

From: M Bret Blackford (bret\_blackford@yahoo.com)  
To: emcpherson@cfserve.org  
Cc: kromain@cfserve.org; bblackford@cfserve.org; mennis@cfserve.org  
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 at 09:06 PM CDT

Eric,

I stopped by CFS today to look at the first-floor server/UPS (picture attached), which was beeping following a recent power outage. With Kevin Romain now out of state, I may occasionally need to provide some on-site assistance, which is fine, but it also reinforces something we identified during the IT review earlier this year: **I think it is time to start looking at the remaining on-premise server as the next phase of the CFS IT modernization.**

The Dell server currently provides several functions, including:

- Active Directory/domain authentication
- File-server/shared-drive storage
- Print-server services
- Scan-drive/storage services

Before doing anything with it, we obviously need Kevin's assistance to confirm exactly what still depends on the server. However, my preliminary recommendation would be to work toward eliminating the need for the physical server altogether.

The shared drive appears to contain a considerable amount of older/legacy material, although there are also some folders—such as Scans—that are still actively being used. I think we should first determine what needs to be retained and what staff still actively use (it all looks old to me). We could then archive older material and migrate files that need ongoing shared access to an appropriate Microsoft 365 solution such as SharePoint/OneDrive.

Similarly, I would like Kevin to help us evaluate moving CFS away from the local Active Directory environment toward Microsoft Entra ID/Microsoft 365 authentication, assuming there are no remaining applications or workstation dependencies that require traditional on-premise Active Directory.

We would also need to determine the best replacement for the current print-server function and where scanners should save documents.

If those pieces can be addressed, **the goal would ultimately be to decommission and remove the Dell server and its UPS.** That would eliminate another aging piece of on-site infrastructure and reduce the amount of equipment CFS has to maintain and support locally.

One other item I think we should address as part of this project is administrative backup coverage. In addition to Kevin, I would suggest that I—and perhaps Mary—have appropriate backup administrative access to Microsoft 365/Entra ID so CFS is not dependent upon a single individual for routine administration or emergencies.

Kevin, please weigh in on this. In particular, I'd appreciate your thoughts on:

- What currently depends on the local Active Directory server?
- Whether moving the CFS users/computers to Microsoft Entra ID is practical
- Whether our existing Microsoft 365 licensing already includes what we would need for Entra ID
- What additional Microsoft/Azure licensing costs we should expect, if any
- Whether we would need Microsoft Entra Domain Services or whether a simpler cloud-native Entra ID setup would be sufficient
- A rough estimate of any one-time consulting/migration costs to make the change
- What portions of the shared drive are still actively used (I think none)
- Whether SharePoint/OneDrive would be an appropriate replacement for the shared drive and what, if any, additional cost that would involve
- Options for replacing the print-server and scan-drive functions
- Any other dependencies we need to address before the physical server can be retired

There isn't any immediate rush, but I think this would be a logical next phase now that the network, phones, and related infrastructure have been substantially modernized.

Thanks,

--- Bret



CFS server running ...  
Active Directory, Filer Server, Print/Scan server  
underneath UPS

Aug 18, 2026