

10 Gig is the new Gig

Many years ago, all the network technicians would tell business owners "Make sure you use CAT5e cable when you wire your office. This way you can get gigabit speed." So let's explain it simply. The speed of your network determines how fast documents, videos, photos or even QuickBooks pop up on your screen if those files are on another computer... like a server. The bigger the file, the longer it takes. 20 years ago, most businesses had networks called 10/100. As it relates to speed, this meant your network could handle speeds of either 10 or 100 megabits per second (just think of it like 100 miles per hour if it helps.) Then everyone started talking about gigabit. Gigabit switches, gigabit cabling, gigabit coffee makers. Basically, gigabit means 1000 miles an hour in our analogy. Yes, 10 times faster than the old networks and we used that as the bench mark for nearly 20 years.

Well, now, it's seriously time to think about 10 gigabit speeds. As files get larger and larger, they will take more and more of your precious time to move around on your network. Now, with faster internet speeds and more traffic on your network like VOIP phones slowing things down, your business might be ready to upgrade. Prices for this technology have fallen dramatically. To make full use of 10x gigabit speed, you need three things: 10Gb network cards, CAT6 cable and 10Gb switches. As an example, a small 10 Gb switch has come down to under \$800 and 10Gb network cards for servers, under \$400. Those are pretty small costs for incredible efficiency gains of a faster network! Now the last part is the rub. Cat6 cable is not inside the walls of many buildings that are older than 10 years. Chances are, if your office was built before 2010, you probably do not have CAT6 network cables, and that will be a problem. Your goal would be to determine what kind of efficiencies can you gain vs costs associated with rewiring your offices.

We can help you determine IF you have Cat 5e or Cat 6 cabling, and if you have CAT 6 already, all you need are some upgrades to your network and you could be seeing a noticeable difference in your network speeds. If we determine you do not, we can still get you some estimates for rewiring. Because one thing is for sure, your old network will get slower and slower until eventually you will be forced to make a decision. Give us a call if you are interested and we can get the ball rolling or at least make some recommendations. Every network is different and provides different challenges, so no one size fits all.

Meet Michael Hegedus

CCS Technologies is proud to announce yet another qualified, courteous and super smart technician! Meet Michael Hegedus. He specializes in Web Development, Microsoft Servers, Enterprise Network Engineering, Network Administration, Desktop Support, Surveillance and Infrastructure Installation.

Michael is our newest Baker College alum, having transferred from CMU for a degree in Computer Networking. His experience in the public sector has given him a wide variety of skillsets that make him a jack-of-all-trades with technology. He enjoys staying up-to-date with video games, particularly Virtual Reality and is the Game Master of his Dungeons and Dragons group. Welcome aboard Mike!



"Relax...we're on IT"

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