



THOUGHTS

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Funny How Things Come Full Circle

It seems that it is my turn to tell everyone about myself. I was born in Cheektowaga, NY (near Buffalo) and for 20 years split time between Cheektowaga and Rock Hill, SC. After I graduated from SUNY Brockport, I decided to move to Rock Hill. It was in Rock Hill, that I meet the love of my life, my wife Erin. We have been married for 13 years. She has stuck by my side through thick and thin and we've both been blessed with one amazing daughter Everly (2).

In 2000, I went to work for BellSouth in Charlotte, NC. It was the birth of the internet and dialup phone access. For the younger generation, I am talking about a landline that provided the blazing internet speeds of 28 - 56 kbit/s. I was a Service Technician and I loved every bit of the job. I thought I would retire from BellSouth, but in March 2006, it was announced that BellSouth and SBC would be merging, and the new company would be named AT&T (more on AT&T later). I was "surplused" in December 2006, and I was devastated. Little did I know this would be the best thing that ever happened to me career wise. I had begun to read about a new product that was just in it's infancy, wireless internet.



My first endeavor in the WiFi world was with Apex Systems. It was here that I cut my teeth on wireless. This project was the AP on Stick surveys for Hyatt Hotels. At first, I was overwhelmed and thought I was in over my head and had made a huge mistake. But gradually, with the help of a great mentor, I started to pick everything up. Side note, if you happened to experience bad WiFi in a Hyatt Hotel in 2007, it was probably my fault. When my mentor at Apex systems, Roger Lee, left to go to Technisource in 2007, I decided to follow him. My new position was to perform Wireless LAN Surveys, Design and Installation for the High-Speed Internet Access (HSIA) at the family of Hilton Hotels. It was here that I truly started to understand wireless and how it should be deployed.

One day while deployed, I kept sending a 703 area code to my voicemail. After doing this several times, I finally picked up. It was Kam Jinnah from a company I had never heard of called, Synaptek. My conversation with Kam was all I needed to ease my concerns and make my move to the company.

Here at TekSynap, I started performing wireless LAN surveys and designs at the VA Medical Centers. I had to forget wireless as I knew it and learn how the customer wanted it designed (as the VA does wireless like no one else). After several years, I was offered a chance to move into management and come off the road,

which I graciously accepted. The VA Groups 1, 2 and 3 were a very demanding project; however, the customer was extremely happy with the work that we performed. The VA told us that it was the only project that they can remember that was on time and under budget.

With the VA contract successfully completed, in November 2016, I decided to move on to my next wireless challenge with Bank of America. Making this change in a small business is difficult enough, let alone in an enterprise environment the size of Bank of America. One day (while sitting in my cubicle) I realized I missed working for a small company, so I reached out to Kam and discussed the possibilities about coming back to TekSynap. Kam and I agreed to take a gamble together and try to recapture the VA work. We both knew it was a longshot but sometimes longshots pay off, and in this case it did. We were able to partner with All Points LLC on the Group 0 Wireless Refresh project.



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Kudos

Karina McAndrew has been recognized for her efforts to go above and beyond!



Hats off to **Christopher Chall** who recently "blew away" our customer with his outstanding service.

Kudos to **Matt Goad** who was recognized for his dedication and support.

Congratulations to **Adelina Ramirez** for her outstanding job performance - she has provided excellent customer service to our customer!

Congratulations to **Nicko Gallegos** who has received a coin from his Director of Staff for his excellent work at the AFNWC.

Chris Vontomaszewski has been recognized for being accommodating, flexible and extremely helpful in a recent project.

Thanks for all your hard work!

If you have someone you would like to thank or recognize, email your message to the news@teksynap.com.

New Benefit Year

With October underway, the new TekSynap benefits are now in effect. If you signed up for Anthem medical benefits you should have received a new insurance card in the mail. If you have yet to receive this card, please contact Ruben Hormostay at



This brings me back to AT&T. TekSynap is excited to announce that we've partnered with AT&T on the Network contract to support both the Cisco Prime Infrastructure upgrade project and the VA WiFi NextGen Technology Refresh Project. The Project is 3 renewable 5-year contracts to refresh the VA WiFi at every VAMC, Clinic, OPC, VBA, Vet center, etc. I want to thank the WiFi team for their hard work and dedication. Your commitment to the VA and the VA Group 0 project is second to none. Without your efforts, none of this would have been possible. And just like that, things really have come full circle with AT&T.

Frank Amrhein



ruben.homestay@teksynap.com for assistance.

Another new change you will notice is the merger of 125 Company and Benefit Strategies. Your login information for 125 Company will stay the same and you will still be required to upload itemized receipts for any HRA expenses.

Security Update Contractors' Duty to Self Report

If you hold a security clearance, you are required to self-report any changes to your personal information/status. Please report the following to your FSO or security@teksynap.com.



Life Circumstances

- Have legal action resulting in a name change
- Cohabitate or marry (NOTE: A cohabitant is a person who lives with you in a spouse-like relationship or with a similar bond of affection or obligation, but is not your legal spouse, child, or other relative.)
- Change in citizenship
- Are hospitalized for mental health reasons
- Are treated for drug or alcohol abuse
- Use an illegal drug or a legal drug in a manner that deviates from approved medical direction
- Have personal foreign travel to sensitive country
- Hold a SCI clearance and travel to any foreign country (sensitive or non-sensitive)

Foreign Interaction

- Have substantive contact with any foreign national not related to you and previously self-reported
- Have an immediate family member who assumes residence in a sensitive country, and when that living situation changes; e.g., your family member returns to the U.S. or moves to another country, sensitive or non-sensitive
- Undertake a foreign adoption or propose to host a foreign exchange student

If you are unsure if you should report an event/change, please do so. TekSynap FSOs will be able to evaluate, assist and notify the appropriate agencies.

Employee Spotlight: Vinh Le

Vinh Le was one of TekSynap's first hires. He's been with the company for 10 years as a Software Engineer. He currently lives in Seattle, WA with his wife, Tina Wan and their 4 year-old son, Braden (who loves to take up their free time). He's had a great journey with TekSynap so far and will hopefully continue with us for another 10+ years!

What's your favorite thing about the company?

There are so many great things I can tell you about this company. TekSynap has been supportive and understanding as I've grown my family, providing flexibility, generous benefits and compensation and are always willing to go above and beyond for their employees. In addition, TekSynap is always promoting education and growth through training programs (which I have definitely taken advantage of many times)!

What do you like to do outside of work?

I am an avid golfer and am playing quite a bit since moving back to the great Northwest. The weather is much more mild than the weather in Washington, DC. I also grew up in Canada, and love to play ice hockey!

What's something you can tell us that not everyone would know?

While living in the DC area (12+ years), I was a fan of the Washington Capitals. Our son is named after Braden Holtby, the Capitals goalie. Of course when I left the DC area and started cheering for my hometown team, the Vancouver Canucks, the Capitals won the Stanley Cup!



Fall Festivals

The smell of pumpkin spice is in the air and that means that local farms, pumpkin patches and corn mazes are in full gear! We've pulled together a list of some of the best places to visit this Fall.

DMV Metro Area

- With over 90 acres, **Cox Farms** has one of the largest fall festivals in Virginia! The festival includes 5 Giant Slides, Hayrides, Rope Swings, Farm Animals, Straw Tunnels and so much more. With paid admission, everyone will go home with a small patch pumpkin too. Don't forget to grab an apple and some cider!
- Visit the **Mount Vernon Fall Harvest** and create your own cornhusk dolls, take a horse-drawn wagon ride or find your way through a hay maze.
- **Montpelier Farms** run their Fall Festival on weekends, September - October. Be sure to check out both their corn and grass maze, their pedal tractors and farm football lounge!



New Cumberland, PA

- Each weekend in the Fall, **Paulus' Farmpark** has tons of activities including fun forts, tube tunnels and a pumpkin chucking cannon.
- In addition to a corn maze and pick-your-own pumpkins, **Ashcombe Fall Harvest Days** are famous for their knocker ball, horse-drawn hayrides and pumpkin crafts for the whole family.

Colorado Springs, CO

- Although you may think apple picking is season, not at **Happy Apple Farm**! Check their website to see what still might be on the stem. They also have pick your own pumpkins at \$0.60 per pound.
- There's another farm east of Colorado Springs, called **Wishing Star Farms**. At the farm, you can "swim" in their corn bin or scale a gigantic hay pyramid! There's even a pedal cart track for ages 7-adults. This year, they are also offering yard games like giant checkers and giant Jenga.

Baby Onboard

Congratulations to **Isaac Hernandez** who welcomed daughter Leia, very recently.



New Orleans, LA

- Families are guaranteed to have fun at **Mrs. Heather's Pumpkin Patch** in Hammond, LA. Besides picking a pumpkin from the field, they offer zip lining, face painting and a nature trail. There are also plenty of places for the perfect Fall family photo.
- Sugar Roots Farm** is open every Saturday in October for pumpkin picking, horse rides, cider and baked goods!

Battle Creek, MI

- Visit **Bosserd Family Farm** and enjoy a Spooky Straw Tunnel, special Scavenger Hunts and a Greenhouse Learning & Play Area. Don't forget their "You Pick" pumpkin patch!

Albuquerque, NM

- Shop, eat and explore at **McCall's Pumpkin Patch**! Take a hayride to their pumpkin patch, mine for gemstones, feed the farm animals and much, more more.
- This month, **Wagner's Farm** has an exciting pirate adventure theme at the Farm. Explore the uncharted maze and with some luck, you may find the hidden treasure!

Columbus, OH

- Lynd Fruit Farm** offers both pre-picked pumpkins and a U-pick option! Not only can you grab some pumpkins, you can also pick some delicious apples.
- The pumpkin patch at **Pigeon Roost Farm** is a great place for the whole family. They have a corn maze, slides, a straw barn and even a Ninja Warrior course.

Richmond, VA

- Pumpkin picking at **Ashland Berry Farm** officially kicked off on September 30. Call ahead or visit them on Facebook to see updates on midweek activities. While you're there, don't forget to stop by the Country Store or the Halloween-themed Nightmare Gift Shop.
- The **Cross Creek Fall Festival** doesn't offer a traditional pumpkin patch but you can still choose from hundreds of pre-picked pumpkins. The festival features pumpkin painting, a "haunted" hayride perfect for all ages, tractor rides, a bouncy house and plenty of barnyard animals.
- Head out to **Gallmeyer Farms** and pick the perfect carving pumpkin or one that would make a great pumpkin pie! Guests are also open to bring their own food and drink to enjoy.



Oktoberfest in Sierra Vista

At the end of September, Kam and Sheila visited Sierra Vista, AZ to attend the Elks Lodge 31st Oktoberfest.

AESY and TekSynap were proud sponsors of the event and went to support our USARCC proposal effort. For the town of Sierra Vista, this is a huge event with authentic German music, food and dancing.

Our Business Partner, Larry Singer was also the MC for the event this year.



A TekSynap Engagement

Congratulations to **Rob Kennett** and **Kay Stephens** who got engaged this month!

Here's their story:

Long story short, this all started with a geeky Network Engineer T-shirt. Rob and Kay were playing pool in Fairfax - Kay was there with a group of friends and Rob was there with a co-worker. Kay noticed the T-shirt of the guy at the table next to her - it said Network Engineer and had some weird flow chart below it. Kay really wanted to read the chart, but every time she got a good view, the guy would get low for another pool shot. Finally after trying and failing to read this chart, she walked right up to the guy, grabbed his back and said "Stop moving, I'm trying to read your shirt!!" That guy turned out to be Rob. Two years, lots of adventures, and months of planning later, Rob proposed on a hot air balloon ride at 3,000ft.



Employee Anniversaries

6 Years

Antwan Glover
Kellie Dorgan

4 Years

Lonny Legrand

2 Years

Michael Halona
Timothy Owens
Jacob Dobbs

1 Year

Edward Stroebel
Jennifer Neish-McMurdy
Thomas Pollock
Wayne Wisneski
Isaac Hernandez

Welcome New Employees!

Dawn Browne, AFNCR
Irvin Hall, AFNCR
Johnathan Alves, AFNCR
Demitri Wayne, AFNCR
David Johnson, AFNCR
Troy Denton, Kirtland
Nitika Sagar, DLA Jets
Kayla Sailer, HQ
Christopher Ray, HQ
Scott Teegarden, DLA Jets
Ashley Frederick, VA Group Zero
Jeffrey Domingo, AFNCR
Brandon Cho, DTRA ITSS
LaTricia Sistrunk, DTRA ITSS
Kathy Lincoln, DTRA ITSS
Kashif Khan, DTRA ITSS
Julio Thomas, DTRA ITSS
Jeremy Johnson, DTRA ITSS
David Brunner, DTRA ITSS
Willie Smith, DTRA ITSS
Timothy Lowe, DTRA ITSS
Dominick Dicharo, DTRA ITSS
Neri Dominguez, DTRA ITSS
Arland Smith, DTRA ITSS
Chris Onuorah, DTRA ITSS
Glen Buckner, DTRA ITSS
Jeffrey Golden, DTRA ITSS
Marcus Houston, DTRA ITSS
Michael Wells, DTRA ITSS
Mohamed Ali, DTRA ITSS
Orahn Hardwick, DTRA ITSS
Tiana Person, DTRA ITSS
Dwayne Foreman, DTRA ITSS
Samuel Tinsley, DTRA ITSS
Bradley Stinson, DTRA ITSS
John Rafaels, DTRA ITSS
Lance Dekie, DTRA ITSS
Aisha Richardson, DTRA ITSS
Errol Graham, DTRA ITSS
Larry Sommer, DTRA ITSS
Deondria Smith-Harris, DTRA ITSS
Ivan Amankrah, DTRA ITSS
David Morales, DTRA ITSS
Craig Elam, DTRA ITSS
Timothy Clarke, DTRA ITSS
Andrew Oak, DTRA ITSS
Sandra Wright, DTRA ITSS
James Tucker, DTRA ITSS
Michael Thurston, DTRA ITSS
Christopher Paulson, DTRA ITSS
Benjamin Lee, DTRA ITSS
Thomas Jaynes, DTRA ITSS



REFER A FRIEND AND BE REWARDED



DLA

VTC Administrator - New Cumberland, PA
Network Engineer - Richmond, VA

DTRA

Multiple Cyber Roles - Albuquerque, NM

AFRL PrslSM

Multiple Cyber Roles - Albuquerque, NM

AFNCR

EMC Storage Matter Expert - Joint Base Andrews, MD
Microsoft SharePoint Subject Matter Expert/SME - Andrews AFB, MD
SolarWinds Subject Matter Expert - Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, DC

Please email your referral resumes to:

careers@teksynap.com
or visit [TekSynap Careers](#)

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