

Managers' Corner

By Dave Wagner

What can we learn from Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer?

During the holidays we often revisit nostalgic stories that have been passed down through the generations. Sometimes we may not stop and think about the meaning behind those stories.

This week, for example, I was watching *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer* and it struck me how the story is a lesson on what we need more of in today's world: kindness and acceptance.

Most of us know the story of Rudolph and how, because he was different, he was ostracized by his fellow reindeer. The other reindeer would laugh at him and call him names and wouldn't let him play in any reindeer games. But one foggy Christmas Eve, due to the very thing that made him different, he led Santa's sleigh and saved Christmas!

We are often aware of differences between ourselves and others. People are expected to conform to often unstated norms, be it in society, the workplace, or the culture they were raised in. If they don't conform, they are often ostracized.

Santa wasn't innocent in this, and Comet, the coach of the reindeer games, was far more interested in maintaining the norms of his community than in accepting Rudolph's differences.

How can we learn from these simple stories from the past?

It is interesting to consider that some of the iconic shows of the past still have meaning today.

As we enjoy this holiday season, let's all stop and consider their meaning and how the story can impact our world today.

Even a television special from 1964.

Winter wonderland: Mapping out our hydrants



When snow makes it hard to find fire hydrants in our service area, they can easily be located using a special map designed by maps and records. The interactive map allows users to type in an address or zoom into a neighborhood to find the hydrants. To see for yourself, go to our website at stpaul.gov/water and look for the map link.

Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI): Coming to a workstation near you

The IS team is in the midst of rolling out the Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) with Windows 10. As the name states, you will no longer have a physical hard drive (big, black box) on or near your desk.

Right now, out of 130 users at the utility, 56 have switched over to the new platform.

In January, Microsoft will stop formally supporting Windows 7. This does not mean that the operating system will no longer work, but that the company will no longer provide security patches and the like.

So, whether we have VDI or not, we will have to migrate to Windows 10. Allan Fung has been working with end users from all areas to migrate from the physical PCs to Thin Client VDI devices.

Chantha Siv and Nick Sprenke are working on the image creation (what you will see on your screen at your workstation) and back-end servers (where you will save your data and your apps will be stored).

Because the workstations are smaller, more compact, and do not have large hard drives, the Thin

Wry moves to plant

Jeremy Wry has taken a position in the treatment plant as a water plant worker, effective as of December 2.



Jeremy Wry

He reports to Tom Blanchard.

He previously worked in the warehouse and held the title of water utility worker I.

Congratulations to Jeremy on his new position.

VDI: Coming to a workstation near you

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Client devices tend to consume less energy to operate. They are also less likely to be hacked or have data stolen, as there is no data in the Thin Client. It is on a separate server/data center.

What you see on your screen will look similar to how it looked before. And no matter where you access your data, either on your workstation at your desk or out in the field on a mobile device, the image will look the same.

Moving to VDI will give some advantages to end users in the future by allowing the use of the VDI image at any device that has a browser and an internet connection. Currently, the meter techs use VDI in the office and connect to the same image on field laptops. Customer service, the warehouse, accounting, payroll, the engineering service desk, administration, and meter operations also use VDI.

As the rollout continues, if you are not yet using VDI, you will be contacted by IS ahead of time to

Joe Mancini, retiree, passes away

Joe Mancini, retiree, passed away in early December. He retired in 2013 after working full-time at the water utility for 29 years.

Joe worked for the utility as a temporary, unskilled laborer beginning in 1977.

He became a full-time, certified employee in 1984, working as a ditch digger.

He held several jobs, including water plant aide and stores laborer, before becoming a water utility worker I in 1992.

This is the position from which he retired on Dec. 31, 2013.

No services or visitations are planned.



Joe Mancini



Above, Joe Mancini ringing Christmas bells as Santa Claus in 2006.



Below, Joe and fellow employees celebrate a retirement in the welding shop in 2005.

Joe Mancini pitching during the annual softball game at the B-Dale Club in 2004.



clean up your current PC to make it ready for migration. Removing unused desktop icons, old documents, and any other clutter will help streamline the operation.

During the migration, IS will not be moving personal pictures,

music, or other files to VDI.

Please move these files to a personal thumb drive, Google drive, or other site for retention.

Please contact Tom Buth with any issues or concerns as the project moves forward.