

**Introduction:**

Inter-government IT system consolidation has the potential to save counties or states a significant amount of money. The services that Montgomery County will be sharing are the enterprise systems that are currently only paid for and supported by Montgomery County. Consolidation is useful because it can help complicated systems become simplified, making them faster, more efficient, and reduce costs. With shared consolidation, the enterprise systems from each county can be shared amongst one another making hosting and maintaining costs decrease significantly for all the municipalities involved. The proposed shared consolidation plan will allow the Southeast Pennsylvania Municipalities share the costs of accounting, payroll, utility, tax collection, and police systems.

**Suggestions:**

1. Do not share systems with the other municipalities and continue forward and improve current systems in place.
2. Share some of the systems that cost more to support and are less essential.
3. Share all systems that will be available to be supported.

**Evaluation of Proposed Suggestions:**

	Do Not Share Systems	Share Some Systems	Share All Systems
Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay in full control of enterprise systems</li> <li>• Can implement changes without restrictions</li> <li>• Will have smaller sized systems</li> <li>• Systems will be customizable to county government needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can cut costs on parts of systems that are low priority</li> <li>• Will also save on systems that are the highest costs</li> <li>• Remain in control of key systems and sensitive information</li> <li>• Has some customizability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cheapest solution to host and maintain these enterprise systems</li> <li>• Will have extra support and help on running systems</li> <li>• Systems will be faster and more efficient</li> <li>• Simple system for overall government which will improve return on investment</li> </ul>
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highest estimated costs long term</li> <li>• Cost will be higher to host and maintain</li> <li>• Full responsibility for outages</li> <li>• Full responsibility for when to upgrade</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complicated system</li> <li>• Will have enterprise systems in two locations</li> <li>• Will still have responsibility for outages and upgrades of key systems</li> <li>• Highest upfront costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lose full control of systems</li> <li>• Changes will take longer to enact upon</li> <li>• More information and larger sized systems</li> </ul>

**Implementation Cost:**

	Do Not Share Systems	Share Some Systems	Share All Systems
Implementation Steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Higher IT auditor to assess the current systems</li> <li>2. Assemble a team for system consolidation</li> <li>3. Purchase needed hardware and software upgrades</li> <li>4. Implement changes and updates to system</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Higher a team to determine the costs on each system.</li> <li>2. List out the systems by cost and take out ones that are most important to be in control of</li> <li>3. Meet with the other municipalities to discuss project and propose list of systems</li> <li>4. Select location, contractor, and hardware.</li> <li>5. Reach an agreement of what each municipality will spend on project</li> <li>6. Create a team to transfer selected information over to new systems</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Meet with the other municipalities to discuss project</li> <li>2. Select location, contractor, and hardware.</li> <li>3. Reach an agreement of what each municipality will spend on project</li> <li>4. Create a team to transfer existing information over to new systems</li> </ol>
Relative Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IT professionals and team</li> <li>• Building new systems</li> <li>• Purchasing new hardware and software that is needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Team that will create list</li> <li>• Location and hardware for new systems</li> <li>• Contractor to create new systems</li> <li>• Transfer team</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location and hardware for new systems</li> <li>• Contractor to create new systems</li> <li>• Transfer team</li> </ul>

**Conclusion:**

By sharing all the enterprise systems Montgomery County will be able to cut costs significantly on maintenance and hosting. This will be the best course of action for the project since sharing the entire set of enterprise systems will save money in upfront costs and will save in long term costs as well.

On top of that, with new condensed systems, Montgomery County and all the other municipalities that decide to share these systems, will experience improvements on speed, clarity, and efficiency. While also decreasing the costs of this project, Montgomery County will be able to expect a high return on investment as these systems will lead to improved productivity. Using these shared and condensed inter-government IT systems, all counties will increase in efficiency since these systems will eliminate inefficient processes, procedures, and costs for all counties that are involved, while also allow the opportunity for tax payer money to go to more essential services.

### Works Cited

Nash, Kim S. "CIOs In Search of IT Simplicity." *CIO*. N.p., n.d. Web. 11 Nov. 2016.

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