Q2 | July – September 2023

The Alberta ShareIT Program has achieved a remarkable milestone, **surpassing $100 Million** in member spend! This significant achievement has involved a journey of collaboration, innovation, and collective growth.

This milestone is not just a statistic; it transcends monetary value. It is a testament to the commitment, dedication, and collaborative spirit that define the ShareIT Program. Across the ShareIT membership, organizations have witnessed enhanced operational efficiencies, endless technological advancements, and improved knowledge exchange.

As we celebrate this success, we are setting our sights on an even more promising future. Organizers of the program aim to expand our outreach, foster deeper collaborations, and continue to be a catalyst for innovation and growth. We remain dedicated to creating an inclusive environment that benefits all organizations involved.

Congratulations to all members of the Alberta ShareIT Program on this monumental accomplishment!!

Q2 Metrics (July 1 – September 30th, 2023)

$6.7M
spending on ShareIT contracts

$2.5M
estimated savings on ShareIT contracts

69 ShareIT members

Cumulative (April 2017 – September 2023)

$103.4M spending

$61.8M estimated savings

We are proud to announce the ShareIT Program has expanded to municipalities and municipal affiliates! Since August 2023, municipal organizations that are members of Cybera have been able to join ShareIT and leverage its catalogue of offerings.

We would like to welcome our newest ShareIT members:
- City of Lethbridge
- Edmonton Public Library
- Grande Prairie Catholic School Division
- Lac La Biche County

Procurement Projects in Flight

Vulnerability Assessment & Penetration Testing

STATUS: EVALUATION
This agreement will offer a wide array of cybersecurity related services, including vulnerability assessment, penetration testing, and web application scanning. There are 14 participating members. The anticipated award date is December 2023.

Servers & Storage

STATUS: SERVICE DEVELOPMENT
This agreement will offer enterprise level servers and storage, connectivity hardware, and service solutions. There are 12 participating members. The anticipated posting date is January 2024.

Cloud Services

STATUS : NEW PROJECT IN CONSIDERATION
We currently hold two agreements with Microsoft for Azure (SCE and CASA), expiring in June 2024, and AWS through Softchoice, expiring in February 2024. Cybera is working with the Oversight Committee to determine whether to proceed with a net new Rfx for cloud services, and are aiming for a decision in December 2023 (which will be communicated to the ShareIT membership). Cybera has negotiated an extension with Softchoice for AWS, which will be month-to-month until the new Rfx is completed to ensure there is no disruption for the members leveraging this contract.

CUCCIO/Alberta PSI Special Interest Group Pilot

As we approach the conclusion of this pilot project (November 30), now is a good time to reflect on the successes realized over the past 10 months, and set the stage for what is to come. Over the course of this initiative, participants have forged invaluable connections, exchanged insights, and established a vibrant collaboration network. The enthusiasm and commitment displayed by all involved has been instrumental in making this project successful.

Looking ahead, we will send out a survey to all participants to collect your learnings and feedback. This survey will guide future strategies and initiatives related to shared knowledge building in the higher education community, and will also be presented to the CUCCIO Board in January 2024. Next steps for this initiative will be shared with the community in early 2024.
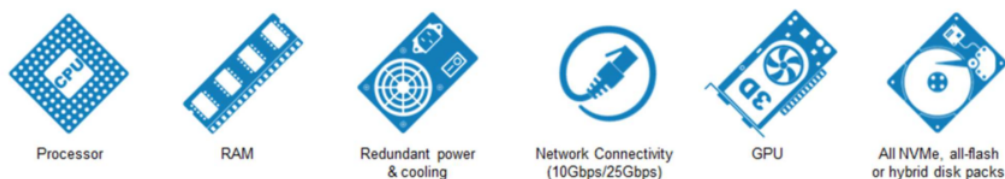
Highlighted Feature

HCI Data Centre Modernization with VxRail and ShareIT

ESTI offers a flexible and cost-effective platform to modernize your infrastructure platform and optimize your operational requirements for both maintenance and capacity management through the adoption of Hyper Converged Infrastructure (HCI). HCI is a software-defined, unified system that combines all the elements of a traditional data centre — storage, compute, networking and management — onto industry-standard servers. HCI is a leading choice for infrastructure and application refreshes, and also for new projects.

Deployment use cases:
- Traditional application workloads
- Containerized applications
- Virtual Desktops Infrastructure (VDI)
- Hybrid cloud integration
- File Services (CIFS, NFS)

The VxRail Appliance combines virtualization, compute, storage, management, and data protection with a single point of support for the hardware and software in a simple 1U or 2U building block. The VxRail Appliance delivers resiliency, QoS, and centralized management functionality — enabling faster, better, and simpler management of consolidated workloads, virtual desktops, business-critical applications, and distributed enterprises.

Processor | RAM | Redundant power & cooling | Network Connectivity (10Gbps/25Gbps) | GPU | All NVMe, all-flash or hybrid disk packs

Please contact ESTI for further information and to allow us to deliver a complimentary evaluation of your current environment and demonstrate a path to a Modernized Data Center.

*This feature is available through the ShareIT Virtual Desktop Infrastructure agreement with ESTI Consulting Services

Training & Development Opportunities

Netagen: PCI v4 webinar

Join us November 23, 2023, at 10:00 am to explore the decoupling of PCI compliance via Netagen SIP Services.

With PCI DSS v4.0 officially coming into effect in April 2024, organizations should be using this time to meet the new requirements and future-proof their security strategies (while remaining committed to offering the best payment experience possible). The 12 core PCI requirements remain fundamentally the same, but the intent and content of various sub-requirements have been updated to better reflect security best practices and technology changes, and to keep pace with the evolving threat landscape.

This event is open to all ShareIT members, and a calendar invite has been sent to all members. Please feel free to share this calendar invite with any of your team members. If you have questions, please contact shareit@cybera.ca.

Alberta Provincial Microsoft Licensing Update - Compugen Inc.

Join us November 30, 2023, at 10:00 am for an update on the Alberta Provincial Microsoft Licensing (PML), hosted by ShareIT and presented by Compugen.

This session will cover the following topics:
- Microsoft updates:
  - General updates
  - Licensing updates

- Important Alberta PML dates
- Microsoft Security - where to go next?
- Next steps

If you have questions, please contact: shareit@cybera.ca or AlbertaPML@compugen.com.

SANS Training Vouchers: Window Two

After a successful first purchasing window for SANS vouchers, Cybera is happy to announce, a second voucher purchasing opportunity. All education (K-12 and PSI) and municipality organizations are eligible. This voucher program gives Cybera members the opportunity to access significant discounts to the SANS cyber security catalog. Vouchers may be used for:
- SANS live and online courses
- Summits
- GIAC certifications and renewals.

For SANS live and online courses, members will see a 48% discount from the original price of $8,525 USD down to $4,100 USD.

Vouchers
Vouchers are available for purchase during a limited timeframe:

- December 1, 2023 – January 31, 2024

Please contact training@cybera.ca to get started or for any inquiries.

For more information on upcoming training and development, visit the ShareIT Professional Development page. For all upcoming events visit Cybera's events page.