The following information will be a summary of the document titled, “Preparing a High Impact Consultant’s Report.” It begins by discussing the different types of reports that are used in most professional settings. These reports include Security Assessment, Design Concept, Architectural Design Phase, Peer review, and Forensics. Security Assessment evaluates the security conditions, analyzes risks, and a consultant overview. Design Assessment includes security design concepts and an overall security operations. Architectural Design Phase report will handle the actual components and software needed to create the secure network. Peer Review report is the report that follows up the architectural Design Phase. Forensic Reports is exactly that, it lays out the forensics of the actual design. In this document it seems to be focused more on the Security Assessment Report. This is where you would find the information and details to present an idea to a client, but it is okay to adopt your own style and change the overall information over time. This document then goes on to explain the proper anatomy of this type of report. The outside and inside cover are pretty easily understood but also must have an aesthetic appeal. The outside cover will of course need the client name, logo, facility location, and the current date of the report. The inside cover will need the project address and consultants name and contact information, and also anyone who took part in the project. You can also include acknowledgments but it is optional, although if it is included it shows the dedication to thoroughness of the project. It must have a well formed table of contents, an executive summary which is extremely important for the CEO in their decision making, and also an introduction and scope of the overall project, assessment, and report. As the person forming this report you must also include the overall topology of the network being created and with that a layout of the facility site. Once you have laid out the location and its appearance you can go on to report on existing security programs, and overall security of the client’s resources. This part will include a risk analysis that lays out all the possible risks the client may conflict with. Once you have laid all of this out it is time to wrap up with conclusions, your findings during the project, and an appendix with a summary.

The Network Design Proposal lays out everything from storage requirements to proper software to secure the client’s network. It will need to include the analysis of data types/sources, numbers of users and their corresponding priority levels, transmission speed requirements, and loading variations. Along with loading variations, storage requirements are also highly important for the overall system being created. Of course security of the network is also a vital section of this document. Not only the security software but how reliable the overall system will be and redundancy factors to manipulate availability factors. If there is an existing network, you must specify how you will evolve the old network into the new one being reported. Once you have laid out all this information in well-formed text, you can now move on to all the topologies that will make up all network and device connections in and out of the facility being worked on. CEO’s will also like to see a Detailed Design Documentation that way he can see what each device will cost, if it is available to them, the overall performance factors, and the maintainability such as warranties and maintenance. Once you have laid the map out for all the devices and their corresponding details, then you can move onto a Cost-Benefit Analysis which will break down the over prices, quantity, and total costs for the overall implementation of this new network. Of course it would also be smart to add an appendix and any logic summaries needed to help the client with their decision.

Specifically with this document, I do not like how out of date some of the products are. I would never recommend some of these programs and/or devices to any type of company today. Also when you move on to the cost-benefit analysis, there are some costs I have no idea how you can actually put a price on, such as “Increase Staff Morale”. I don’t see how that should be included in the cost analysis. You could maybe reference to that inside a summary at the end. However, this document was extremely well formatted and can even be categorized as captivating for someone who is looking to create a new network. The cost-benefit analysis is very important, although I think a CEO would be much more interested in seeing the Detailed Design Documentation to see what products they’re actually going to be buying. The documentation in this document was well formatted and very easy to read, even for some who is “Technologically Challenged.” Finally, the topologies are very detailed and show direct connection which will be good for someone who needs to visually see the actual network, the only thing that could be better is showing a topology in the actual facility.