

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – NETWORK OPTIMIZATION

Context

- Each campus has built and supports its own network requiring 45-60 FTEs across all sites.
- KU connects to KUMC; KUMC connects to Wichita; and the current plan is to connect Wichita to Salina.
- Because each campus has built a network to serve their local interests, the overall network is sub-optimal.
- Combining the networks and optimizing their design will allow the network management to require fewer people overall and eliminate areas of conflict between them.

Goals

- Combine and manage each of the networks as a single large network.
- Fewer IT staff required to focus on network management.

Challenges

Risks surrounding optimizing network management are fairly moderate in respect to Institutional, Change Management, Project, Finance, and IT risks.

- There is some concern surrounding the number of people that may be impacted by the process of changing devices with conflicting IP addresses.
- There are multiple entities involved in the change. Coordination through consistent communication will be necessary to assure an optimal implementation.
- There is a disagreement between the KU Lawrence and Medical Center campuses in regards to the details of how to achieve the long-term goals for network optimization.
- The network optimization initiative has implications for the identity management initiative and vice versa. Membership of both implementation teams need to communicate to coordinate change on multiple fronts.

Opportunities

Anticipated results of approximately \$0.2–0.4M in benefits for the University can be realized once network optimization is fully implemented, through:

- Seamless collaboration between students, faculty, and staff across all campuses
- Long-term vision for network architecture and management that will realize savings opportunities.