



THOUGHTS

Newsletter Issue No. 28

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Dream Big...

It certainly has been a long strange trip. I don't know if I can top David or Ray's stories about "Strange Trips" (Issue #20) or "Galaxies far away" (Issue #23), but here it goes.

I have to start with family because they are so important to me. I believe we must all work to live, not live to work, which is something my wife Sharri tries hard to help me see. Sharri is my soulmate, she supports me, grounds me and pops my bubble when I need it. It's also no secret she is from New Orleans, which has spiced up life for the better in many ways. I have three children Samantha (25), Grace (21) and Nola (15). Sam graduates this December with a Nursing degree. Grace is an aspiring artist, and a rising Junior at Loyola University in New Orleans. She recently secured 3rd place for her artwork in a national competition. Nola is a rising Sophomore at Loudon Valley High School in Purcellville, VA. Nola plays softball on both the High School team and on a National Travel Softball team which keeps our weekends full almost year-round. I love my family dearly.

So how did I get into technology you might ask? Well it began by writing 10 lines of code on an Atari 400 in 6th grade. I was fascinated using lines of code. I learned I could change the default screen colors, do calculations and receive answers to basic programmed logic. I went on to purchase my first IBM compatible in 1986 - thus, my geekdom began. However, the computer science degrees in college required core classes in programming languages; the first one Pascal Programming 101 - three left turns = a right turn... huh? I learned quickly that I did not have the programming chops when my college roommate solved my two hour long hunt for a missing semicolon in five minutes. I was devastated and humbled. I reckoned with the fact that programming was not for me, so I changed my degree to Business and never looked back, or so I thought.



I graduated in the recession of 1991, looking for a job with very few opportunities. I've always had a bit of a baby face, something I was told time and time again I would appreciate as I got older. It is nice to look young in your 40's and 50's but in your 20's, it's just dam inconvenient. After several failed interviews, I decided it was because I looked young. So, I went to the hair salon and dyed a swath of grey into my hair. My friends thought I was nuts, but eureka!, I landed my next job interview. I started working for Basis Point in Alexandria, VA trading Jumbo certificates of deposits on a miniature exchange, designed for big fund managers and rich people. I was in the banking industry; who would have guessed? Kam the banker? It just doesn't sound right, I know. Dave, got into IT because of a chair, I got into IT because banking was slowly killing me. Interest rates were dropping like rocks which made banking a terrible place to work. I had always loved technology, so I decided to pursue what I loved doing, even if that meant I had to take a job as a janitor at an IT company. I left banking for my first job in IT with Government Systems Group Inc.

(GSG). I was one grade above a janitor - I was in sales.

Within 90 days of joining GSG, the company went under and I was out of a job. It wasn't long before I landed a job with Presidio Corporation, selling IT products to the US Government. Presidio had exclusive arrangements with several OEMs to carry their entire line of ethernet switches. Ethernet was just taking over as the dominate communications solution, beating out the IBM's rival token ring technology. In those days ethernet was hot and I was peddling the "latest and greatest" gear. In about a year after joining Presidio, I moved from sales into technology, and there I found what I really loved - networks and systems. Presidio's CTO, Steven Trabbic, said to me "I want to send and receive emails. Get us on the internet", so I did.

I had a two-year stint at IBM where I learned all about big Iron and G5 Mainframes - it was awesome. I couldn't get enough of learning the technology around me. At about this time, "dot com" internet ventures were exploding. A couple of years after I joined IBM, I jumped into a venture backed startup named EyeCast Communications, as the Director of Emerging Technologies and then onto Inciscent, leading the Advanced Technologies department. I got paid to pay with technology - I was in heaven. It was about that time when I realized that the Government was a unique consumer of technology - one that had great needs and provided more stability than the "dot com" world. I left and joined Signal Corporation, as a Network Engineer and Project Lead for Arlington County Government. I was with Signal, until it was

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Kudos

Kay Stephens has received numerous kudos from our customer this year, specifically highlighting her professionalism and attitude on the worksite!



Issac Hernandez has been recognized by one of our South LAN Engineers for providing exemplary service and support.

Much appreciation for **Tom Murphy** for his determination to overcome challenges and the focus he has on our DLA customer day in and day out.

Kudos to **Davey Lopez, Rick Krauss** and **Dave Mendoza** who were all key in their relocation of alarms onsite.

Hats off to **Cindy Shawd** who received kudos for her unique combination of highly developed technical skills and ability to work with her team

to obtain great results!

Kudos to **Nicko Gallegos** who has consistently went above and beyond in his support while maintaining a great attitude!

Our DLA customer would like to praise **Patrick Miller** for going above the call of duty with his VTC support.

Thanks for all your hard work!

If you have someone you would like to thank or recognize, email your message to the news@teksynap.com.

Washington Nationals

acquired by Veridian, and then again by General Dynamics, for a total of nearly a decade. It's at Signal, where David and I met and the beginning of the Synaptex era in my life began.

On August 4, 2008 I became Synaptex's CEO - well at least on paper. On February 9, 2009, I became Synaptex Corporation's first employee (now TekSynap). In those days I was Chief Techie, Company Accountant, Timesheet Approver, Shipper, Customer Service and Sales. I learned I very quickly how much I should have appreciated the support crew I had at GDIT. There was no wizard behind the black curtain, it was just hard work. TekSynap is the first company I have had the honor to lead. It was, and it is the culmination of a lifelong dream.

Dream Weaver is a song by Gary Wright and hit the charts when I was eight. In some songs it's the words, others it's the vibe. For me, this song creates a feeling. It's the same feeling I have when I think about all the success the company has achieved. In the words...

*I've just closed my eyes again
Climbed aboard the dream weaver train
Driver take away my worries of today
And leave tomorrow behind*

This year, I've closed my eyes and we added 89 new employees, and it's only July. We've experienced such incredible growth that sometimes it feels like we have left tomorrow behind and are already working in the day after tomorrow. I am blessed to be supported by an amazing TekSynap leadership team, wonderful dedicated employees and customers who value what we do for them in support of their missions. The 2018 achievements have already hit new heights and 2019 is poised to be even better. I am humbled to be on the journey with all of you. As summer heads into the dog days of August, I look back at the journey and realize the failures were just new beginnings. As we climb aboard the dream weaver train together, remember to follow your dreams and dream big. If you do what you love, the sky is the limit.

- Kam

@TekSynap Update

With the change of our company name to TekSynap, our logins will be changing as well. If you have not been changed over to @TekSynap.com, you will be getting an email from Helpdesk in the next week. This email will let you know what day you will be fully transitioned over and able to login to the system using @TekSynap. Don't worry, all old emails will remain in your inbox and you will still receive all emails sent to the old account.

For any additional questions please reach out to us at Helpdesk@teksynap.com or open a ticket [here](#).



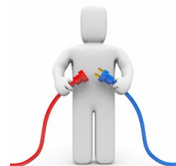
Don't forget to reconnect with us on LinkedIn!

With our name change came the need to update many things; however, our LinkedIn community is one of the most important! We are asking all our employees to reconnect with the company through LinkedIn.

To do so is simple. Log into your account and view your profile. Under "Experience", click the pencil icon. Under "Company", type in TekSynap, it should automatically populate and reconnect you to our company network.

Click the LinkedIn logo above to sign in now!

Linked in



Walk On The Field



Congratulations to Pearl Prince and her family who have won the opportunity to Walk on the Field during Batting practice at our Employee Outing on 8/4. Her and her family submitted a great picture of them rocking Washington Nationals gear!

Baby On Board



Congratulations to Darrel and Nicole Mikoski who recently welcomed new daughter Avalyn Mae, to the family. She was born 7/19/2018 at 8 lbs. 7 oz. and 19 inches long.

Summer Employee Appreciation Event

We still have tickets for our Summer Employee Event if you've forgotten to RSVP!

For all other employees (not in the area), don't worry, the goodies attendees receive will be sent to all of you after the big game!

Nationals vs. Reds
Saturday, August 4, 2018
7:05 pm

RSVP to events@teksynap.com



FAQ about Benefits

Confused about benefits? Here are a few frequently asked questions:

Q: When will my medical benefits start?

A: Your medical benefits will start on the first of the month following your first day of work. If your first day of work is on the first of the month, your benefits will begin on that day.

Q: How long will it take to receive my medical insurance cards?

A: Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield: 7-10 days after enrolling for medical benefits.

Delta Dental: 7-10 days after enrolling.

VSP Vision: No insurance card will be sent. Employees will need to tell their vision provider that they have VSP Vision and provide their social security number.

Q: Will I be able to access a temporary medical insurance card?

A: Yes, you can access a temporary insurance card by creating and logging into your [Anthem.com](https://www.anthem.com) account.

Q: What is the Benny Card?

A: The Benny Card is a debit card that is funded by TekSynap and managed by 125 Company. This card can be used by employees to pay for medical related expenses.

Q: What can I use the Benny Card on?

A: The Benny Card can only be used for **in-network** medical related expenses. The card cannot be used for dental or vision expenses. Any time you use your Benny Card, you will need to upload the receipts onto [125company.com](https://www.125company.com). You will also be able to keep track of the account summary and remaining balance of your card from this site.

Q: When should I expect my Benny Card to arrive?

A: Your Benny Card will arrive within 7-10 days after enrollment. The cards will be sent in an unmarked white envelope.

Q: How long do I have to make changes to my benefits?

A: You have 30 days from your start date to make any potential changes to your benefit enrollment. After the 30 days are over, you will not be able to make further change unless you have a qualifying event. Employees can also make benefit changes during TekSynap's open enrollment period in September.

If you have anymore questions about benefits, please feel free to reach out to [Toni Fisher](mailto:Toni.Fisher@teksynap.com) or [Ruben Hormostay](mailto:Ruben.Hormostay@teksynap.com).



Staying Cool in the Summer Heat

We've officially entered Summer and temperatures are making their way up! It's important to keep your cool during the summer season as heat-related illnesses can be very serious. Conditions may range from discomfort to heat stroke. No matter where you are this summer, LiveHealth Online has put together the following tips to keep in mind on a hot day, no matter what you might be doing!



- Drink more water than usual, and don't wait until you are thirsty.
- Try to avoid liquids with caffeine, alcohol or large amounts of sugar.
- Limit your outdoor activities to early morning and evening hours.
- Always use sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 30 or more.
- When going out, wear lightweight and loose-fitting clothing.
- Never leave anyone, or pets, in a closed parked car.
- If you are in the sun directly, make sure to wear sunglasses or a wide-brimmed hat and seek shade when UV rays are strongest and can cause the most damage (10 am to 4 pm).
- If you can't keep cool in your home on a hot day, it is recommended you find other cool places to spend your days such as your local movie theatre, the library or a mall.

Tips taken from LiveHealth Online. Click here to read the [full article](#).

Healthy Road Trip Snack Ideas

Summertime often calls for road trips - packing up the car, cranking up the radio (or podcasts) and

There is no "Legal" Marijuana use

The United States operates a layered judicial system which usually has a consistent and cooperative set of local, state and federal laws. However, with many states and localities legalizing medical and sometimes recreational marijuana use, there is a growing gap between federal laws and state/local laws as it relates to marijuana. It is important for all of us to understand that DOD and civilian agency security clearances are granted at a federal level, meaning that federal law trumps state/local laws. A failed drug test or any legal infraction related to marijuana use could impact your ability to hold a DOD or civilian agency clearance. For many employees, a change in clearance status, could result in loss of ability to work on customer systems and a loss of employment. TekSynap policy on drug and alcohol use prohibits the use of "illegal drugs". Until federal law changes, this prohibition includes the use of marijuana regardless of the local legality within any particular state and/or municipality.



REFER A FRIEND AND BE REWARDED



DTRA

Network Engineer - Fort Belvoir, VA
Systems Engineer - Fort Belvoir, VA
Senior Cyber Intel Analyst - Fort Belvoir, VA
Software Developer - Fort Belvoir, VA
System Administrator - Fort Belvoir, VA

Schriever

Information Assurance Administrator - Colorado Springs, CO

DLA Jets

Network Engineer - New Cumberland, PA
Network Engineer - Fort Belvoir, VA
Network Engineer - Columbus, OH

Please email your referral resumes to:

careers@teksynap.com
or visit [TekSynap Careers](https://www.teksynap.com/careers)

We want to hear from you!

Send us your news -- babies, weddings, pets, trips and vacations, graduations, kudos to coworkers...

Send all submissions to news@teksynap.com.



heading out on the open road! Eating healthy while traveling, especially in the car, can be hard. It would be ideal to be able to make your own meals in advance; however, pre-trip stress is real! Packing, Hotel Booking, Cleaning, etc. does not leave time for whipping things up in the kitchen. So.. we thought we'd put together a list of some quick pre-packaged healthy snack ideas. Hopefully you'll find these helpful on your next trip!

Veggies & Fruit

Pre-Made Smoothies
Dried Fruit
Cherries
Apples or Applesauce
Clementines
Guacamole Minis
Hummus Minis with Carrots, Radishes, Snap Peas and more!
Nut Butter packets with Celery Sticks



Protein

Greek Yogurt
Jerky; there are healthier versions out there without additives.
Almonds or other Nuts
String Cheese
Hard Boiled Eggs; these are often found at Pit Stops as well!
Canned Tuna; get the kind with the pull-tab, so you don't need a can opener!
Roasted Chickpeas

Sweet Treats

Whole Grain Crackers, Cookies, Graham Crackers or dry Cereal
Chocolate Covered Fruits or Nuts
Dark Chocolate pieces
Animal Crackers

Drinks

Coconut Water
Natural Sodas
Organic Juice Boxes
Reusable Water Bottle

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Employee Anniversaries

7 Years

Dicken Tsoi

5 Years

Robert Kennett
Darrin Snyder

4 Years

Froilan Elpidio Aquino
Joseph Li
Leon Faircloth

2 Years

Peng Sun

1 Year

Michael Foote
Steven Yingst
Cory Kearney
Mario Mastrangeli
Patrick Miller
Sean Pigford
Damien Gibson



Welcome New Employees!

Jesse Grider, Kirtland
Jovani Gutierrez, VA Group Zero
Reginald Washington, DLA JETS