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Top Five Overlooked Budget Items

As many school districts look to finalize their 2007-08 technology budgets, I have put together a list of the top five overlooked budget items. So before you set your budget in stone, make sure that you accurately account for the following:

1. Expiring Hardware Warranty Contracts

For example, a typical file server warranty is usually three years, while the lifespan of a file server is normally four to five years. Once that warranty expires (usually in the third year) you may want to sign up for an additional two years.

2. Third-Party Consulting Fees

These fees can be associated with various technology projects and/or software and hardware support. If you own a Student Information System, IEP software package or any other specialized software packages, support costs can often be overlooked. Make sure you investigate these potential fees and budget accordingly.

3. Anti-Virus and Internet Content Filtering Software Subscriptions

These subscriptions often expire at precisely the wrong time and tend to be pricey. Make sure that you budget these subscriptions and that your coverage extends through the entire school year. You also may want to extend a subscription into a second or third year to receive a ten to fifteen percent reduction in the cost.

4. File Server Replacement Costs

The lifespan of a file server is between four to five years. If your file servers are in their fourth or fifth year, make sure that you set aside funds to replace them. You'll want to avoid at all cost the potential disaster of losing a server without having set aside funds for a replacement. Yellow pads, though less costly, are much less efficient...

5. Re-quote your Internet Connectivity

With the cost of Internet connectivity having dropped significantly over the years, make sure that you have your Telecommunications vendor re-quote your monthly cost. You may be able to realize a significant savings compared to your earlier contract(s).

Enjoy the remaining days of Winter,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials "R" followed by a horizontal line.

Paul Crawley

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