

Frontier Sponsors Tech Olympics

On May 5, 2017, Frontier Computer Corp. joined Cisco and other corporate supporters to sponsor the IT Academy Olympics at Northwestern Michigan College, where several members of the Frontier Technology team started their training. The Olympics are a forum for high school students to join in friendly competition to solve real-world technology challenges. The students come from local IT, Programming and Game Development programs to compete against each other for bragging rights and prizes.

Working in teams of three or four the 16, 17, and 18 year-old students competed in one of two challenge tracks each consisting of two 40-minute tasks. In one track they had to program Makeblock mBots to follow a charted course as well as using the unit's on-board sensors to track a line. After lunch, those same students had to connect a Pepwave Surf SoHo router (from Frontier) to a server to establish an Internet connection and broadcast it over Wi-Fi.

In the second track, students had to research, test, and give



a presentation recommending three methods for blocking Facebook on office computers. After lunch, those students were given a text file and photos from a resort and had to create a multi-page website for the property with proper CSS implementation, images, and at least one data table.

Northwestern Michigan College faculty and representatives from sponsoring technology firms advised the students and evaluated their work. The highest scoring teams received tech related prizes like Makeblock robots and Raspberry Pi 3 kits. It was a great opportunity for the students to learn from industry professionals and test the things they have learned in the classroom.

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WHEN EXPERIENCE COUNTS

FCC Goes to Copenhagen

There is more to asset disposition than carting away equipment. When you work with Frontier you can be sure you are getting the best return for your assets, because we shop the IT Market for the entire world.

In early May, Frontier's Corey Mason spent a week in Copenhagen with IT hardware professionals from everywhere on the globe. In a series of one-to-one meetings, Mason spoke with buyers, sellers,

and brokers who know their market segments. He's bringing that knowledge back to Frontier so our product managers can understand where to go to get the best price for your assets or locate the impossible to find replacement part. Then Frontier's expert logistics team can safely and economically move equipment around the globe, bringing the world of IT to your business.

Are Data Centers Really Disappearing?

If you spend any time around IT people, you might think that in-house data centers and servers are as rare as pay phones. Like many things in popular culture, however, the reality is different from the perception. In the most recent study, released May 1, 2017, the Uptime Institute found, “the percentage of workloads residing in enterprise-owned/operated data centers has remained stable at 65 percent since 2014.” It would be easy to latch on to the 65% number and miss perhaps the most important element in their summary finding, the 65% has remained stable.

Looking deeper into the Uptime report shows details that do not mesh with current buzz that everything is moving to the cloud. Of the 35% of IT work that wasn't being done in owner/operated data centers 22% of operations were still in data centers, but they were either co-located or multi-tenant centers. As of May 1, 2017, only 13% of Enterprise computing worldwide is in the cloud.

In the forty-five minute webinar on the study, Matt Stansberry, senior director for Uptime Institute, noted that over the last five years of their study, the industry percentage of in-house IT data centers has only changed within the margin of error. In short, there isn't a decline. While he noted that about a third of respondents did plan to deploy some workloads in the cloud in the next year, Stansberry said that 50% of cloud deployment is for



new computing capacity and growth, much of it by the large IT users like Netflix, Amazon, and Microsoft.

Overall data center footprints are shrinking, but cloud deployments are only one aspect. Increased server performance and technology are shrinking hardware. In addition, a significant portion, often characterized as a move to the cloud, is in fact virtualization

implemented on owned servers. Small server installations in remote offices have been replaced, but with a virtual presence in the company's own data center. There is new growth in the cloud, but not necessarily a rapid revolution.

As with all technology, things will change, but the just released report of data collected in early 2017, from 1,000 IT professionals, suggests that enterprise-owned/operated data centers are the rule rather than the exception, and that redeployment in the cloud is still a small part of the industry. At the end of his presentation of Uptime Institute's findings Matt Stansberry summarized, “Enterprise-owned data centers have remained a central component. We urge data center and IT professionals to focus on the business aspects of running their IT foundation.”



The dog bowl of names for the Pepwave MAX BR1 Mini drawing

Partners Help Frontier

Peplink and Pepwave solutions are ideal for Voice-over-IP, and many Frontier partners are in the VoIP business. When Frontier began investigating the VoIP telephone hardware market, we turned to our Peplink partners. In April we sent out a short (4 questions) survey to our partners for their input on VoIP trends. As a thank you for their participation, we put the names of all the respondents in a dog bowl and drew one to win a new BR-1 Mini.

Congratulations to Jason Adams from Global Aviation, our BR1 winner. “Frontier is a great company! Fast and friendly service. The Pepwave devices are reliable and give me great overview of what is happening on my networks,” Jason emailed upon hearing of his good fortune. To see the actual drawing with Barb and Sue from our accounting department, watch the video. <https://youtu.be/cq4ntQ7BGW4>

FROM OUR BLOG

Is it Really Waterproof? ”

Since the Sony Xperia Z and Samsung Galaxy S5, about 2013, common smartphones have been IP67, “water resistant.” Now the iPhone 7 is IP67 rated, and once Apple jumps in more people start asking questions. What exactly does IP67 mean?

Technically, IP67 means the phones, as they come out of the box, can take immersion in 1 meter of water for 30 minutes. The certification states that the seal will prevent “ingress of water in harmful quantity.” It can leak, but not enough to cause damage. Two meters would mean more pressure and all bets are off. As the phones age, spend time in your pocket, and get dropped the seals will lose integrity. The Samsung Galaxy S7 and S8 are now IP68 rated, which protects against immersion *more than* 1 meter, but the standard does not specify a depth benchmark. Samsung says the S8 is good to 1.5 meters. It will not end well if . . .

[Check out our blog for the entire article.](#)