IT Centralization at CWRU: The Path from IT to [U]Tech

PREFACE

Institutions evolve over time. Like a single cell that soon divides into many, resulting in a sophisticated organism, institutions often are founded as a single core entity with a common mission and shared methods for attaining it. Over time though, and with success, institutional growth often prompts the development of subsets and facets to the original core, with specific dedicated operations and emphases. With continued growth and success, that multiplicity can become more complex and layered. Information Technology, (IT), a component that necessarily is involved in all areas of organizations, can become compartmentalized as well, with dedicated and specific methods, personnel and drivers.

Organizations have begun to figure out that *because* IT is so functionally ubiquitous, combining all the IT activities into a central core will more effectively serve the whole diverse organization, in all its complexity. But it is a monumental endeavor to get a lasso around a wildly diverse group of people and skill sets, who have become accustomed to operating within their own domains, and invite them to come together. It is not easy to sell the idea that combining resources and identity will create a shared backbone with far greater power to serve all technology needs at the organization.