LANsultants Times

Your Official Source for LANsultants News

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WHAT'S NEW FOR 2011

As with most businesses we continue to see our costs increase, especially health benefits, and we look to increase staff productivity to offset these expenses. Improved efficiency alone can not offset higher costs and we find it necessary to increase our mid-level and senior level billing rates modestly to cover part of our increased costs.

LANsultants' billing rates for 2011 are as follows. There will be no increase in the Technician billing rate which will remain at $100/hr.. The Network Consultant rate is increasing from $150/hr to $155 and the Senior Network Consultant rate is increasing from $180/hr to $185, for an average increase of 2.3%.

To minimize the impact of these costs we are experimenting with fixed cost monthly maintenance agreements. The difficulty is in defining what is covered and what is not covered by the agreement without having overly extensive listing of services.

We are also expanding services covered by Digital WatchTower, our network monitoring and management service, as prevention is far less expensive than repair. We will be introducing a $30/month charge for disk backup rotation and storage.

With technology the most exciting new development will be the release of Microsoft Small Business Server 2011. This new version of SBS is built on Windows Server 2008 R2, a major re-write of the initial release, and includes Microsoft Exchange Server 2010 SP1. We also expect to see new and far faster CPUs in 2011, possibly breaking the 10 Ghz barrier. More services will move to the "cloud" using Google Apps and other Internet-based services.

If you would like to be removed from our email newsletter subscription please send an e-mail to shirlean@lansultants.com.

2011 HOURS & HOLIDAYSCHEDULE

LANsultants' standard hours are 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Monday through Thursday and 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM on Fridays, holidays excepted. There is an emergency weekend technician available 9:00am to 5:00pm whom can be reached by calling our main telephone number and follow the prompts to be connected.

LANsultants will be closed on the following holidays:

Memorial Day - Monday, May 30th

Independence Day - Monday, July 4th

Labor Day - Monday, September 5th

Thanksgiving - Thursday, November 24th with minimal staff on Friday, November 25th

Christmas - Monday, December 26th and closing early on Friday, December 23rd

New Years 2012 - Monday, January 2nd

Weekend and evening work is available with advanced scheduling.

ANNUAL DATA ARCHIVE

LANsultants recommends that with the completion of your 2010 accounting you make a complete backup of your system for permanent archiving. If you use an on-line backup service, the permanent archive should be made to an external hard drive or other media.

Through the year we recommend use of a full month's tape rotation with archive tapes made monthly. The monthly archive tapes can be reused the following year. Disk backups use a slightly different schedule which includes management of disk rotation by LANsultants.