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Network Design Proposal Analysis

**Preparing a High Impact Consultant’s Report Summary:**

When writing a consultant’s report, it is absolutely crucial to include all the details about the project at hand. The consulting report summarizes exactly what should be included in terms of the cover page, summaries, and scope of the project. According to the High Impact Consultant’s report, the goal of the report is to assess the posture of the current network and to make suggestions based on those findings.

One of the first things that the High Impact Consultant’s report says is that it is important to create an assessment report. This report takes into account all assessments from security to a basic assessment report. Once the consultant has all of the information, the consultant evaluates the assessment findings and then offers opinions on how to improve or create the end product.

Prioritizing the recommendations based on cost or ease of accomplishment is important. Often times by providing easy to fix solutions, clients are more apt to accept your consulting reports. These recommendations can be captured in an action item list. Above all else, simple concise writing is paramount in creating a consulting report.

The Consultant’s report summary gives a good representation of how a consulting report should look inside and out. The summary also gives writing tips which are important for the end product. Despite the length, the High Impact Consultant’s Report Summary gives a detailed approach to a consultant’s report.

**Network Design Proposal Summary:**

The overall Network Design Proposal presented to the State Office of Education is comprehensive in terms of the network and the users. The feasibility study defines the background and environment in which the current project exists. According to the Maryland legislature, funding has been allocated to provide a network for the State Office of Education. This current network will support five departments which are about forty miles from the State Office.

The objects of this network will provide a secure network which is physically isolated from non-employees. The network will also be conducive to updates and updating the physical infrastructure. This scalability factor is increasingly important when it comes to designing and implementing a network.

In terms of the load variations, the proposal illustrates the precise throughput and traffic load on any given time frame. This demonstrates the capacity of the proposed network in terms of when it will be used and how often.

A well detailed proposal is extremely crucial when looking for a bid. If a company has a haphazard proposal created, then they will most likely not get the bid for the job. Detailed proposal and an itemized report on exactly what money goes where is important and this report accomplishes both of those goals.

**Evaluation:**  
  
 Overall, I felt that the State Office of Education Network Design Proposal was comprehensive and somewhat inclusive. Throughout the proposal, I felt that there was a need for simple concise writing. In the first paragraph, “Situation in which the Project Exists” repeats itself with regards to the proposal.

Additionally, the section which touched on the retention of student data left much to be desired in terms of security. I feel that there should be a section detailing exactly what kind of data should be kept and how it is kept. Sensitive data that is kept about students, staff, or faculty should be on a separate server and there should be some level of encryption. To that end, not all faculty or staff should have access to all student data.

Despite the two areas of improvement, I felt that, in particular, the description of the intended users was thorough and to the point. In this section, the users are well defined and well researched. This section also includes the fact that parents are a secondary user to this network, i.e. they utilize the information from the network, but do not directly access it.

The research that was completed in the “Load Variation Estimates” section was explicit and seemed to account for the daily traffic spikes. This section took into account the average throughput for work hours on both the LAN and the WAN. The analysis that was completed about the peak expected traffic load served to validate the necessary speeds.

Lastly, the scalability factor and the fact that the proposed system will integrate preexisting LANs is important in reusing the current technology. Since this network serves the state Office of Education and two districts, this network needs to be able to scale up and down when necessary. This includes the addition of new departments and the ease by which equipment is updated. Despite the few areas where the proposal lacks, the State Office of Education Network Design Proposal addresses key issues regarding cost-benefit and scalability.