



# IT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

FEBRUARY 2017

*Advancing CSPA mission and objects through technology...*

## Fellow Participants

### INTRODUCTION

Another year has passed, forcing me to once again to look back and provide a brief update on what we've been up to on the technology front and some of the directions we hope to move in 2017. I've found that over the past few years, although many of the CSPA's technology requirements have remained static, there are certain areas that are requiring further focus, and we will address these in this report.

I would like to thank both Paul Gamble and Charlene Kerr for assisting in some of our technological needs over this past year. I look forward to continuing to work with them on our initiatives, utilizing their skills for the benefit of the CSPA.

The primary focus of the IT Committee is to support the technical assets and resources of the CSPA and to advise the BoD and committees when required. We are always looking for ways to improve efficiency, functionality and the overall experience of our participants. With that said, if you have any suggestions on how we can better serve our participants, committees or organization as a whole, we would love to hear from you! At the end of the day, the CSPA is here to represent our participants and athletes, and if we can improve your experience through technology, we have accomplished our goal!

# LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD!

## Looking Back, Moving Forward!

### PREVIOUS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Looking back over the past year, the IT Committee has completed a variety of initiatives to advance the CSPA's goals and values as well as supporting the organization's core systems. After reviewing last year's IT AGM report, I would like to update and highlight some of the accomplishments thus far:

- Continue the ongoing maintenance and design of our central database will remain a priority. Modifications have been completed as required to keep our systems in line with current CSPA policies and procedures. We have been working with an outside consultant specializing in FileMaker to assist us with deployment of the Rigger Rating modifications in FileMaker. Despite having a specialist at our disposal for these modifications, it has been a slow, drawn out process. Our FileMaker platform was developed over many years and we don't have access to the original developer which is creating difficulties in piecing together some of the existing design logic. It is my recommendation that the CSPA looks to replace their FileMaker platform with something that specializes in association management and that is managed with support options. I've had many discussions with the office and BoD about our longer term goals with our membership platform and this will be brought to the membership for a vote at the AGM.
- The IT Committee continues to act as a bridge between the National Office, committee members and our public website resources. When required, we post information updates to our Content Management System (Drupal) on behalf of other stakeholders or when appropriate delegate direct access. Backend maintenance is conducted on our CMS as well as other resources, such as the Moodle online training platform.
- We have been actively reviewing the existing internal technical documentation and have been completing updates both to our records and accounts when appropriate.
- The CSPA's InTime Judging Platform got around in 2016. The Canadian Indoor Skydiving Championships held at SkyVenture Montreal utilized the system for the event judges. In the summer Parachutisme Nouvel Air hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> FAI World Canopy Piloting Championships where we utilized the InTime platform. Unfortunately the weather didn't cooperate much during the event, but the system did perform well when required. Overall the system is performing nicely, allowing us to expand on its feature set every time it is utilized.
- During a trip to Europe, my route back to Canada brought me through Poland and I had some time to drop by the 2016 World Cup of Indoor Skydiving. During this brief visit, I met with Claire King and Dirk Venter who are the developers of the InTime scoring platform and competing for South Africa. They arranged a tour of the technical aspects of the competition's setup, which was quite impressive. Their deployment was very complex and illustrated nicely the systems expandability in real world situations. I hope to keep this in mind when running some of our events here in Canada.

# LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD!

## GOALS AND INITIATIVES FOR 2017

As we move forward to 2017, there are a number of initiatives that we will be undertaking. Obviously technology seems to change and advance quite rapidly and I fully expect our list to grow as the year progresses:

- We will continue to support the technological aspects of the National Office to ensure they are able to provide efficient services to members and participants.
- We will continue to evaluate and improve our internal SharePoint site, adding functionality when appropriate. All CSPA officers are now on Office 365 which should further facilitate the further use of this platform.
- The CSPA public website will continue to be reviewed to ensure it contains current and relevant data.
- Pending the direction provided by the membership, we would like to continue exploring our options regarding the replacement of our FileMaker platform. We would like a platform that can be managed by a service contact and provides the office and CSPA officials with ease of access to membership data and facilitates their business objectives. By maintaining a closer relationship with the platform developers, we will hopefully have a much better experience when we require platform changes, as the CSPA's needs evolve. This will also provide a more stable support path than relying on our volunteers, whom may have insufficient skills to maintain the technical aspects of our platform.
- We currently have two confirmed bookings for the InTime Judging Platform in 2017. First in February – SkyVenture Montreal will be hosting a WCIS qualifying / selection event. Later in the summer Parachutisme Nouvel Air will be hosting the 2017 CSPA Nationals which will utilize many of the modules in the platform. We hope to work with the event organizers and judges to provide this tool with the goal to increase efficiency, audience enjoyment and promote our sport as a whole.

# IN SUMMARY

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Over the past year I've had a better opportunity to review and work with the CSPA's systems. I believe that the overall state of the CSPA's information technology infrastructure is in good order. As always there is room for improvement and I look to you to advise how we can make your CSPA a greater asset! Thank you for taking the time to review this report. Should you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to reach out! I look forward to working with you in the future...



Brian Cole

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