

Prairie IT brings new technology to NE Co

Written by Chris Lee

A new business opened earlier this spring offering services to Northeast Colorado.

Prairie IT LLC, located in Haxtun, specializes in virtual desktop solutions for small and medium-sized organizations.

This virtual desktop and system comes from the “cloud” as it is known to those familiar with the IT world, according to founder Mark Oman.

“We do virtual ‘stuff,’” Oman said. Virtual network management, virtual desktops and virtual servers are all run out of their data center in the cloud.

Oman defined the cloud as the internet connected to a server connected to memory.

Prairie IT can connect to any hardware (computer) and upgrade Windows operating systems. They remove old systems and install Windows 7. This can be installed on older pieces of hardware.

Companies with 25 or more computers that don’t want to shell out the cash for brand new computers can utilize Prairie IT and virtually get “new” computers.

Because the service operates remotely on the server, customers can use it anywhere on any device including iPads, iPhones and Droids to name a few.

“We think there is opportunity everywhere for this,” Oman said. He added any organization with older computers is the perfect candidate.

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The service however, is not a consumer product. Prairie IT is more focused on businesses, schools and municipalities for the time being.

As with any new start up, building a clientele is a must. In the four or five months since they began, they have built up enough clients to begin adding jobs. There are currently four people employed by Prairie IT.

Oman and his son Adam co-founded the company and Adam serves as the president. Susan Markle, of Holyoke, is the vice president of marketing and support. A fourth employee, Vickie Ferrin, project manager, lives in Fort Collins and joins the business through web conferencing.

Mark said they are rapidly growing and adding clients. As more and more clients are added, Mark hopes more jobs can be added.

The new venture is relatively new to northeast Colorado. Mark said similar companies can be found along the Front Range.

Prairie IT should not be confused for a computer repair shop. That is a service they don't offer.

Oman recently retired from Agilent Technologies which is a spinoff of Hewlett-Packard. He and his wife moved to Haxtun after renovating the house they were married in. Both are Haxtun graduates.

One of the ideas Oman had when he returned to northeast Colorado was to help create jobs. Oman and his son, Adam put the idea together for the new venture and are happy with where things stand so far.

When asked if they are a Haxtun business, they said yes and no. Yes, they operate out of Haxtun, but no, because they are reaching out to organizations and businesses outside of Haxtun.

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For more information on Prairie IT LLC, contact Mark, Adam or Susan at 970-425-7215.

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