~ The CONNECTIONS WEEKLY ~
August 11 ~ 18, 2006

The CONNECTIONS Program Improvement Plan Update…

The CONNECTIONS PIP (CPIP) team continues to monitor the system to track performance and asks that if users experience any issues with the application they report them to the NYS OFT Enterprise Help Desk at 1-800-NYS (697)-1323. The CPIP team thanks you for your continued assistance in this regard!

Activities for the week of August 4 ~ 11, 2006

As you are aware, the CONNECTIONS PIP is developing the CPIP Phase II plan and had scheduled August 8th as the date to determine which projects will be involved in the plan. As such, we will have a detailed update of the plan next week.

OFT Installation of a Critical Microsoft Security Patch…

** Please note that this message was communicated by the Office for Technology to LAN Administrators earlier this week.

OFT is distributing a critical Microsoft security patch to all HSEN workstations and servers. The distribution began on Wednesday evening (8/9/06) and will continue until all systems have received the patch. So as not to create a network bottleneck, each PC will receive the patch at a different time and then schedule an installation to occur after 1:00 AM. Therefore, it is important that all PCs be left powered on and logged off overnight in order to receive and apply the update. Laptop computers should be brought in to the office and left connected for at least 30 minutes. Please note that the security update will force each workstation to reboot overnight.

If you have any questions, please call your customer relations manager, the OFT Customer Relations main telephone number 1 (866) 789-4638, or the OFT HSEN Coordination Center at 1-800-603-0877.

****REMINDER**... Extremely Important for ALL Users to Leave Their PC's Powered On...**

As you are aware, OFT is distributing patches to all PC's on the HSEN network, as detailed in the email identified in the piece above. It is _critical_ that all PC's receive these patches. This message is being communicated at this time to alert users that all patches have not yet been distributed, and to remind all users to leave their PC's powered on to receive these patches. It should be noted that users should <u>always</u> leave their PC's powered on; this reminder is being sent now because of the criticality of the PC's receiving the patches.

Builds...Builds...Builds... Builds...Builds...Builds...Builds...
Build 18.8.5 Info...

The implementation of Build 18.8.5 is scheduled for late September '06. This Build is scheduled to include approximately eight to ten fixes to CONNECTIONS application functionality. The project team is currently reviewing the content of this Build and it is expected that we will identify the proposed Build 18.8.5 fixes to the field within the next week.

Build 18.9 Info...

As you are aware, the implementation of Build 18.9 is scheduled for December 2006. For a highlight of the information on the content of the Build we refer you to the handout that was presented at the NYPWA conference which is posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet website, on the Home page.

Thanks!! Thanks!! Thanks!! Thanks!! Thanks!! Thanks!!
Installation and Troubleshooting Guide for SSL-VPN CONNECTIONS Access...

Just a note, that we would like to recognize members of the CONNECTIONS Implementation Field staff for compiling the Guide, as well as our partners within OCFS Information Technology and the Office for Technology for reviewing and approving the Guide. As we reported last week, the long awaited Guide is posted to the Home page of the CONNECTIONS intranet!

New Postings to the CONNECTIONS Intranet...

The following document(s) were recently posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet website:

- The CONNECTIONS Weekly
- Comparison of the OCFS Data Warehouse Environments

Weekly System Maintenance...
CONNECTIONS Application Downtime...

- **_Wednesday, 8/16/06_** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM
- **_Friday, 8/18/06_** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM
- **_Wednesday, 8/23/06_** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM

- ***<u>Friday, 9/1/06</u>*** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM