Governor Pritzker Launches Connect Illinois

The Department of Innovation & Technology will play a significant role in the effort to increase broadband access to K-12 public schools throughout Illinois. $20 million of the recently passed capital budget will be invested in the DoIT-run Illinois Century Network (ICN). The ICN functions as a state-wide communications network serving K-12 schools, higher education, libraries, museums, and state and local government. All schools will be able to safely access digital learning opportunities available through the internet at no cost. This effort will put our children on a competitive par with others as they prepare for college and the job market. Read more about broadband expansion in the Governor’s Connect Illinois vision.

DoIT Behind the Scenes at the State Fair

Each year, there is a DoIT team behind the scenes at the State Fair who engages well before the event and without whom the countless exhibits and services provided would be impossible. For 20 years, Dean Haukap and the Web Services team have collaborated with the Department of Agriculture, EUC, networking, security and many of the trades on the fairgrounds to design an elaborate Webcam set up in the Expo Building that keeps fairgoers up to date on various locations around the Fair including the newest live-video view of the newborn piglets at the Piglets on Parade Birthing Center. The LAN Services Field Ops staff installed and maintained the network that provided video streaming, social media and wireless access to most of the fairgrounds for the duration of the event. . . from show rings to agency and vendor tents, the Senior Center, Grandstand, Coliseum and most other major buildings on the grounds. Watch the time-lapse of the Coliseum being rebuilt. Infrastructure Services kept security cameras operating and End User Computing made the rounds delivering, configuring and trouble-shooting displays across the grounds. Credits for the Lego “rama” at the DoIT booth in the Governor’s tent go to masterminds Val Bolinger, Frank Walters and the ICN engineers, and DoIT children who created an elaborate Lego maze that kids of all ages enjoyed as they raced Hexbugs for ten straight days – thanks to all who contribute their time and talent to our State Fair each year.

DoIT FYIs and Reminders

As the “Dog Days” wind down and kids return to school, the month of August is coming to a close. Did you know that August is named for Augustus Caesar, the founder and first emperor of the Roman Empire? The extra day at the end of the month was added so that August could have 31 days like July, a month named for Julius Caesar. Mount Vesuvius erupted, the Mona Lisa was stolen from the Louvre, Elvis passed away and Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his “I have a dream” speech, all in August. Let’s all enjoy the final week of “summer”!