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Hill Country Software and Support, Inc. - Gold Sponsor
Apple Dumplin' Gang
July 20-21, 2013

Since I will be unable to attend the board meeting, I felt it would be appropriate to submit this report to the CASI Board of Directors. This is an update on all of the things I do for CASI as a gold sponsor and as the person responsible for computer and accounting services.

Rackspace Dedicated Server

This server has been operational since February of this year. We had initially tried one of their cloud servers, but found that it did not provide the speed and flexibility we were looking for. Therefore we upgraded to a dedicated server. Yes, the dedicated server costs about twice as much as a cloud server, but the results have been well worth it.

Accounting Audit

At the last Great Pepper's Meeting, at a meeting including Ed Blair, David Sexton, Harvey West, Mel FitzHenry and myself, we agreed to a new format for the annual audit of the CASI Treasurer. It was agreed that David would take his time and close fiscal year 2012 properly, and then inform me that he was ready for the audit process to begin. At the last board meeting I asked if he was ready, and got a negative response. Since then I have not heard from him on this matter. This new audit process was to be more detailed, and if my audit team is to provide this audit in time for the 2013 Great Pepper's Meeting, I need to be contacted immediately so that we might coordinate the audit process with David.

Central Information System (CIS)

With the migration of the CIS to the Rackspace dedicated server, the CIS has been performing quite well. This is primarily due to the internet access speed provided by Rackspace which is 200 MB.

CHILIPHOTO.COM

In late 2012, two things happened that could have revived the use and updating of CHILIPHOTO.COM. First, Larry Walton approached me and indicated that he would be willing to work on the web site and bring it back to life. Second, Steve Nadeau approached me and turned over the ownership of the domain to me. At the last board meeting I established a VPN connection and loaded the necessary software onto Larry's laptop so that he might get to work.

Shortly after that he received a job related promotion, which resulted in him not having time to work on the project. As of now, no work has been done, and for security reasons, I have shut down the VPN link. One might ask why a web site that hasn't been updated in over 5 years is still on CHILI.ORG? The answer is simple. The web site is still receiving a very large number of hits.

CASI Virtual Museum

Heading into the 2012 Great Pepper's Meeting, a lot of work was done on the museum. This primarily consisted of the scanning of all documents being held by the CASI Secretary. There was also some work done on the different TICC's held, and publishing the winners, the champion's bio, picture and recipe, and the associated posters. Since then we have experienced the passing of both Ray and Pat King. This has caused a delay, as the family worked through the probate of their wills. Larry Burruss has been working with the family and has now secured all of the material Ray had collected for the museum. I have also completed a major addition to my company's office building, and have set aside a cubicle for work to resume. At Ira Duffield's funeral, Pat King and Ruby Ross turned over this project to me, and gave me approximately $1,400.00, which the museum corporation had collected to help fund the project. Apparently when the board assigned the museum project to Ray, he immediately formed a 501(c)(3) corporation. The Apple Dumplin' Gang has taken on the task and would accept help from anybody else who would like to contribute. We are currently in search of a large color scanner that will allow us to make quality images of TICC posters and copies of the Terlingua Trails, that were printed prior to 2002, when we started creating a PDF file for each paper published. Access to the CASI Virtual Museum can be obtained from any of the following web sites – CHILI.ORG, MYCHILI.ORG and APPLEDUMPLINGANG,ORG or .COM.

MYCHILI.ORG

As a result of a challenge from Guy Smith to be able to tally a chili cookoff on his iPad, a need to develop some new technology for my company's use in law enforcement, and a nine week period of time during which I received radiation treatments for prostate cancer, MYCHILI.ORG was born. As of now I can tell you that the prostate cancer is gone, and MYCHILI.ORG has been in use for several months. Besides responding to Guy's challenge, the intent behind MYCHILI.ORG was to give chili enthusiasts a reason to join CASI. With the decline in membership we have experienced over the last three or four years, something needed to be done. The primary resource that this web site has is the ability to interface with the CIS. Combine that with the ability to be accessed from desktop computers, laptops, tablets and smart phones and we now have a mobile product providing access to practically everything the CIS and the CASI Virtual Museum have to offer. This new web site provides for the following:

- A quick and easy way for CASI members to verify their points, for both chili and show, and the point standings of any other chili cook.
- A quick and easy way for CASI members to access current and past copies of the Terlingua Trails.
- A quick and easy way for CASI members to view all upcoming chili cookoffs and obtain directions to the cookoff location.
- A quick and easy way for CASI members to view the results of chili cookoffs, as far back as 20+ years ago.
- A quick and easy way for CASI members to change their personal information of their membership information page.
- A quick and easy way for CASI members to pay their dues. This function requires board approval before it can be activated.

These are some of the highlight of what MYCHILI.ORG brings to our members. However, there are some more powerful features that can really help streamline the flow of data through CASI, and help lighten the load of our people in charge of membership, upcomings, and the Tallymaster. To continue on with this effort, some of the features I am going to discuss require board approval.

Membership

A potential new member to CASI will be able to join CASI and pay their dues through the use of a credit card. We will be able to automate the process to where the following can occur within the matter of a few minutes:

- The new member will enter all of the appropriate information into MYCHILI.ORG, including the credit card they wish to use to pay their dues.
- Within seconds, the credit card payment will be verified and accepted for deposit into the designated CASI bank account.
- Within seconds, the new member will be provided their login and password so that they might take full advantage of MYCHILI.ORG, and all it has to offer.
- The membership process is complete, and the director in charge of membership, and the Executive Director, will receive emails, notifying them of what has just taken place.

This process requires board approval before it can be activated.

Great Pepper Meeting Registration

Delegates and guests will be able to register for the Great Pepper's Meeting, and pay their registration fees via the use of a credit card. This process requires board approval before it can be activated.

Submit a New Cookoff for Acceptance by CASI

This pretty much the same function currently offered in the CIS.

Processing a Cookoff from Start to Finish

This is probably the most powerful feature provided by MYCHILI.ORG. This allows for a cookoff promoter to do the following:

- Assign the key officials at the cookoff, including the referee, head judge, and the tally crew.
- Allows for cooks to pre-register to cook at the cookoff, over the internet.
- Provides for the definition of all cookoff events, and the collection and division of entry fees. Basically it does all of your accounting for you.
- The ability to add chili cooks to the CIS database, who don't currently exist in the database.
- The ability to download all of the official CASI forms required to run the cookoff.
- The ability to tally the different tables and log a history of tally results.
- The ability to log the winners so that they might be transmitted to the Tallymaster.
- The ability for CASI members to monitor the progress of the cookoff via their table or smartphone, while the cookoff is going on.
- Finally, the results can be electronically transmitted to the Tallymaster, at which point, she need only verify the results, and then with the click of a button, all of the results are entered into the CIS database. The cookoff fees owed to CASI can also be paid via a credit card. This will greatly lighten the work load of the Tallymaster.
- The complete cookoff processing history will be available for review at any time in the future. As like cookoff results, this information will never go away.
- This process requires board approval before it can be activated.

CHILI.ORG

In existence since 1997, the official web site of CASI continues to be the central access point for all of the other functions I have discussed in this report. The size of the overall database that makes all of this possible is simply enormous. It is surprising just how much data

has been accumulated over the last quarter century, since I wrote the first version of the Tallymaster program for Ralph Hay back around 1987. He was the Tallymaster at that time. In 1992 I introduced the first version of the Tally program, which has become the standard for the tallying of judging sheets at all of our chili cookoffs. And now, with MYCHILI.ORG, judging sheets can be tallied on a tablet or smartphone. All of this is in a safe environment that is backed up daily and supported by myself, and the staff of my company which has been in business in excess of 30 years.