaches, Technology: It’s Not Magic, and Cloud Computing.

This year’s PDS will be held in Sacramento, Calif., Sept. 29-Oct. 2. The PDS planning committee has started their work and will make it an event that you won’t want to miss.

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve as chair of this great organization. Until we meet again.
Cybersecurity Awareness Day
Terri Clark, director of Technical Services, Kansas Legislative Office of Information Services

Cybersecurity is a critical part of every IT professional’s job and is increasingly an important aspect of every employee’s job. The unique employee arrangements that work for state legislatures make it difficult to provide training on cybersecurity since many employees and legislators may be onsite for just a few months.

In the Kansas Legislature, a recent social engineering test identified gaps in users’ responses to cybersecurity threats. Recognizing a need to fast-track user education, we decided to host a Cybersecurity Awareness Day hoping to engage a large number of users in a fun and active environment.

We decided to do a pilot test of Cybersecurity Awareness Day in October, during the legislative interim.

The theme was Tunnel of Tech Terror. Hosting the pilot during the interim allowed us to test different educational materials with a smaller group of users. The Tunnel of Tech Terror was successful, and a full event was scheduled for the legislative session.

On Friday, Feb. 13, we hosted Evil Gets an Upgrade, with many references to the Friday the 13th movies.

Instead of classroom training, we set up different stations giving users hands-on experience with known threats. Vendors donated prizes, and cookies were served. As users approached our office, they were greeted by large monitor looping a Jimmy Kimmel skit on people being tricked out of their passwords (www.youtube.com/watch?v=opRMReFaIIi).

There were 15 different stations with topics ranging from how to dispose of broken computer equipment to the dangers of Web browser extensions such as Pinterest. One of the most popular was How Secure Is My Password? The user inputs their password and the application calculates how long it would take an average hacker to break that password. Users were shocked when their banking and brokerage account passwords could be hacked within seconds. The users could then develop stronger passwords and change them on another PC. Once their passwords passed the 500-year mark, users were awarded prizes.

This application can be found at: https://howsecureismypassword.net. We ran it locally from cache during the demonstrations.

Some users were only able to stay 10 minutes, but others spent 30 to 45 minutes and visited each station. Many legislators stopped by out of curiosity. The hands-on, casual environment encouraged questions and drove home the need for increased cybersecurity awareness to the users.

We're all looking forward to Cybersecurity Awareness Day 2016!

HOW SECURE ARE YOUR PASSWORDS?

We’re all looking forward to Cybersecurity Awareness Day 2016!
Massachusetts Senate Technology Put to the Natural Disaster Test and Passed

Michael Hurley, Assistant Clerk of the Massachusetts Senate

I was 14 years old when the Blizzard of ’78 pummeled Boston and the New England area. Some coastal homes were ruined beyond repair, abandoned cars and trucks could be seen piled up on the highways and roads on the news, schools were closed for more than a week and sadly lives were lost. In those days, it was not uncommon to hear the occasional wisecrack about meteorologists and how they had the best job, since oftentimes they incorrectly forecasted the weather and still got paid.

Here in New England, we have an expression: “If you don’t like the weather, wait a minute.” But as we all know, weather forecasting was not a simple task back then. Fast forward 37 years and technological advances have dramatically helped meteorologists in predicting the weather, but it doesn’t stop Mother Nature.

This past winter in Boston, we endured record breaking snowfall eclipsing 108 inches. Snow-filled days and frigid temperatures undoubtedly took their toll. Today, however, unlike the Blizzard of ’78, the average person is glued to the latest iPhone or Android device getting up-to-the minute forecasts and tweets and is better equipped to communicate with family and friends.

During the winter of 2015, here in the Massachusetts legislature or “under the Dome,” as we like to say, we had the start of the 189th General Court and the filing of legislation for the two-year legislative session. We continuously strive to make improvements to our technology and that fact has definitely allowed us to streamline the bill filing process, which in turn has made it so much easier for legislators and their staff to draft and file legislation. The record-breaking snowfall caused us to be closed for two days when newly elected Governor Charles Baker declared a state of emergency. Our investment in technology, however, proved to be a clear-cut positive. The design of our legislative applications allowed legislators, clerks and staff to remotely access our legislative applications when not in their state house offices, so we didn’t miss a beat and all legislation was filed in a timely fashion.

The snow has finally melted in Boston, committee hearings are occurring daily and here in the Senate we just completed debate on the FY16 budget at 12:30 a.m. after a week of amendment filing and debate of 942 amendments. What does it all mean? We survived another New England winter!
Beat the Heat in Seattle at the NCSL Summit

Join us in Seattle Aug. 3-6 for the largest legislative gathering in the nation. The Summit is the meeting where legislative staff and legislators come together to work on ways to strengthen the institution, share experiences and gather new ideas, and create solutions to the challenges facing legislatures.

All sessions of the National Association of Legislative Information Technology are listed below. Check the NALIT Summit agenda online for updates.

Sunday, Aug. 2

6:30-8:30 p.m.
Offsite

NALIT Dutch Treat Dinner
Join legislative IT colleagues from around the country for a great evening at a local restaurant. Spouses and guests are welcome, but space is limited, so advance reservations are required. Contact Pam Greenberg, NCSL liaison to NALIT, for more details or to RSVP.

Monday, Aug. 3

2-2:45 p.m.

Distance Is Not a Barrier: Remote Public Testimony
This year, two states began pilot projects to give citizens from across their states the opportunity to testify remotely at committee hearings. Hear how the projects were planned and implemented and how they were received by citizens and lawmakers.
Moderator: Joel Redding, deputy CIO, Legislative Research Commission, Ky.
Speakers: Elizabeth Burger, principal analyst/team leader, General Assembly, Colo.; Brad Hendrickson, senior staff coordinator, Senate, Wash.; Susan Howson, director, Senate Committee Services, Wash.

3-5 p.m.

Data Visualization
(Joint with the National Association of Legislative Fiscal Offices)
A picture is worth a thousand words. Hear from two states experimenting with data visualization tools that help bring data to life for legislators and the public.
Speakers: Steven Allred, deputy director, Legislative Fiscal Analyst Office, Utah; Michael Mann, applications consultant, Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program Committee, Wash.; Ivan Djambov, senior fiscal analyst, Legislative Fiscal Analyst Office, Utah; Tom Jensen, administrator, Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program Committee, Wash.

Tuesday, Aug. 4

7:30-8:30 a.m.

NALIT Business Meeting and Breakfast
NALIT members will elect new officers and recognize the winners of the NALIT Legislative Staff Achievement Awards during breakfast.
Presiding: Joel Redding, deputy CIO, Legislative Research Commission, Ky.; NALIT chair
Wednesday, Aug. 5

3:30-4:45 p.m.  **NALIT: Data Breaches: Not If, But When**
State websites increasingly are the targets of cyber threats, making it important to have a plan in place to deal with a security breach. Learn how legislatures can create a plan and take steps to mitigate damages in case of a breach.

**Moderator:** David Coles, network administrator and engineering manager, Legislative Research Commission, Ky.

**Speakers:** Vinay Dattu, director, Office of Legislative Information Systems, Tenn.; Doug Robinson, executive director, NASCIO, Ky.

Thursday, Aug. 6

2-3 p.m.  **Technology: It’s Not Magic**
(Com-sponsored by the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries, the Legal Services Staff Section and the Research and Committee Staff Section)
Consumer electronic devices and technologies are widespread, affordable and very user friendly, raising expectations that all types of information systems should be easy to develop and make user friendly. Learn what questions to ask of IT staff and customers when looking for new solutions, how to bridge technical and non-technical communication gaps, and how to balance competing demands for IT services.

**Moderator:** Kevin Kumpf, programmer/analyst, Legislative Research Council, S.D.

**Speakers:** Ronda Tentarelli, applications support group manager, Legislative Service Center, Wash.; Susan Kannarr, chief clerk, House of Representatives, Kan.; Terri Clark, director, Technical Services, Kansas Legislature

3:15-4:15 p.m.  **The Good, the Bad, the Cloud**
Cloud computing, in which hardware, software and information resides on a remote machine, can offer many benefits and cost efficiencies. However, it also comes with challenges. Learn from the experiences of legislatures that are taking different approaches to going to the cloud.

**Moderator:** Linda Wettstone, Senate, Virginia

**Speakers:** Rustynne Dalton, manager, Customer Support Group, Legislative Service Commission, Wash.; Glenn Harris, division manager, Information Technology, Legislative Service Office, Idaho

4:30-5 p.m.  **NALIT Executive Committee Meeting**
Discuss association services, meetings and outreach efforts. All NALIT members (legislative information technology professionals) are welcome to attend.

**Facilitator:** Joel Redding, deputy CIO, Legislative Research Commission, Ky.; NALIT chair

See You in Seattle
NALIT Social Media Policies

Beginning in January of this year, the NALIT Executive Committee began to review and establish its policies for the two social media accounts that NALIT created and maintains, Facebook and Twitter. The social media accounts are there to reach you, the members. The listserv account will remain active for questions, for troubleshooting and for inquiring about products and our services.

What DO we post or tweet about

1. News, information and links to articles about technology in legislatures and technology in general.
2. News, information, links to articles about NALIT events, and publications and activities.
3. Photos from NALIT meetings or legislative IT offices.
4. News, information and links to articles about legislative IT staff.
5. IT job postings or personnel changes in legislatures.

What do we NOT post or tweet about

1. Vendor promotion or distribution of vendor advertising.
2. Vulgar or obscene language.
3. Personal attacks of any kind.
4. Language that advocates illegal activity.
5. Comments that threaten or harm the reputation of any person or organization.
6. Offensive comments that target or disparage any ethnic, racial or religious group.
7. Multiple off-topic posts or repetitive posts.
8. Language that promotes, disparages or endorses political parties, political organizations, companies, services or products.
9. Materials or language that infringe on copyrights or trademarks.

Purpose of the Social Media Accounts

- Additional communication tool for information exchange among NALIT members.
- Outreach tool to attract new members.
- Publicity tool to raise the profile of NALIT among nonlegislative audiences.

All questions that require answers to problem solving or products should be directed to the NALIT listserv.

NALIT administrators will

- Post tweets and materials using their own judgement without going through an edit process. They may consult the NCSL liaison for assistance.
- Block or unfollow accounts that are spam or are clearly pornographic or obscene.

Administrators

The administrators of the NALIT Facebook Account are the NALIT chair, NALIT vice chair and NALIT secretary during their terms of office, and the NCSL liaison.

Twitter Stuff

- NALIT will follow legislative IT offices with Twitter accounts.
- NALIT will follow news organizations and local journalists who track legislative and IT news including government IT associations (e.g., NASCIO, NAGW).
- We will reply to direct messages that are pertinent to NALIT (as time allows).
- Content creation and management will be done on a regular basis.

www.facebook.com/nalit1
Follow us on Twitter @NALIT
2015 NALIT Professional Development Seminar

NALIT will hold its annual professional development seminar this year in Sacramento, Calif., Sept. 29-Oct. 2. All sessions will be held at the Citizen Hotel, Sacramento, unless otherwise noted. Session topics will address mobile technologies (MDM, BYOD), security issues, going to the cloud, help desk and help desk management systems, applications for legislators and legislative staff, big data and much more.

**TENTATIVE AGENDA**

**Tuesday, Sept. 29**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 a.m.-5 p.m.</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30-2:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Pre-Seminar: Legislative Demos</td>
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<td></td>
<td>◦ Dashboard (N.C.)</td>
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<td>◦ Mobile App (N.D.)</td>
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<td>◦ More ...</td>
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<td>3-4:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Pre-Seminar Demos or Session</td>
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**Wednesday, Sept. 30**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m.-1 p.m.</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-9:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Opening Session</td>
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<td>10-11:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Five Minutes of Fame</td>
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<td>12-1 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>1:15-2:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Tools for Mobile App Development</td>
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<td>2:30-3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Help Desk Management Systems</td>
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<td>3:30-4:30 p.m.</td>
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Evening Dinner on Your Own (Dutch Treat)

**Thursday, Oct. 1**

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:30-8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration (Walk to the Capitol)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.</td>
<td>Tours and Briefings at the State Capitol</td>
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<td>◦ Chamber/Gallery</td>
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<td>◦ Committee Rooms</td>
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<td>◦ Committee Systems</td>
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<td>◦ Bill Drafting Systems</td>
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<td>◦ Code Updates and Indexing</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-1 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-3 p.m.</td>
<td>Tours and Briefings at the State Capitol continued</td>
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<td>◦ Audio/Visual</td>
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<td>◦ Computer Room</td>
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<td>◦ Constituent Management</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Return to hotel)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Mobile Websites, Accessibility and Responsive Design</td>
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<td>5-7 p.m.</td>
<td>Exhibitors’ Reception</td>
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<td>◦ Granicus</td>
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<td>◦ International Roll-Call</td>
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<td>◦ Sliq Media Technologies</td>
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<td>◦ Thomson Reuters</td>
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Continued on page 8
NALIT PDS continued

Friday, Oct. 2

7:30-8:30 a.m.  Registration
8:30-9:30 a.m.  Managing Employees
9:30-10:15 a.m. Standards for Legislative Data
10:30-11:30 a.m. Big Data
11:30 a.m. Seminar Ends

Check the NALIT PDS schedule page for updates of the above schedule.

Photos courtesy of the Sacramento Convention and Visitors Bureau