



## A Week In The Life Of A CIO:

### Herman Brown, San Francisco District Attorney's Office

**A** week in the life of the CIO for the District Attorney's Office is never the same or routine. The SF DA's Office is responsible for prosecuting offenders of crimes that take place within the borders of San Francisco's seven-by-seven square mile radius, consisting of approximately 850,000 residents, which nearly doubles in size to an excess of 1.5 million people per day when you include commuters and tourist. However, most people do not know that the "Office" is not only responsible for prosecuting offenders, but also for providing services to victims of crimes; ranging from assaults, break-ins, to witness protection programs.

The District Attorney's Office is approximately a 350-person organization, with 4 physical locations, consisting of 16 departments that manage an average case load of 12,000 cases per year.

A typical day starts early in the morning with checking emails and tech news from the previous night; then dropping my eldest daughter off at school, jumping on a conference call while driving to the train station. While on the train responding to emails and double-checking my calendar, this is what I consider my "admin time." Once at my stop, I take a 15 minute break to walk to the office, which some days includes taking more phone calls. Once in the office, it's meetings, firefighting mode, and more meetings. When the workday is over it's back to the train, responding to more emails from the day. Once home, it's time for homework, dinner, bath and bed for the kids, then back to work for an hour or so.

I have the same responsibilities as any other CIO; with an extensive *hat collection* that consists of also acting as the Security Officer, Innovation Officer, Digital Marketing Officer, etc., but most importantly husband and father searching for the perfect work-life balance.

Which is why it's important to enjoy what you do, as wearing all those hats leaves very little downtime.



Wearing several hats can be exhausting but allows me to get involved with other aspects of IT and the business, where in larger organizations an IT executive may not get that experience. The routine items on my calendar consist of a weekly meeting with the CFO to discuss the IT budget and projects.

A weekly meeting with the District Attorney to discuss technical crime strategy; Executive Staff Meeting with all Managing Attorneys and Chiefs; a weekly team meeting with my staff to ensure we are moving forward with our projects and to remove any obstacles that may be preventing us from completing our projects on-time and on budget. This is where government employment has differed for me; the culture is heavily governed and process intensive versus private sector, where time is money.

I have a great team, but as a leader, it's my job to challenge the process and motivate staff, which may mean pushing them out of their comfort zone to get the job done.

I have no hidden motives. My only agenda is to get s#&% done.