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Subject: PODI News - Awards Program Submissions Jump 35%



Award Submissions for ACEC's Engineering Excellence Awards Jump 35%

The process for selecting the [American Council of Engineering Companies](#) ' annual Engineering Excellence Award winners begins with application submissions. ACEC and Potomac Digitek have enhanced and refined the application process in each recent award cycle. And this year's enhancements included process streamlining and integration with several state-level member organizations.

The national competition received a record 196 submissions this year, 35% more submissions than last year! This dramatic jump is the latest step in a five-year upward trend.

This year the PODI-developed custom submission software included an online application form, secure payment processing, the capability to upload up to 20 files, and a consolidation step that creates a single PDF from all the submitted elements. Now that the application window has closed, members of the EEA judging team logged into the awards site to review the submissions assigned to them.

EEA judging is now in the preliminary round with the final selection process to follow. Check the ACEC web site in April for the full list of National Engineering Excellence award winners!

Collection 1 Data Breach: What You Should Know

Last week, buried among the headlines was a story about the discovery of the largest data dump in history. The dump, which is being called Collection 1, contains more than 770 million email addresses and passwords.

Collection 1 is made up of many different individual data breaches from literally thousands of different sources dating back two to three years. While some of the data is rather old, we saw in summer 2018 that old data can be used successfully in phishing and extortion emails. The mere mention of a once-used password can be used to coax unsuspecting users into giving up current personal information or paying ransoms.

Our advice to users:

1. Check if your email address is in Collection 1 using researcher Troy Hunt's website [Have I Been Pwned](#) . Also check to see if your passwords were compromised using Hunt's site called [Pwned Passwords](#) .
2. If your info is on any of these lists, change your passwords immediately. ([Password Best Practices](#))
3. If you are not already using a password manager, now is the time to start. ([Password Manager 101](#))

You can also opt to be notified if your information is detected in future breached-data collections. [Click here to sign-up](#).

Potomac Digitek's 25th Anniversary Celebration

As Potomac Digitek approaches its' 25th anniversary later this year, we are looking back at how far we have come and how so much has changed. Here's an excerpt from the Empowering Technology section in our very first newsletter in January 1995:

“Netscape Web Page Improvements: Netscape is out in front again with innovations in Web Page presentation. Now, background colors, background photos or graphics, different color links (other than that blue that you see everywhere), and many other new features are available to make Web pages more interesting. Potomac Digitek uses these features in the pages we build for our clients. While other web browsers catch up, you will only be able to see these innovations if you use a Netscape browser.”

Released in October 1994, Mosaic Communications Corporation's first product, the web browser called Mosaic Netscape 0.9 quickly became the dominant player in the emerging World Wide Web market.

America Online (AOL) acquired Netscape in November 1995, but Microsoft's Internet Explorer browser — embedded in the Windows Operating System — had arrived and Netscape's market share began to fall dramatically.

By November 2007, IE had 77.4% of the browser market, Firefox 16%, and Netscape 0.6%. The final version of Netscape Navigator 9 (version 9.0.0.6), released on February 20, 2008.

Other News and Notes

The [Hearing Industries Association's \(HIA Hearing.org\)](#) web site just launched and is the first step in rolling out new branding and consolidation of online HIA assets. Publication of significant market research and the debut of automated reporting to members are just two enhancements planned for later this year.

The [Society for Radiation Oncology Administrators \(SROA\)](#) site is another example of client rebranding. SROA updated its look with a new logo, new colors, and new fonts. In addition to the new look-and-feel, the new site moved to a Content Management System for ease of maintenance.

[Institute of Noise Control Engineering of the USA \(INCE-USA\)](#) launches online abstract submissions for NOISE-CON 2019! With multiple submission stages (abstract, paper, and presentation) as well as online reviewing and acceptance, INCE-USA is looking forward to filling an exciting program for their 2019 NOISE-CON meeting. Special to the NOISE-CON meetings is the requirement that all submitters also be registered for the meeting – this is accomplished through an integration between PODI's online abstract submission system and INCE-USA's iMIS registration database.

[Property Management Association \(PMA\)](#) recently launched online join and renew forms that are fully integrated with payment processing and PMA's FileMaker back office.

The [Bath & Kitchen Buying Group \(BKBG\)](#) just launched their redesigned web site at BuyBKBG.com. Stop by the site to learn how BKBG can make your kitchen and bath showroom business better than ever.