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*Pictured: Community members at the IT Strategic Plan launch, January 23rd.*

## February 2019 McMaster Connectivity Newsletter

*For the IT community, by the IT community.*

*NOTE: We have changed email platforms, our newsletter is now distributed via MailChimp.*

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# McMaster University launches IT Strategic Plan for 2019 - 2021!

- [Read the full story on CTO.McMaster.ca](#)
- [Watch the full presentation on Facebook](#)

McMaster AVP & CTO, Gayleen Gray extends a big thank you to the McMaster IT Community for your support in the planning process and participation in the recent launch. Much appreciation also goes to the many many members across campus who contributed time, effort, equipment and skills for items related to the plan and its launch. Thank you!

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## McMaster Brand website (brand.mcmaster.ca) takes Gold prize in the CASE II Accolades Awards.

The McMaster University University Advancement Marketing team put together a submission on behalf of the entire project team for the “[Brand Website](#)” to be considered for a CASE II Accolades Award and was awarded the Gold prize. A Bronze award was also received for the update to the Daily News page. Well done, team!

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## The Canadian Cyber Security Center (formerly CCICRC) releases report on Cyber Security in Canada.

[Read the findings here.](#)

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## Build Expertise, Share Essential Information at NERCOMP 2019

The NERCOMP Annual Conference is where higher education IT and library professionals, faculty, researchers, and learners gather to share information on the latest issues in the field. [View the agenda and register.](#)

# McMaster Critical Network Switch Replacement Completed

A critical network switch replacement project to update 19 buildings across campus has been completed ahead of its projected timeline, and within its \$2M budget. The initiative was approved through McMaster IT Governance and completed by the University Technology Services (UTS) Network Team. Now that all network switches on campus are current and within support perimeters, a number of McMaster IT Strategic Plan initiatives, including the enhancement of the telecommunications system and the upcoming wireless enhancement project, can move forward. [Read the full story on DailyNews.McMaster.ca](https://www.dailynews.mcmaster.ca)

## Opinion: Thanks for Educause and Gartner access...now what?

By Greg Atkinson.

At the IT Strategic Plan launch I discovered some good news: McMaster's IT staff have access to both Educause and Gartner. Educause is actually campus wide, so spread the word! These are leading publications in my field, now I need to figure out what to do with this information. How can it help me? It's easy to pick up a report, read the executive summary and then set it aside. Do I have time to process reports and dig through findings? This question exposed a skill-gap for me: *How do I quickly gauge the quality and rigor of a report?*

If I can contextualize the information in these reports as either "potentially valuable", "interesting", or "meh", I'll know when to make time for a deeper dive. Applicability is often instinctual, but quality and rigor are tricky. After some digging, I discovered that Oregon University has released a "Report Reader Check-list" of six criteria that will help readers like me assess quality. The tool is linked below. My next-step is practicing this review technique and discussing articles among peers. Would you like to join?

If you'd like to share thoughts on how you're using Educause and Gartner, drop me an email: [atkinson@mcmaster.ca](mailto:atkinson@mcmaster.ca) or find me on teams: atkinsgj.

[View the Oregon State Report Reader Checklist](#)

# McMaster Professor Bruce Wainman discusses VR in classrooms

- [Video Interviews \(Global News\)](#)
- [Radio: The Exchange with Matt Gurney](#)

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## Supporting a seamless connection for McMaster researchers at MIP

McMaster University recently completed the implementation of a new 10 Gbps Ethernet (GbE) connection between the main campus and the McMaster Innovation Park (MIP) Atrium Building. Connectivity to both the McMaster Automotive Resource Centre (MARC) and the Fraunhofer Project Centre for Biomedical Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing (BEAM) was also improved by increasing those network paths to 10 GbE as well. All three sites therefore share in the benefits of the new connection provided by the high capacity link.

In addition to the higher speed connectivity, a redundant network connection was also implemented between MIP/MARC/BEAM and the main McMaster campus to be consistent with other remote campus location connectivity and to provide important business continuity.

Both initiatives provide assurances that McMaster researchers and staff in these locations are supported with a strong IT infrastructure which is in alignment with the [McMaster IT Strategic Plan's Seamless Foundation](#) core pillar.

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## Article of interest:

A Collaborative Approach to Cybersecurity is Higher Ed's Best Shield

[Read the article here.](#)

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## McMaster IT Community! Share your stories, project successes and ideas!

The McMaster IT Newsletter has a strong audience of over 500 readers across

campus and excellent readership rates. We need your content and stories to truly capture the great work and ideas from the McMaster IT community and make the newsletter even better. Please submit any McMaster-related IT ideas and stories to [c-it-newsletter@mcmaster.ca](mailto:c-it-newsletter@mcmaster.ca). McMaster IT Newsletter is distributed on a monthly basis.



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Thanks for reading!

How to contribute to this newsletter:

We welcome content submissions from all IT employees across campus.

Do you have an update, event or story from your unit that you would like to share in the next newsletter?

Are you looking to raise awareness about an upcoming launch, service or discovery?

Do you have a great article to share?

- Email your content to [c-it-newsletter@mcmaster.ca](mailto:c-it-newsletter@mcmaster.ca)

or

- Create a blog post on Confluence and send a link + synopsis to [c-it-newsletter@mcmaster.ca](mailto:c-it-newsletter@mcmaster.ca)

*2019 McMaster University,*

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