# Managing the Microsoft Chicagoland Data Center



The site of Microsoft's data center project in Northlake, Ill.

William F. Slater, III, PMP Data Center Manager Candidate Microsoft BLU Data Center Facility at Bristow, Virginia February 28, 2008

# Agenda

- Introduction, About me a Career in IT
- Why Build These Large Data Centers: Where the Future of Computing Is Going
- The Operational Description
- Managing the Microsoft Chicagoland Data Center
  - The Team
  - The Needs
  - The Plan
  - Reporting
- Conclusion
- Questions

# Introduction

#### About me

- IT professional since July 1977
- Currently a Program Manager at the Hines, IL VA, managing a Team that supports messaging servers for 300,000 Exchange E-mail Users and 6500 Blackberry Users
- Managed Data Centers at BP from August 2001 November 2006, was also a Change Management Manager and a System Administrator during that time.
- Part-time senior adjunct instructor with the Computer Systems Institute of Chicago
- Have achieved IT-related certifications, including PMP, CDCP, CISSP, SSCP, MCSE 2003 Security & Messaging, MCAD, MCDST, and MCT
- Data Center Technology Program Marist College & and the Institute of Data Center Professionals, February 2008 – Received the Certified Data Center Professional Certification
- MS in Computer Information Systems, University of Phoenix, 2004
- BS in Engineering Technology with a major in Computer Systems Technology, Memphis State University, 1977 (now the University of Memphis)
- Published author & editor: Magazines, books, courseware
- Happily married (since December 2000) to Joanna K. Roguska, who is a professional web developer at the Chicago Tribune
- Native of Memphis, Tennessee, born the same month and year as Bill Gates
- Resident of Chicago / Chicagoland area since 1986 (except for the period between May 1991 and December 1994)
- About this Presentation
  - Here to Interview for the Microsoft Chicagoland Data Center Manager position

## **Technical Job Skills**

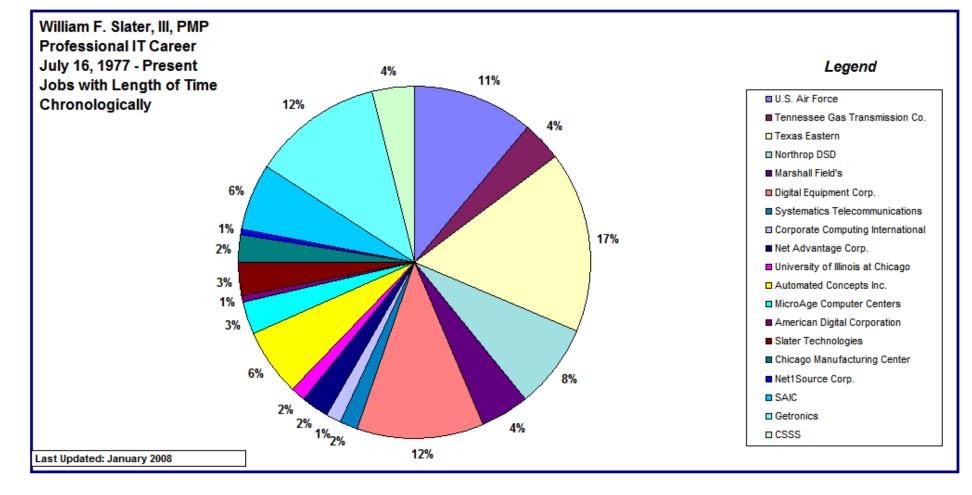
- Project Management
- Program Management
- Data Center Management
- Mentoring
- Troubleshooting
- Problem Solving
- Systems Administration
- System Architecture and Design
- Database Design, Implementation, and Administration
- Network Design, Implementation and Administration
- Intranet Design and
   Implementation

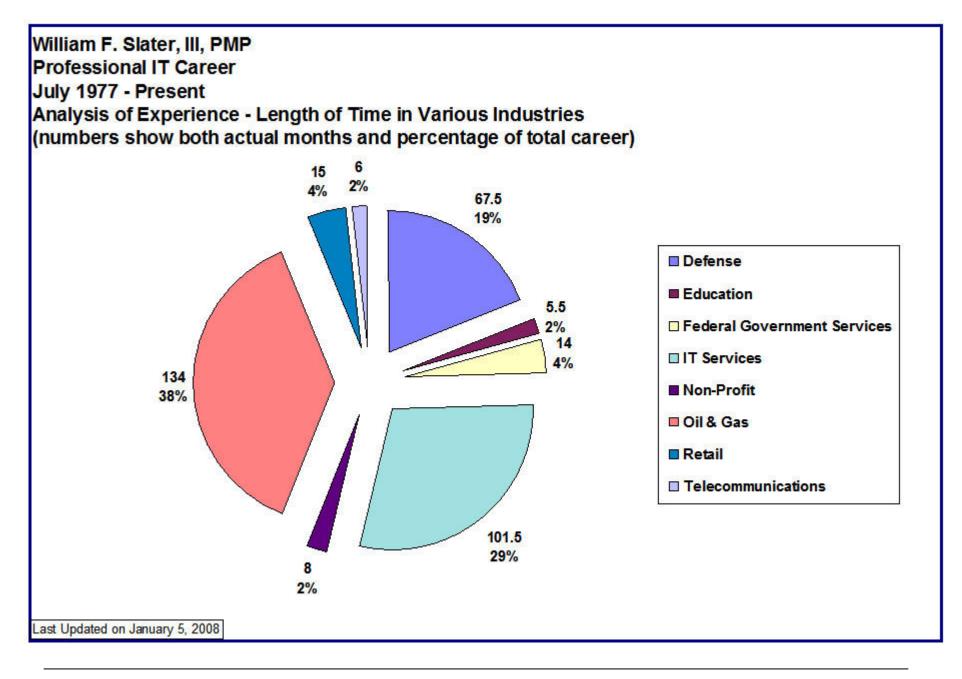
- Technology Assessment
- System Analysis & Design
- OO System Analysis & Design
- System Development using, VB .NET 2003, Visual Basic 6, Java 2, and/or J2EE
- PERL Scripting
- Web Authoring/Web Publishing
- System Performance Tuning
- GUI Analysis, Design and Review
- Technical Writing, Documentation, and Editing
- Technical Training
- Safety Management

## A Career in Information Technology

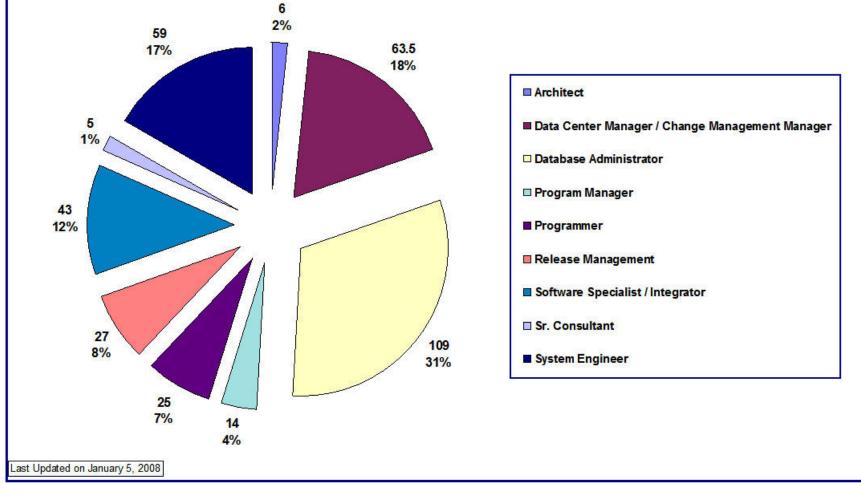
William F. Slater, III, PMP Professional Information Technology Career History Last Updated on January 1, 2008											
No.	Employer	Location(s)	Length In Months	Hours / Week	Start and End Dates	Position(s)					
	U.S. Air Force	Offutt AFB, NE	39.5	45	7/15/77 - 10/22/80						
	Tennessee Gas Transmission Co.	Houston, TX	12.5	45	11/3/80 - 11/17/81	Computer System Staff Officer Programmer / Analyst II					
2	Texas Eastern	Houston, TX	58	40	12/28/81 - 10/15/86	Database Analyst II					
4	Northrop DSD	Rolling Meadows, IL	28	45	11/3/86 - 02/27/89	Database Analyst					
5	Marshall Field's	Chicago, IL	15	40	03/14/89 - 06/07/90	Database Analyst					
6	Digital Equipment Corp.	Chicago, IL; Colorado Springs, CO; Merrimack, NH	41	48	06/18/90 - 3/11/94	Principal Software Specialist / Project Leader					
_	Systematics Telecommunications	Twinsburg, OH	6	55	03/14/94 - 09/07/94	Client/Server Architect					
8	Corporate Computing International	Bannockburn, IL	5	75	12/29/94 - 05/31/95	Senior IT Consultant					
9	Net Advantage Corp.	Chicago, IL	8.5	50	06/01/95 - 02/07/96	Consultant					
10	University of Illinois at Chicago	Chicago, IL	5.5		03/27/96 - 9/06/96	Network Analyst					
	Automated Concepts Inc.	Chicago, IL	21	45	09/09/96 - 06/19/98	IT Consultant / Network Analyst					
12	MicroAge Computer Centers	Chicago, IL	11	45	6/21/1998 - 4/20/1999	IT Consultant / Project Manager / Network Analyst					
13	American Digital Corporation	Chicago, IL	2	50	6/14/1999 - 8/16/1999	Senior Technical Consultant					
	Slater Technologies	Chicago, IL	- 11	48	8/16/2000 - 7/1/2001	Project Manager / Senior Technical Consultant					
15	Chicago Manufacturing Center	Chicago, IL	8	48	7/3/2000 - 2/16/2001	Senior Business Advisor / Database Administrator					
16	Net1Source Corp.	Elk Grove Village, IL	2	45	2/19/2001 - 4/13/2001	Senior Technical Consultant					
17	SAIC	Naperville, IL	21.5	48	5/21/2001 - 2/28/2003	Process Technical Lead / Data Center Manager / Change Management Manager					
18	Getronics	Naperville, IL	42	50	3/1/2003 - 11/3/2006	IT Consultant / Data Center Manager / Change Management Manager					
19	CSSS	Hines, IL	14	50	11/28/2006 - Present	Program Manager at Hines VA managing a 22-person Infrastructure Team & Projects					
T	Total Months 351.5 48.42 Average Hours / Week										

# A Career in Information Technology





#### William F. Slater, III, PMP Professional IT Career July 1977 - Present Analysis of Experience - Length of Time in Various Types of Roles (numbers show both actual months and percentage of total career)



February 28, 2008

# Soft Job Skills & Attributes

- Very strong People Skills
- Very strong Leadership Skills
- Writing
- Speaking
- Good Listener
- Teaching
- Strong intuition
- Empathetic
- Enthusiastic

- Mentoring
- Preparing and leading meetings
- Friendly
- Helpful
- Kind
- Trustworthy
- Loyal



• <u>2008</u>

- (See 2007)

- <u>2007</u>
  - Managed a Team of 20 people which provides technical support for Exchange Servers and Blackberry Server for over 300,000 users, on a 24 x 7 basis at the Hines, IL VA facility.
  - This Team resolved about 5500 Remedy Tickets in 2007.
  - Was the technical project leader on a Data Center Migration project, to migrate 220 servers into a high-security Data Center
  - Helped rewrite the standard operating procedures for the Team, to transform the organization into a "tiered support model."
  - Streamlined Team member reporting and improved both customer service and productivity.
  - Coached Team members regarding career growth and technical education outside work. Result: 15 people have passed IT certification exams.
  - Outside work, I taught classes for Computer Systems Institute and worked in the IDCP Data Center Technology Program

## • <u>2006</u>

- Managed three major sets of server and server-related equipment migrations into the largest of three Data Centers I Manage
- Started in the 18-month Data Center Technology Program sponsored at Marist College by the Institute of Data Center Professionals and the National Science Foundation – received a \$16,000 scholarship to participate in this program
- Received \$1700 bonus for the most complex of these migrations which completed in July 2006
- Outside of work, I taught technical classes at the Computer Systems Institute, based in Chicago and in Lombard, IL.
- Outside work, as President of the Chicago Chapter of the Internet Society (ISOC-Chicago), I worked with the leadership of ISOC-Polska to help complete a project for an e-Learning Resource Brokerage Website involving U.S.-based institutions of higher learning.
- Earned the ITIL Foundation, the PMP, and the Linux+ certifications as well as two certifications in Data Center Management

#### • <u>2005</u>

- Continued efforts in Change Management
- After approving and processing over 15,000 Change Requests on the BP Infrastructure in 4.25 years, I turned over the Change Manager role to another person in October 2005
- Managed the largest ever server and serverrelated equipment migrations into the largest of three Data Centers I manage, this included 8 racks and almost 50 servers from a DRP site.
- Managed 15 projects related to the upgrade and repair of the Data Center Facilities in the largest of three Data Centers I Manage
- Outside of work, I taught technical classes at the Computer Systems Institute, based in Lombard, IL.
- Outside work, I created and delivered a threeday seminar on IT security and taking the SSCP exam
- Earned the MCSE 2003, MCAD, and MCSD certifications

#### • <u>2004</u>

- Managed several projects that included the upgrade and/or addition of about 60 servers into the largest of three Data Center I Manage
- Continued efforts in the project for the Recentralization of the Management of the BP Naperville Data Center.
- Continued efforts in Change Management
- Managed several projects that included the removal of about 40 servers out of the largest of three Data Center I Manage
- Solved emergency cooling issues related to the loss of cooling in the largest of three Data Center I Manage
- Planned and supervised the addition of CCTV surveillance capability to the largest of three Data Center I Manage
- Upgraded the Site Disaster Recovery Plan with details of all facilities and IT Infrastructure changes
- Established a Job Safety Analysis Templates Project to help streamline the enforcement of and compliance with BP's DCT Data Center Safety objective
- Earned the MCSE 2000, MCDBA, the SSCP and CISSP certifications
- Graduate from the University of Phoenix with an M.S. in Computer Information Systems with a 3.92 on a 4.0 scale.

#### • <u>2003</u>

- Continued efforts in the project for the Re-centralization of the Management of the BP Naperville Data Center.
- Continued efforts in Change Management
- Was a finalist in the prestigious BP 2003 Digital Business Helios Awards competition. I wrote the nomination that highlighted accomplishments of the project I managed: Recentralization of the Management of the BP Naperville Data Center. Our Team was flown to London to attend the 2003 Helios Award Ceremonies.
- Began a 21-month MS program at the University of Phoenix in Computer Information Systems
- Earned the MCSA 2000, the IT Project+, the A+, Server+, and Network+ certifications

## • <u>2002</u>

- Implemented a project produced a lot of savings as servers were retained and evaluated for reuse in other projects instead of automatically being sent out for scrap and salvage
- Continued efforts in the project for the Recentralization of the Management of the BP Naperville Data Center.
- Continued efforts in Change Management
- Designed and Created a Customized Time-Tracker Application to track time in a high-pressure, multiple-project, multitasking work environment
- Outside of work, I taught technical classes at the Illinois Institute of Technology, and for Solex Academy, I created and taught a four month class in Java 2 and Object-Oriented Development for teaching displaced workers.

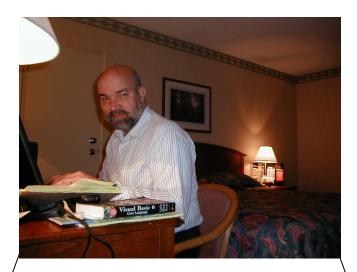
#### <u>2001</u>

- At Chicago Manufacturing Center, I instituted and completed a project to clean up dirty and missing data from the CRM data base that was managed by SQL Server
- Started on the BP account with SAIC, supporting the infrastructure with Systems Administration efforts. Also used PERL and KIXSTART to produced reports showing the status of servers, and to search large proxy server log files to look for web-related employee misbehavior.
- Began the project for the Re-centralization of the Management of the BP Naperville Data Center. In addition to working in and on BP's third largest Data Center in the world, I routinely work with over 30 vendors and organizations to get this work done.
- Began the project related to Change Management as a Change Management Manager
- Outside of work, I taught technical classes at the Illinois Institute of Technology and for the Wheaton School District.

## • <u>2000</u>

- For the City of Chicago, I completed a project that used HP OpenView Desktop Administrator to automate the Asset Management and Inventory efforts for over 9300 desktop computers located throughout the City of Chicago.
- At Chicago Manufacturing Center, I instituted and completed a project to streamline management and reporting of CRM data stored in an SQL Server Database. I also created a set of user interfaces which used SQL queries to allow users easy access for their most common data and reporting needs
- Outside of work, I taught technical classes at the Illinois Institute of Technology and for the Wheaton School District.

- <u>1999</u>
  - At Maywood Police Department, I implemented the Compaq Server Cluster that became the foundation of their 911 Call Center information system.
  - For the City of Chicago, I started a project that used HP OpenView Desktop Administrator to automate the Asset Management and Inventory efforts for over 9300 desktop computers located throughout the City of Chicago.
  - Outside of work, I taught technical classes at the Wheaton School District.

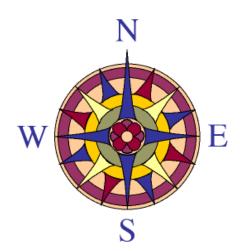


And belief overmasters doubt, and I know that I know,

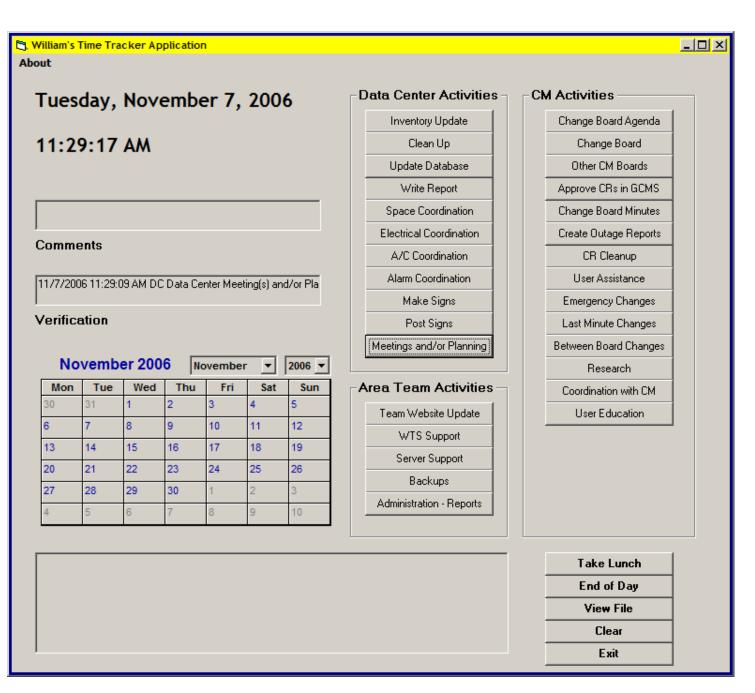
And my spirit is grown to a lordly great compass within, That the length and the breadth and the sweep of the marshes of Glynn...

Sidney Lanier, "The Marshes of Glynn"

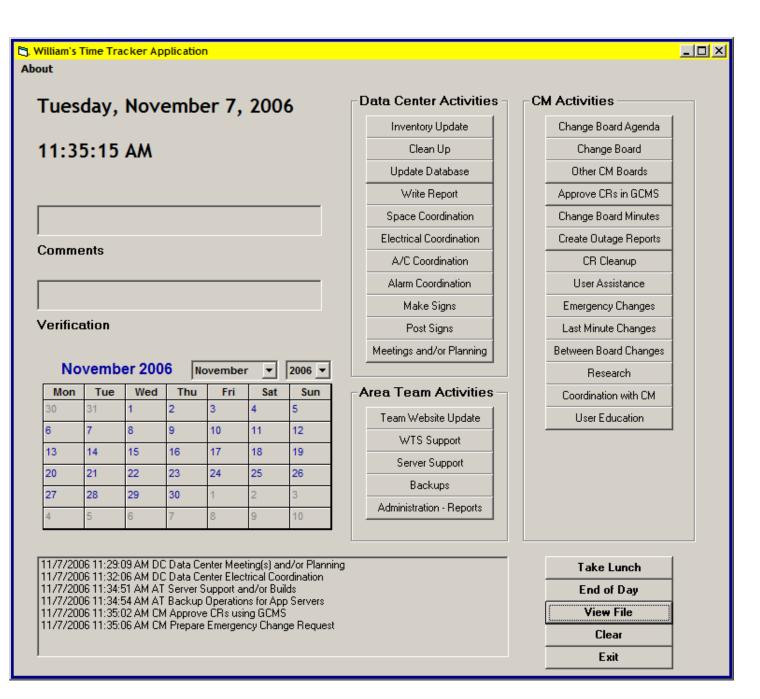
Working on Solving a Project Management Problem



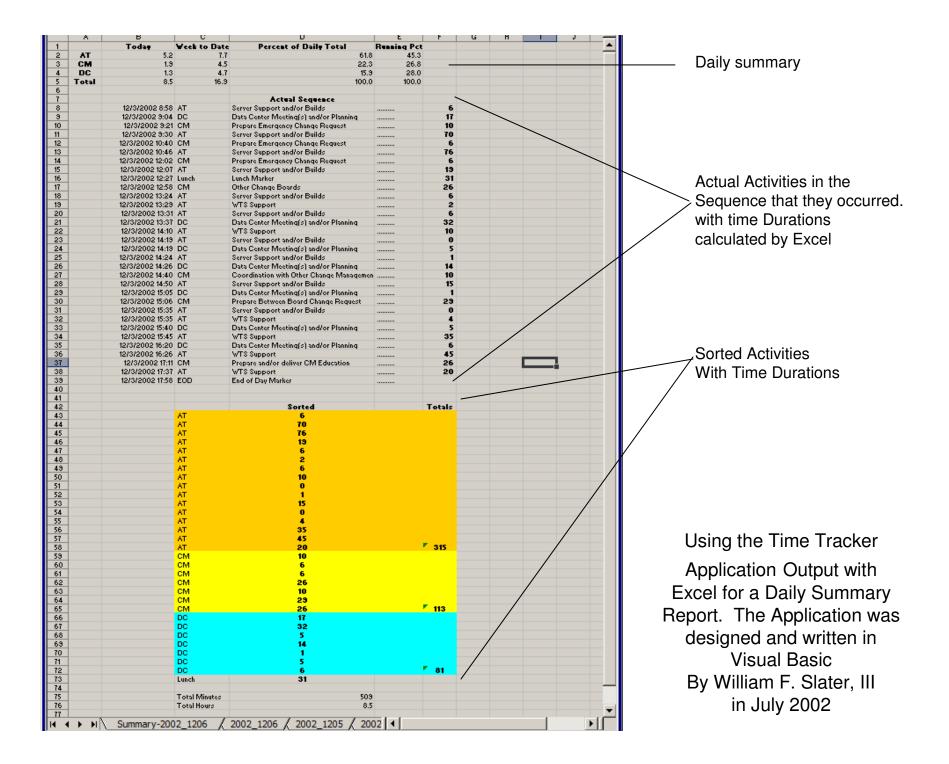
I was on vacation when I decided to do the analysis, design, and implementation of this <u>Time Tracker Application</u>. This photo was taken in a hotel room in Lansing, MI as I was working on finishing this application.

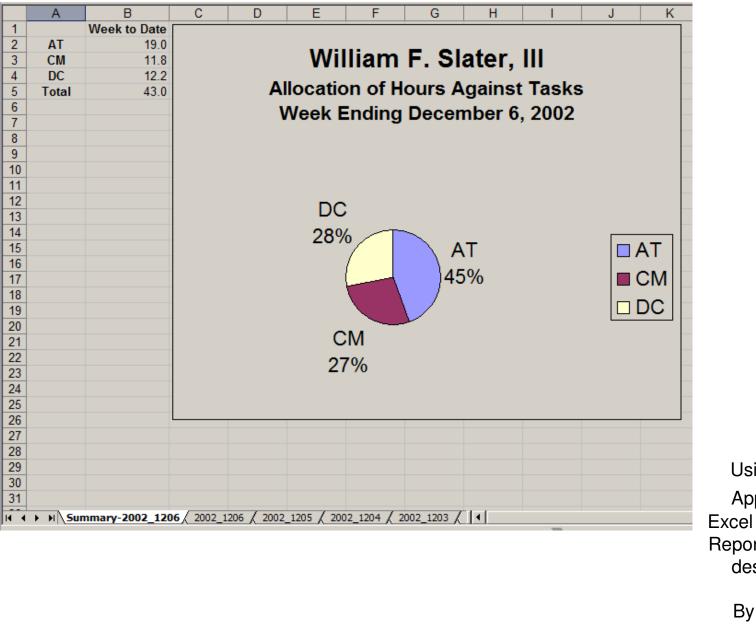


Time Tracker Application Designed and Written in Visual Basic By William F. Slater, III in July 2002



Time Tracker Application Designed and Written in Visual Basic By William F. Slater, III in July 2002





Using the Time Tracker Application Output with Excel for a Weekly Summary Report. The Application was designed and written in Visual Basic By William F. Slater, III in July 2002

# Other

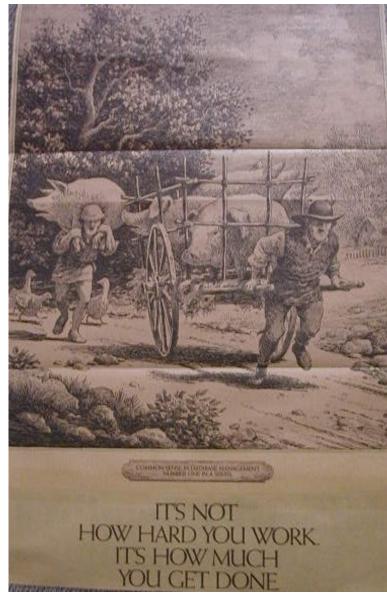
- Interests and Hobbies
  - Music
  - Reading and Writing
  - Judo
  - Chess
  - Staying up on Technology
  - Microsoft Technologies
  - Working on my Home Network
  - Linux
  - Programming
  - Teaching
  - Mentoring
  - Travel, especially visiting Poland annually at Christmas
  - Cruise vacations
  - Politics National and Local



William Slater and Joanna Roguska Warsaw, Poland - 2004



William Slater and Joanna Roguska Off the Coast of Alaska, 2003



# Work Philosophy

(from a Revelation Database Advertisement Published in ComputerWorld in 1985)

## It's not how hard you work... It's how much you get done.

February 28, 2008

Microsoft Data Center Manager Interview - William F. Slater, III

## What Is the IDCP Data Center Technology Program?





The leading provider of information, education, training, and certification for data center professionals

## The Institute for Data Center Professionals (www.IDCP.org) MISSION

The Institute for Data Center Professionals (IDCP) is an independent vendorneutral certifying body (www.idcp.org). Its mission is to support the professionals responsible for and working in data centers by providing information, access to education and training, certification, and other services in the areas of:

- Systems and software
- Networking
- Facilities management
- Operations and process management
- Product development and financial planning
- Security

Relevant core organizational and leadership skills are emphasized.



The leading provider of information, education, training, and certification for data center professionals

# The Institute for Data Center Professionals (www.IDCP.org)

## CERTIFICATION

The Institute for Data Center Professionals (IDCP) is responsible for testing and certifying data center professionals as qualified to be addressed as a Certified Data Center Professional (CDCP).

The **Certified Data Center Professional (CDCP) certification** is for administrators and those making inroads into the data center profession who need broader technical skills in systems and software, networking, facilities management, operations and process management, product development and financial planning, security, as well as enhanced interpersonal, organizational and communications skills.

## TESTING

Practical hands-on training and tests are offered at AFCOM conferences and regional meetings.

IDCP

#### THE INSTITUTE FOR DATA CENTER PROFESSIONALS

The leading provider of information, education, training, and certification for data center professionals

## Courses toward IDCP Certified Data Center Professional Certification (CDCP)

Systems & Software	Security				
<ul> <li>Information Technology &amp; Systems</li> <li>Concepts</li> </ul>	Information Technology & Systems     Concepts				
<ul> <li>Introduction to Programming</li> </ul>	•Systems Administration & Management				
•Architecture of Hardware & Software	<ul> <li>Internet Security</li> </ul>				
Networking	Operations & Process Management				
<ul> <li>Information Technology &amp; Systems Concepts</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Information Technology &amp; Systems Concepts</li> </ul>				
Data Communications	<ul> <li>System Design &amp; Analysis</li> </ul>				
Internetworking	<ul> <li>Managing IT Organizations</li> </ul>				
	<ul> <li>Project Management</li> </ul>				
<ul><li>Facilities Management</li><li>Information Technology &amp; Systems Concepts</li><li>Introduction to Facilities</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Product Development &amp; Financial Planning</li> <li>Information Technology &amp; Systems Concepts</li> <li>Accounting for the Data Center</li> <li>Project Management</li> </ul>				

Microsoft Data Center Manager Interview - William F. Slater, III

## Why Build These Large Data Centers? Where the Future of Computing Is Going



## Why Build These Large Data Centers? Where the Future of Computing Is Going

- According to Nicholas Carr, author of <u>The</u> <u>Big Switch</u>, published in January 2008, the IT Industry is now in a huge paradigm shift where companies will move from expensive IT professional staffs and infrastructures, to smaller IT staffs and getting their services across the Internet from large providers like Google, Microsoft, etc. This is called "cloud computing."
- These services will be provided on servers that are accessible via the Internet and web technologies.



Nicholas Carr

## Why Build These Large Data Centers? Where the Future of Computing Is Going

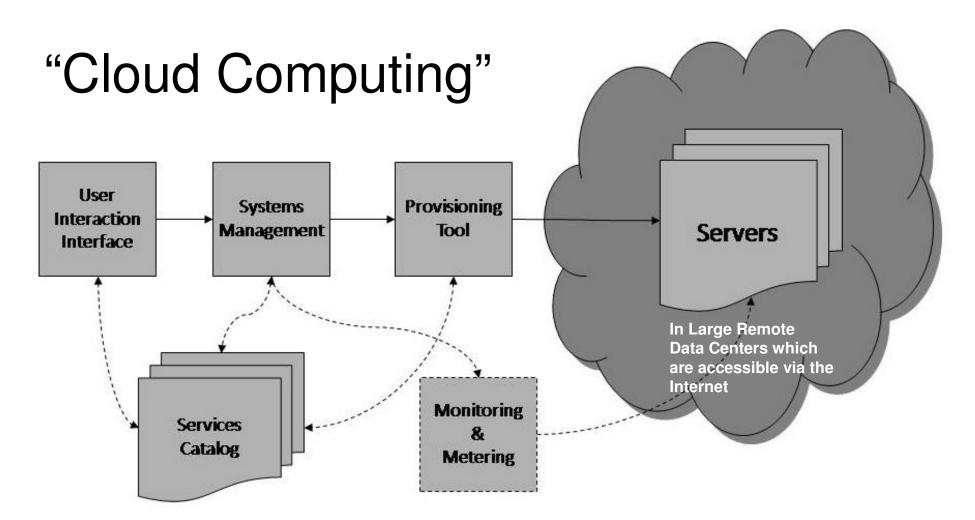
- According to Bill Gates and Ray Ozzie, in separate memos published on October 30, 2005: Microsoft will do a better job of embracing the web and web services. "People don't care how this stuff works, they just want it to work."
- These services will be provided on servers that are accessible via the Internet and web technologies.



**Bill Gates** 



Ray Ozzie



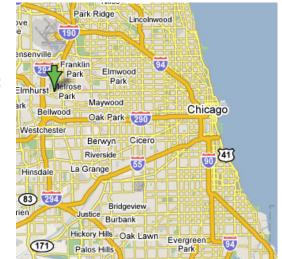
- User interaction interface: This is how users of the cloud interface with the cloud to request services.
- Services catalog: This is the list of services that a user can request.

Source: Wikipedia Article on Cloud Computing, retrieved on February 5, 2008

- System management: This is the piece which manages the computer resources available.
- Provisioning tool: This tool carves out the systems from the cloud to deliver on the requested service. It may also deploy the required images.
- Monitoring and metering: This optional piece tracks the usage of the cloud so the resources used can be attributed to a certain user.
- Servers: The servers are managed by the system management tool. They can be either virtual or real.

# Microsoft Chicagoland Data Center The Operational Description

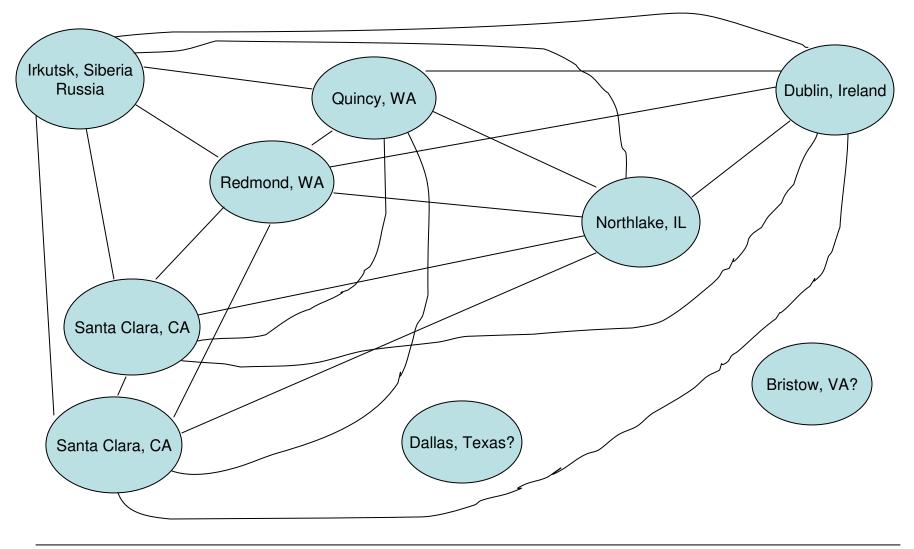
- Location: Northlake, IL
- Facility Cost: \$500 M
- Building: 550,000 sq. ft, two stories (approximately 275,000 sq ft. each), new construction
- Power: 40 MW supplied by ComEd
- Cooling: Free cooling
- Capacity: 1KW/sq ft, "10s of thousands of servers"
- ASHRAE Rating: Tier 4
- Target Opening Date: April 1, 2008
- Expected Useful Life: 10 15 years



Northlake,IL

# Microsoft's Cloud Computing Plans

## (based on media coverage)

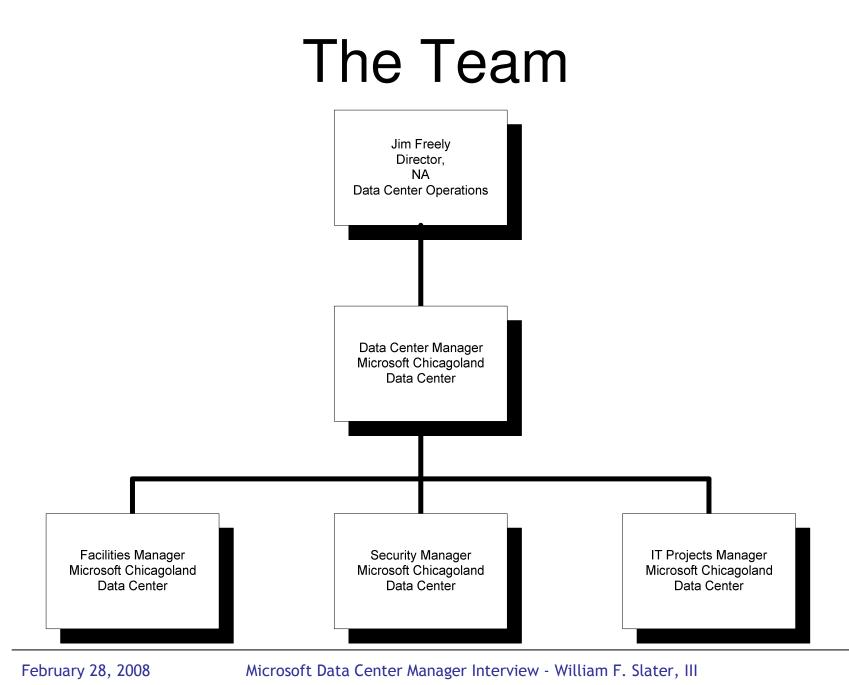


## Managing the Microsoft Chicagoland Data Center

- The Team
- The Needs
- The Plan
- Reporting



The site of Microsoft's data center project in Northlake, Ill.



# The Needs

- A strong team of experienced Data Center professionals
- 99.9999% uptime
- 24 x 7 x 365 days a year
- Ultra-high reliability
- Agile and able to quickly respond to Microsoft's business needs
- Capacity to accommodate, newer, increasingly powerful servers for the next 10 to 15 years
- Concurrent maintainability
- High-security
- Safety in all activities

# Availability

#### **Availability Calculations**

Holy Grail		Uptime In One Year 100.000000000 Percent of Uptime	Days 365.000000000	Hours 8760	<b>Minutes</b> 525600	<b>Seconds</b> 31536000	Downtime Days 0	Hours 0	<b>Minutes</b> 0	<b>Seconds</b> 0	
3.6 days	2 - 95	99.000000000	361.350000000	8672.40	520344.00	31220640.00	3.650000000	87.600000	5256.000000000	315360.0	2-9s
8.7 hours	3 - 95	99.90000000	364.635000000	8751.24	525074.40	31504464.00	0.365000000	8.760000	525.600000000	31536.0	3-9s
52 minutes	4 - 9s	99.990000000	364.963500000	8759.12	525547.44	31532846.40	0.036500000	0.876000	52.560000000	3153.6	4-9s
5.2 minutes	5 - 9s	99.999000000	364.996350000	8759.91	525594.74	31535684.64	0.003650000	0.087600	5.256000000	315.4	5-9s
31.5 seconds	6 - 95	99.999900000	364.999635000	8759.99	525599.47	31535968.46	0.000365000	0.008760	0.525600000	31.5	6-9s
3.2 seconds	7 - 9s	99.999990000	364.999963500	8760.00	525599.95	31535996.85	0.000036500	0.000876	0.052560000	3.2	7-9s
.3 seconds	8 - 95	99.999999000	364.999996350	8760.00	525599.99	31535999.68	0.000003650	0.000088	0.005256000	0.3	8-9s

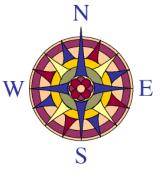
# The Plan

- Manage this operation as an ongoing Program, consisting of several, interrelated projects
- Use either Microsoft Operations Framework 3.0 or ITIL v3 a services management framework model
- Develop a Data Center Operations Guide or use an existing one.
- Everything goes through Change Management
- <u>Everything is recorded in a Configuration Management</u> <u>Database</u>
- Create and Maintain a Facilities Management Database, including records for installation, operations, maintenance, and testing for all facilities equipment
- Create and Maintain a Security Management Database, including, records for all security operations and events
- Create and Maintain a Project Management Database, including, records for all projects



# The Plan

- Documentation will be created, uploaded and maintained via a SharePoint Portal
- Safety management throughout with regular safety inspections
- Automation of early-warning systems in the environment – i.e. use NetBot technology by APC to monitor the temperature at least three places in each rack
- Routinely test the WAN PoPs.
- Regular testing of all facilities equipment
- Create budgets
- Track costs to budget
- Training for all employees
- Coordinate closely with other Microsoft Data Center Managers
- Regular reporting on everything listed above

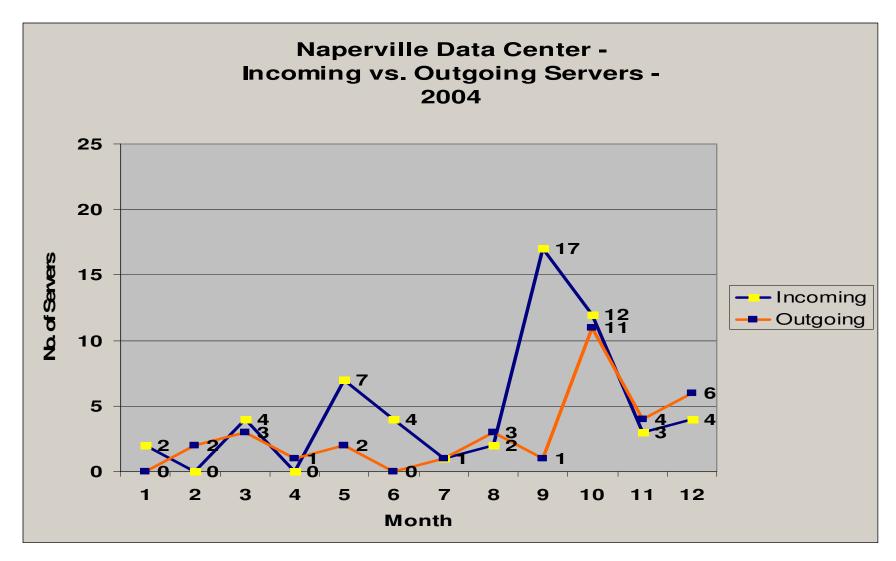


# Reporting

- Reports will be created and distributed to both staff and management weekly, monthly, yearly, and on request.
  - Team Status / Personnel
  - Operational Status
  - Floor plans
  - Power and cooling data
  - Projects
  - IT Equipment Inventories and Status
  - Change Management
  - Configuration Management
  - Audits Facilities, Equipment, Security and Safety Management
  - Incidents Facilities, Security and Safety Management

### **Examples of Reporting**

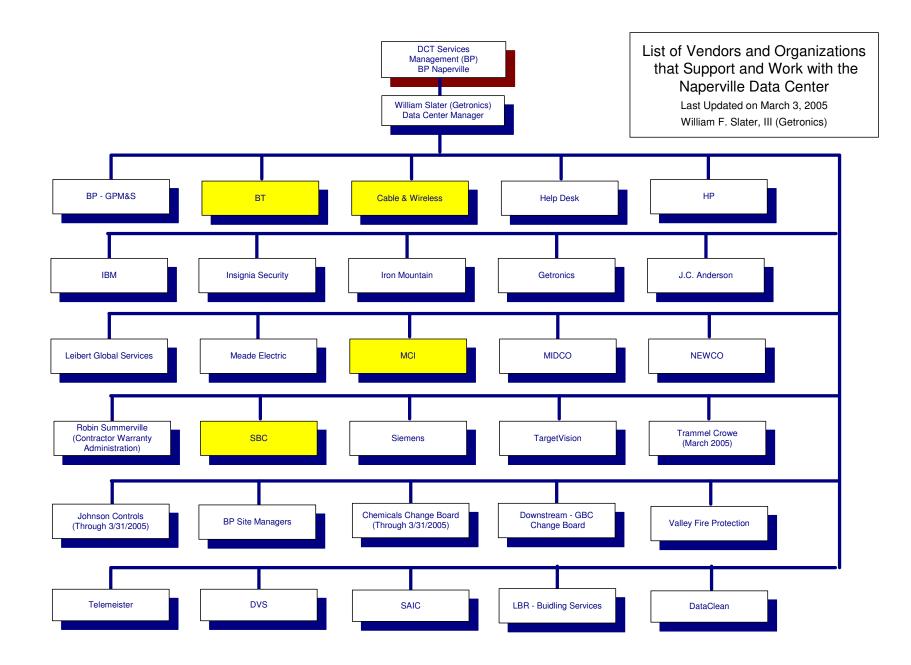
2004 Summary - BP Naperville Data Center Graph of Incoming and Outgoing Servers

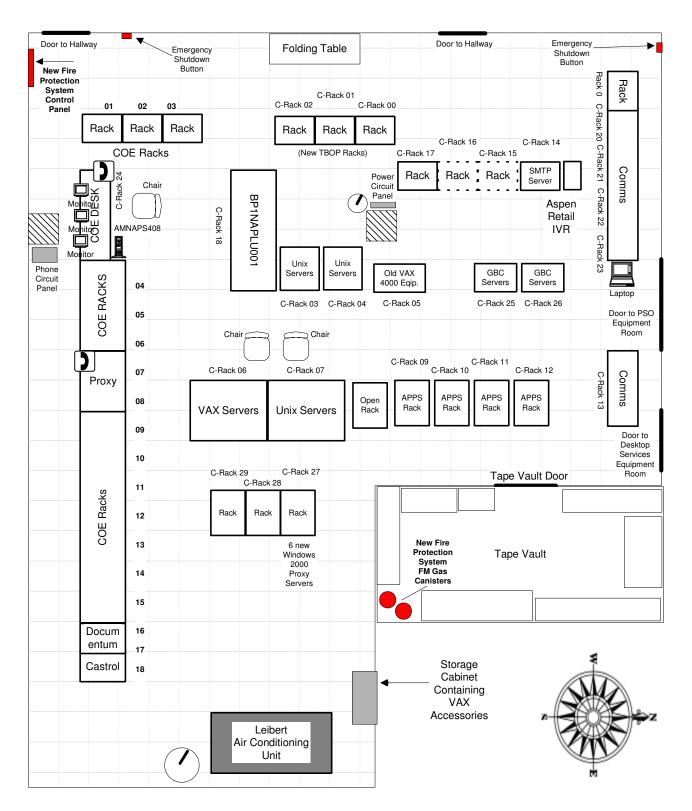


Microsoft Data Center Manager Interview - William F. Slater, III

#### 2004 Summary - BP Naperville Data Center Cumulative History

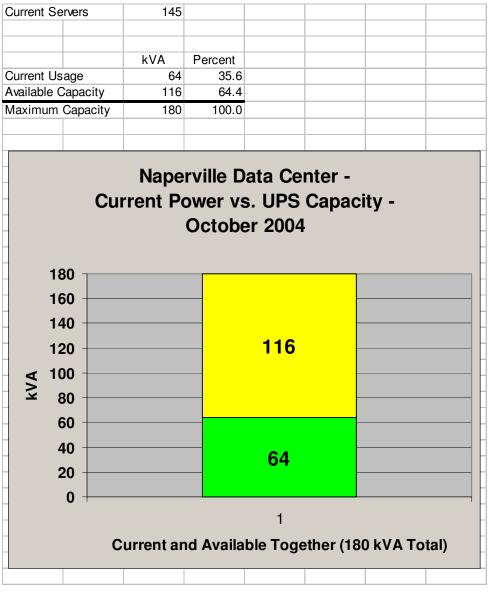
	Actual Count	Percent	Actual Count	Percent
	Incoming	Change from	Outgoing	Change from
	Servers	Previous Year	Servers	Previous Year
2004	56	80.6	34	100
2003	31	-13.9	17	-37.0
2002	36	140	27	N/A
2001	15	N/A	0	N/A
Totals	138		78	





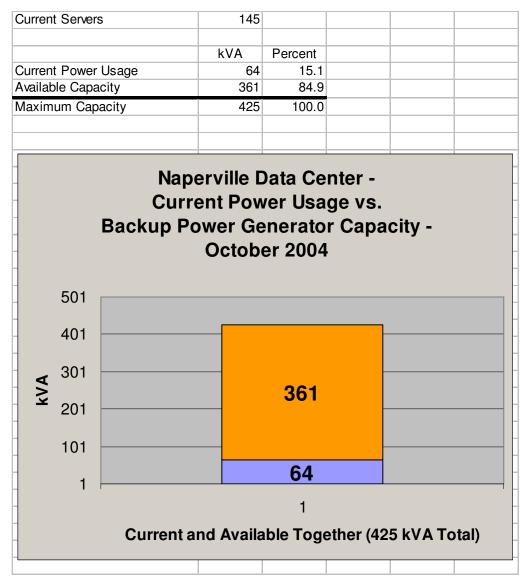
User Dept.	Project:	
DCT Services Naperville	Data Center Manager	
Version:	Title:	
3.1	Data Center Floor Plan	
Drawn by:	Date:	
William F. Slater, III	February 24, 2004	

#### Data Center UPS



Microsoft Data Center Manager Interview - William F. Slater, III

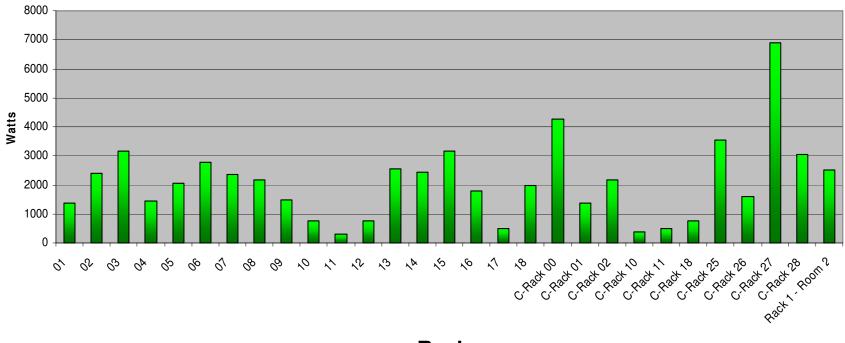
#### Data Center Backup Generator Power



Microsoft Data Center Manager Interview - William F. Slater, III

#### Watts by Rack

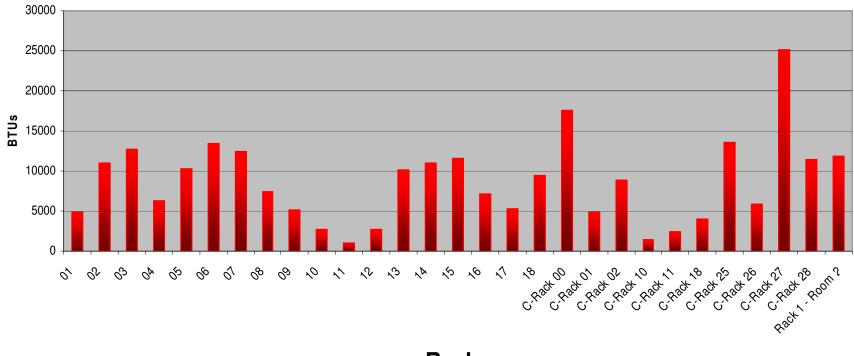
Watts



**Racks** 

### BTUs by Rack

**BTUs** 



Racks

#### Data Center Safety

## Data Center Safety Introduction

- Data Centers and Server Rooms often appear to be sterile, computer-filled environments that look boring and safe
- They represent many opportunities for accidents, if they are not approached with Safety in mind.



• Policies and Safety education are necessary to enforce safety.

## The Dangers

- Raised Floors
- Lifting Hazards
- Electrical Shock Hazards
- Static Discharge Hazards
- Cutting Hazards
- Pinching / Amputation Hazards
- Fire Hazards
- Accidentally Triggering an FM 200 Fire Retardant System Dump
- Accidentally Unplugging Network Cables or Power From Servers



## Conclusion

- Successfully managing a facility with the size and complexity of the Microsoft Chicagoland Data Center will require a great deal of Teamwork, coordination, experience, multi-disciplinary skills and professionalism.
- If selected for this job, with my previous experience and education in Data Center Management, I am confident that I could fill this Data Center Manager position for Microsoft.
- Passion, persistence, and professional excellence have helped sustain me and make me successful throughout my IT career. This is what I would bring to this position.



William F. Slater, III Data Center Manager, BP Naperville Data Center, October 2002

# A Favorite Quote

- "Thank you very much and I hope we passed the audition!"
  - John Lennon, 1970



John Lennon

# Questions?



William F. Slater, III Data Center Manager, BP Naperville Data Center, December 2005