



MLDS CENTER

Maryland Longitudinal Data System

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Monthly Report for November 2014

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Staffing

Good news! The Center has added two new staff members. Bob Murphy and Michael Chen both started work on December 3rd as the Center's OBIEE Analyst and ETL Developer, respectively. The OBIEE Analyst will play a critical role in developing applications that are necessary to support operations including dashboard development and data management and the ETL Developer is responsible for loading data and working through any issues involving data quality or matching. With these two new positions, all of the IT positions are filled except one database administrator position. That position has been re-advertised and three qualified applications were received and interviews have taken place. In the meantime, the database administrator position is being fulfilled by an MSDE contractor funded by the Center.

Data Center

The data center installation at MSDE continues to progress. This month, the primary milestone was the installation of VMware. VMware is a program installed on the servers that allow the servers to host other operating systems in such a way that each operating system behaves as if it were installed on a self-contained server with its own set of programs and hardware resources. All necessary Virtual Machines on the MLDS servers are built and patched. The team is in the process of building Active Directories in order to establish user groups and users. VMware is a critical tool to establishing the network architecture and supporting the various systems that comprise the MLDS.

Data Loading

As reported last month, data loading had come to a standstill due to the unavailability of an ETL Developer. However, with the addition of new staff, the team has immediately returned to data loading. This past week the focus was to load the Unemployment Insurance and wage data supplied by DLLR. That task is still ongoing.

Website

The MLDS Center website has been redesigned to comply with the State design standards and has been switched to the *maryland.gov* domain. In addition to the re-design, staff has been adding content, including an "About the Board" section that includes links to member biographies, meeting minutes, and the bylaws. There is an "About the Center" link that describes the Center's formation, the staff, and the various partnerships that make-up the Center. There is also a data privacy and security statement. Additional new content is being reviewed and will be added in coming days. Webcenter integration to Oracle Database has taken place, which allows dynamic data to display on the Center's website.

Dashboards

Staff has created the first dashboard from the system. The report shows the number of high school graduates who enrolled in a higher education program within five years of graduating. While this is only one dashboard, it represents a significant amount of work and progress. Creating the dashboard required extracting data, the creation of a relational data set, and the

integration with Oracle Webcenter. In addition, there was the challenge of working with the data, ensuring that there were shared understandings of the report output, and very in-depth discussions on how to address incomplete data. The work done for this dashboard will help the team develop processes and procedures to facilitate the creation of more dashboards.

Research Series

On November 7th, the MLDS Research Series was presented by Dan McNeish, a doctoral fellow at University of Maryland, College Park, and member of the research team. The presentation was held in College Park and focused on strategies for missing data in education research.

The December Research Series had to be cancelled because the planned speakers had a last minute conflict with the scheduled time. The topic was on workforce issues and is re-scheduled for February.