



CHRIS
NEWSLETTER

SUMMER
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CHRIS Statewide 20th Anniversary



Cory Beermann

2011 marks the 20th anniversary of the statewide implementation of CHRIS. In the late 1980s, CHRIS was developed at the University of Miami for use as a local database. With the support of the Florida Department of Education, use of the CHRIS database expanded over the years and became statewide in 1991. The statewide implementation of CHRIS helped standardize data collection and service provision to young children with or at risk for disabilities.

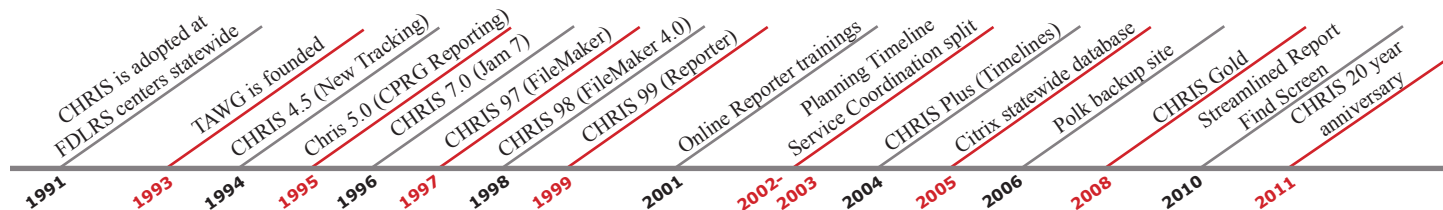
The CHRIS database has come a long way since 1991. Initially, each Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System (FDLRS) site (there have been as many as 38 sites in CHRIS history) had its own individual copy of the CHRIS

database. CHRIS staff traveled throughout the state installing the database, assisting users with data entry and report development, and providing technical support. A copy of the database was collected from each site quarterly. All the copies were merged together to create a statewide database. As a result of this lengthy process, statewide data reports took several months to create.

Today, CHRIS consists of one statewide master database that is located on the University of Miami campus. CHRIS is accessed by users throughout Florida via the Internet. On a typical day, approximately 60 users access CHRIS simultaneously. This centralized structure allows up-to-date

reports (local and statewide) to be created in minutes and technical support can be provided from the CHRIS offices. This edition of the CHRIS Comments Newsletter provides a behind-the-scenes look at what it takes to run the current statewide version of CHRIS.

Since its inception, CHRIS users have played an integral role in the development of the program. Your requests, suggestions, and participation on the Technical Assistance Work Group (TAWG) have driven the changes that have resulted in the numerous versions of CHRIS highlighted in the timeline below. We are grateful to all of you for your dedication to CHRIS past, present, and future.

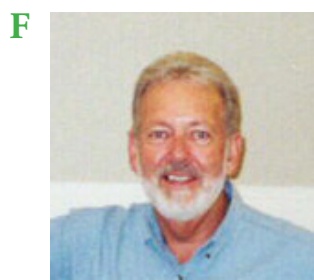
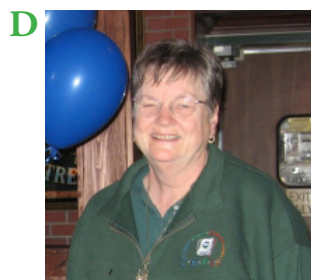


Guess the CHRIS Versions

A

B

Guess the CHRIS Alums



CHRIS Version Answers: (A) CHRIS Informix 4.0 (B) CHRIS 99
 CHRIS Alum Answers: (A) Dana Wilcox (B) Keith Scott
 (C) Rachael Spanjer (D) Martha Cromwell (E) Don Woods



This newsletter was developed by the University of Miami, Department of Psychology, through the Children's Registry and Information System (CHRIS), a special project funded by the State of Florida, Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEES), through federal assistance under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B. The CHRIS Comments newsletter provides updates and information for the users of the CHRIS Registry.

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CHRIS Comments
 Newsletter Schedule for 2011
 February, May, August, November

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Server Farm

Olga Camacho

The CHRIS database is housed in what we affectionately call the “farm.” No ducks or cows on this farm, but certainly plenty of equipment. The farm consists of 16 servers, a backup tape library, a hardware firewall, a master switch, a high-capacity uninterruptable power supply, and a dedicated air conditioning unit.

When you enter CHRIS, you are logged into one of four Citrix servers. The Citrix servers are linked to the server containing the CHRIS database. The additional servers are used to host the CHRIS website, back up

files, and provide redundancy to minimize downtime if one of the servers fails.

Maintaining the safety and security of the CHRIS data is a top priority. The farm is located in an interior room equipped with ID card access and an alarm. We also have a dedicated domain and firewall which control, protect, and restrict communications to and from our servers. In addition, the air conditioning monitors the temperature and humidity in the room and sends out a text alert if the conditions fall out of acceptable levels.



CHRIS Server Farm

Power Failure Protection

Olga Camacho

Rain or shine, hurricane season or not, the CHRIS project makes every attempt to ensure the database is available with limited or no interruptions. We are aware how essential access to CHRIS is for all our users.

The database is protected from unforeseen power failures by an uninterrupted power supply which is attached to a large-capacity, diesel-fuel-powered generator. This generator supplies electricity to our entire server farm within seconds of a power

outage allowing us to keep the database active even if the rest of the building is dark.

What happens if a hurricane threatens Miami-Dade county? The CHRIS database would be transferred to our backup site in Polk county. Users would be instructed how to log into the Polk servers. This process provides users in parts of the state unaffected by the storm with continued access to CHRIS even if the Miami site is shut down.



CHRIS Uninterruptable Power Supply

Backup Procedures

Olga Camacho

Although we strive to ensure the integrity of the CHRIS data and provide our users with uninterrupted access to CHRIS, sometimes adverse events occur that can potentially damage the database. As a result, we abide by very comprehensive backup procedures.

At the CHRIS farm, backups are made to a backup server twice per weekday. These backups are kept for one week, essentially providing us with 10 copies of the database at any given time. In addition to this, a tape backup

is performed once per weekday and includes a copy of the database as well as data from all the servers in the farm.

To protect against a local catastrophic event, such as fire or hurricane damage, CHRIS maintains servers at the Polk County Technology Center. Once per weekday, a copy of the database is transferred electronically to the Polk site. The Polk servers are also backed up to a tape drive.



CHRIS Tape Backup

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRIS Updates

The CHRIS team has recently updated several of our publications to coincide with changes to the CHRIS database. The *CHRIS User Manual* and *Field Reference Guide* have undergone significant revisions. These documents are available on the CHRIS website at <http://www.chris.miami.edu>.

In addition to our publications, the CHRIS website has been completely redesigned. We welcome feedback from the CHRIS community. Please feel free to send us an email at chris.um@miami.edu with any comments or suggestions.

CHRIS Trainings

To register for any CHRIS training session, send an e-mail to Cory Beermann at cory@miami.edu or visit the Training page at <http://www.chris.miami.edu/training.htm>.

Do you want to be on the CHRIS mailing list?

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