



West Virginia IT and Cybersecurity Services

Highlights

Services:

- Application Security
- Information Security
- Network Security
- Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity Planning
- Operational Security
- End-User Education
- Facial Recognition

Certifications:

- Cisco Certified Network Professional in Security
- Mile 2 Certified Penetration Testing Engineer
- Ethical Hacking Certification
- Cisco Certified Network Professional
- Microsoft Certified Systems Engineers

Impacts:

- Improved Data and Network Security
- Increased security at government facilities using facial recognition and AI

GST Support for WV IT and Cybersecurity Services

For more than 20 years, GST has provided IT and cybersecurity support to all of West Virginia's 55 counties as well as municipalities around the state. GST has built strong relationships with our clients so that we can understand their challenges, resource limitations, and IT goals. We tailor our efforts within the framework of IT and cybersecurity best practices to deliver the most value possible.

System Administration: Since 1998, GST has provided network management and security support for West Virginia County Assessor offices and County Courthouse facilities. County government facilities in West Virginia utilize the State of WV's private network for access to State Government applications and Internet access. GST's responsibilities include management of over 5,000 devices around the state including PCs, servers, printers, switches, routers, firewalls, and storage equipment. GST also manages County and Courthouse NAS (Network Attached Storage) and SAN (Storage Area Network) solutions, VMWare environments, servers, desktops, printers, and a variety of mobile devices and smart phones functioning within the State / County network.

Cybersecurity: An increasingly important part of this work has been helping these counties improve the security of their applications, information, and networks. Using the NIST Cybersecurity Framework, GST cybersecurity specialists have recommended, designed, and implemented security measures to ensure the integrity and availability of county information and applications to their users. We assess each customer's network security needs and ensure compliance with standards set by the Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity Infrastructure Security Agency (DHS-CISA), the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC), and Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EI-ISAC). In support of periodic system sustainment, we provide a prioritized list of technology upgrades and process improvements for the customer. These upgrades and improvements aim to enhance performance, reduce security risks, improve management workflows, and identify operational efficiencies, ultimately resulting in long-term cost savings for the customer. Recommendations included equipment to secure the network and data, standardization of antivirus products and backup procedures across the multiple physical sites, restriction of wireless network access, evaluation of disaster recovery procedures, and implementation of web-based user education. After providing the report, we then work with our customers to implement those security recommendations.

When federal grant funding became available in 2023 to the State of West Virginia to improve overall cyber posture in County, Municipal, Education, and Health Departments, GST's WV state group stepped in to assist 32 rural counties to write grants for the first in a four-year grant program. This program will provide nearly \$9M in much-needed cybersecurity funding. All West Virginia Counties we assisted with the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program applications have received partial or complete awards for the current funding year. GST will provide most of the services, software, and equipment under these awards.

Facial Recognition: The GST WV IT Group is teamed with Rank One Computing to provide facial recognition and artificial intelligence (AI) solutions throughout its local government customer base in West Virginia. The implementation serves K-12 education along with State, County, and Municipal governments, specifically in law enforcement and healthcare. Advances in facial recognition and AI technology enable more reliable and accurate surveillance compared to traditional human security monitoring.