

## **From the Desk of Jeff Henson ~**



It is no secret that COVID-19 shook up the professional world with many unprecedented challenges. For a lot of firms, it meant that new technologies, workflows, and policies needed to be adopted and implemented in a very short period (in some cases overnight).

In our industry, where time is a critical resource, it is crucial to be efficient with that time to remain profitable. Thankfully Banning Engineering has always been thinking of the what-if scenarios to stay ahead of these types of challenges. Along with our fantastic IT support team provided by American Structurepoint's IT services department, we were prepared.

VDI, or Virtual Desktop Infrastructure, is now a commonly recognized term for many organizations. It has become a tool for us to stay productive when working away from the office. It has allowed our staff to stay safe and connected during these uncertain times and most importantly, for our clients' expectations to be met. Careful forethought and planning took place years prior to implementing VDI so that in the event of a major pandemic or natural disaster, we could stay focused on the final product and less on how the work will get done.

Let me make it clear, we are the type of firm that excels in a team working atmosphere. While it was great that we could follow the Governor's guidelines, we are happy to be back in the office working together while staying safe due to our office set up that allows for social distancing. Some of our staff remained on site due to the nature of our work supporting utilities and residential development and now the rest are back in the office.

It is no secret that many of our staff had to rise to the challenge by learning new technologies and adopting new workflows that they had never used prior to COVID. We also had to push ourselves, myself included, to utilize a powerful tool we already had in place with Microsoft Teams.

For that, we thank our staff and never doubted their ability to work in this environment. While our way of working is in a team environment, we are prepared for similar challenges that may be ahead of us and we will continue to remain vigilant and face the next challenge ahead. It is the Banning way of providing support to our great clients while providing our staff and their families support during difficult times.

*~ Jeff Henson*