



THE HUB

The Alabama Supercomputer Authority Newsletter

ASA PRESENTS: TECH TALKS

On February 15, 2022, ASA presented the first Tech Talk session online. The topic of the session was security and how to minimize outside security threats. Andy McClure, our Technical Outreach Specialist, led the tech talk session.

The Tech Talk discussion included patching solutions and how they may help tech directors mitigate security related issues. The Tech Talk included how to use the Windows Server Update Service (WSUS) and the Microsoft System Center. Andy explained that the WSUS receives Windows updates from Microsoft and distributes them to the devices on the network. The Microsoft Systems Center works with the WSUS and utilizes the Systems Center Configuration Manager to download and distribute Microsoft updates. Third Party Application updates were also discussed as part of the Tech Talk.

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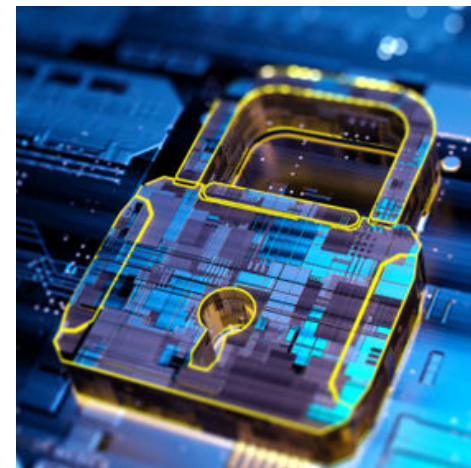
EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

MESSAGE FROM CEO

Time was allotted at the end of the session for attendees to ask questions pertaining to the topic. Several ASA employees were in attendance and available to provide answers to their questions.

Our first Tech Talk was a success and we look forward to hosting them on a quarterly basis.

We will host the next Tech Talk on April 20, 2022 from 12:30-1:30pm. ASA staff will discuss our Security Operations Center (SOC) and how SOC services benefit your school district. If you would like to receive an invitation to attend our Tech Talk Sessions, please send an email to newsletter@asc.edu.





E-RATE CORNER

Nichole Gipson
Client Services Director

FY2022 E-RATE CONSORTIUM APPLICATIONS FILED

ASA filed 181 Consortium E-rate Applications for Funding Year 2022, in March, for 660 sites, which consisted of 476 K12 school sites and 184 public libraries. This filing for Category One services will save the schools and libraries over \$19.3M for Managed Internet Access and Managed WAN Services for the upcoming funding year. We are so thankful to all the school districts and libraries that assisted ASA in filing our E-rate applications before the closing of the filing window on Tuesday, March 22nd. In the next few weeks, ASA will contact each of these schools and libraries in order to collect the Form 479 and CIPA Agreement for Funding Year 2022.

ALSDE AND ASCTE REPRESENTATIVES VISIT THE SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTER

ASA had the pleasure of providing a tour of the Security Operations Center to representatives of the Alabama State Department of Education and the Alabama School of Cyber Technology and Engineering. Dr. Mackey (ALSDE), Anna Morris (ALSDE), Dr. Reynolds (ALSDE), Matt Massey (ASCTE), and ASA employees are included in the pictures below. Thank you ALSDE and ASCTE for your interest in the SOC.



L-R: C. Maylin, D. Wallace, Dr. Mackey, M. Massey, E. Dorr



L-R: D. Ducote, Dr. Mackey, M. Massey, E. Dorr, A. Morris, Dr. Reynolds, D. Wallace

Welcome to ASA Keambria!

ASA is pleased to announce the recent hiring of Keambria Evans as a Staff Accountant in our Accounting Department. Keambria came to work for ASA in December of 2021. She previously worked at the State of Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences and has over seventeen years experience in Accounting. She graduated from Southern New Hampshire University with a Masters degree in Accounting.

Welcome to the ASA team Keambria!



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT - KESHA STANDBERRY



Kesha Standberry
Accountant/Personnel
Specialist

- 1. How long have you worked for ASA?**
8 years
- 2. How long have you worked for the State of Alabama?**
May 2022 will make 22 years.
- 3. What do you like most about working for ASA?**
The people and my job.
- 4. What advice do you give to new employees?**
Expect the unexpected. This experience could feel like a job or a family, it all depends on you.
- 5. What is on your bucket "to do" list?**
Travel to Dubai, Paris, and Hawaii
- 7. What are your hobbies?**
Traveling and spending time with my family.
- 8. What three words would you use to describe yourself?**
Selfless, Empathetic, & Loving.
- 9. What is your favorite quote?**
"Live freely, love deeply, and laugh often"



A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Debra Wallace, CEO

As I work alongside educational leaders, clients, legislators, and stakeholders, I am reminded each day of the importance of technology and the need to stay abreast of these changing times. As the last half of this fiscal year begins, ASA continues to make its mark on technology in the state of Alabama, with success in the areas of internet access, cybersecurity, high performance computing, and software development.

Alabama’s legislative session recently ended with much attention given to funding improvements in education, expanding technology, and closing the homework gap. I am happy for ASA to be an integral part of the expansion of Broadband throughout Alabama, knowing that this will further improve upon education in our State. With the help of the Legislature and Federal E-rate funding, ASA is able to meet the internet access needs of our clients, with minimum cost to them.

With technology being such a vital resource for everyone, whether you are a student, educator, member of the workforce, or a retiree, I encourage you to take advantage of ASA’s services to advance education through technology. I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for ASA

Best regards,



April Tech Talk:

April 20, 2022 from 12:30-1:30pm.

Security Operations Center (SOC);

An in-depth look at how ASA uses the latest security technology to protect your district from outside threats.

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