

HAPPY
★ NEW YEAR ★

May this year bring new happiness, new goals, new achievements, and a lot of new inspirations in your life. Wishing you a year fully loaded with happiness.

2022



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2022



Change is never comfortable, yet inevitable. It moulds us to reshape ourselves towards a different future by doing things we never thought before; work from home, train and learn remotely, meetings on Teams, wear masks in public, and vaccinate to protect others. COVID-19 taught us that we can be miles apart yet closer than ever. With faith in ourselves and each other, it's easier to grow stronger together.

As a new initiative taken this year, we are happy to extend our modes of communication in the form of monthly newsletters to deliver relevant updates across all the corners of ISSQUARED with valuable resources to our network of customers. We welcome the new year with a realistic vision that will only deepen our commitments for years to come.

Bala Ramaiah,
Chief Executive Officer of ISSQUARED®.

PRODUCT UPDATES

Happy to step in the new year by announcing a few new collaborations and achievements of the last month:

The product team has collaborated with the Managed Services team whose client engagement is extended for another year. One among many reasons to emphasize this project is based on Quality Assurance and Automation assignment outside of our domain expertise. Special thanks to Sivapavan Bupalem and Ramya Chitabathini whose efforts are recognized and appreciated.

The SSO team is busy doing the final polishing of the product. We sometimes wonder how is this team functioning because the SSO team is a fusion of engineers from various teams - operations, managed services, products, and networks, yet they work cohesively and independently. Great job by Shekhar Shrinivasan leading and guiding the team. It's impressive work by all the team members.

The cohesive work between the product team and the operations team is commendable. This is a problem as well sometimes. However, these are the crucial team members who are our face to the world outside ISSQ. These are the members who work late nights, all weekends, and the first thing they do as they roll out of bed is to check email. Thank you, Neville Mendonca, Bharath Golla, Sajish Parambil, and Prasant Keelu for working in collaboration with the product team for an outstanding customer experience. Thank you, Richard Phillips, for enabling us to be our best at everything we do.

The documentation team in collaboration with the operations and product team have now started creating demo videos. Thank you, Issaku Nethala and the team. The team does very well structured informative and controlled webinars. December webinar was a great showcase of teamwork.

What will we do without the outstanding work from Archana Reddy's team. ISSQ is proud to be using the workforce module. We now have a better time and leave management. This was a learning experience with the HR Team and thank you team HR for the realistic use cases. We did take the module to the next level.

The wish list was honored by Santa for them and the New Year will be full of new challenges and milestones for the team. Buckle up team, this is just the beginning.

The IAG team has been busy with SAP connector work. A unique requirement from one of our clients, very well-architected and developed. Thank you Mukesh Kamble and the entire IAG team for working on a solution well developed with client requirements. This was on top of all the other client engagements and commitments.

Awesomeness never stopped in the ITSM team. They are almost blessed with a new client(s). Santa seems like came early for them and will stay the entire year and gift them :). Great job Srishti Srivastava for leading the team and hope the entire team gets to relax in this winter break. Great going. See you all with new goals and vision in the new year. Stay safe and healthy.



IT CORNER

IT CONSULTING AND DELIVERY SERVICES

BIG WIN AND PARTNERSHIP:

ISSQUARED has won a multi-year IT managed services contract (including infrastructure management, networks, datacenter, and platforms support) from the Bank of Guam.

CERTIFICATIONS:

Amir Shariati from the network engineering team has completed "Cisco CCNP ENCOR" certification.



INFORMATION SECURITY

As an year ending, Cyber Security team is busy hiring and taking care of our customers. During month of December a major vulnerability was issued for Apache (Log4j) allowing threat actors to gain remote access to the affected systems.

Cyber team quickly spun to action and helped our customers to identify vulnerable systems and recommended necessary patching regiment. We have also monitored our customers environments for exploitation attempts. In the end, none of our customers were subjected to a potential compromise due to expedient identification and patching of the vulnerability.

On the hiring front, Cyber Security team continue to grow. New members, Labeeb Uddin (Hyderabad), Advait Iyer (Ohio), Shaik Althaf Hussain (Hyderabad), and Satyanarayana Gamidi (Hyderabad) have joined ISSQUARED family as part of the Cyber Security team.

On the customers front, we have been successful in monitoring our customers' environment and identifying threats. More than 30 threat hunts were performed to insure our customers' computing environment remains threat-free and they can continue to rely on our services. Significant accomplishment for the year was getting the largest biotech in the world, Amgen, onboarded with us for Cyber Security services. We have been able to successfully transition services without any impact to the customer and been delivering outstanding performance. In two months, we have wiped out customer's longstanding backlog and made their incident response queue current. Big thank you to a very large group of people on Cyber Security team operating from Hyderabad, WLV, and Ohio with a special recognition to Surya Jatavallabhula. I would remiss if Cyber Team Guam went without being recognized for their efforts.

They have done a stellar job with maintaining Bank of Guam environment and stepped in a big way to handle all of our customers during Amgen's transition period when all resources were dedicated to Amgen. Well done, TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More)!

In summary, Cyber Security had a very successful year. We have onboarded 6 clients, hired 20 people, and transitioned 5. Certainly, been a busy year. Looking forward with excitement towards 2022 to see what opportunities await us!

A quick reminder on updating passwords. Please use the link below to self-help portal for changing your passwords and it is exposed to internet. The same link is accessible through mobile devices as well.

<https://fed.issquaredinc.com/adfs/portal/updatepassword>

STEPS FOR DEVELOPMENT TEAM TO SUBMIT JIRA ACCESS REQUEST

We received many queries recently across attaining access to JIRA. Hence, please follow the steps below to have the Jira Request submitted. (connect to VPN before attempting the link):

01. Log in to <https://portal.issquaredinc.com/Global/RequestEntitlements/Manage>
02. Navigate to the Application tab
03. Select Jira Application Access
04. Add it to the cart and justify.
05. Checkout

Once checkout is done, the JIRA admin receives an email for approval. JIRA application access is limited to Product Development, external user approval is conditional.

Note - Jira application works only with VPN connected.





INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

A special thank you to Venkat Kakarlapudi, Dilip Rudraraju, and Praveen Teegala, and the rest of the Managed Services Network team, for rolling out an emergency patch to all our managed firewall customers, and to Sridhar Veluri, Nishanth Reddy, and other Service Delivery Managers that helped coordinate the effort. We received numerous compliments from several customers on the success of the deployment.

We also received a unique comment from a long-standing customer Industrial Finishes, that shows the trust and relationship that has been built over time and lasted through acquisitions, with the Sales, Architecture, and Services teams.

Good Morning Rick,

Thanks for the good wishes, and back at 'ja!
The ISSQUARED Team is Golden; and we most certainly couldn't get all the crazy stuff we have going accomplished without you. 25 years for Curt Hedges, Tom Harpham, and !!!

Through the many years, we've grown, and Networks, Inc -> NCA -> ISSQUARED have grown. Together, we just keep rocking' through whatever comes at us.

Certainly looking forward to our continued partnership; and continued successes.

Chris Cahill – Industrial Finishes

We are in the final stages of fully decommissioning the Los Angeles data center (Thank you Sean Keifner, Kelly Macone, and John Charles). All gear will be removed by this month, and all workloads are currently running in Dallas. We are currently in the process of expanding our footprint there and will be adding a significant amount of computing and storage, as well as bringing a 2nd data center online in Seattle.

Microsoft Teams Direct Routing – This is what the majority of the US-based ISSQUARED employees use, and what we have implemented successfully for a handful of clients. Scott Hussey, David Lavender, and Joshua Litke have worked to tune this offering and we have it at a very attractive price point now.

A few items are yet to be finalized and there is more to come in the next month's newsletter. However, let us know if you want to know more.

The internal patching schedule for January will be as follows:

JANUARY 2022	
SERVER	DATE
Development Server Patching	Jan-14, 20:00 UTC
Test Server Patching	Jan-18, 20:00 UTC
Production Server Patching	Jan-22, 04:00 UTC

We will be hitting the ground running in 2022! Many thanks to the ISSQUARED leadership team for the investment that has been made into the Managed Services team. The Managers, Engineers, and Service Delivery Managers are all on the front lines taking care of our customers, and we have added and will continue to add depth to all these teams.

KNOW MORE ABOUT ISSQUARED'S FABULIX HCI

Features	ISSQUARED	Nutanix	HPE	Vmware	DELL EMC
	Fabulix	Acropolis AOS	HPE SimpliVity 380	vSAN	Vx Rail
Components Available					
Compute	Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard
Storage	Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard
Virtualization	Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard
Networking	Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard
Security (Firewall)	Standard	Available on Demand (Extra Cost)	Available on Demand (Extra Cost)	Available on Demand (Extra Cost)	Available on Demand (Extra Cost)
Switches	Standard	Available on Demand (Extra Cost)	Available on Demand (Extra Cost)	Available on Demand (Extra Cost)	Available on Demand (Extra Cost)
ITSM	Standard	Available on Demand (Extra Cost)	Available on Demand (Extra Cost)	Available on Demand (Extra Cost)	Available on Demand (Extra Cost)
Hypervisor (Std)	HyperV	Acropolis AOS	Vmware	Vmware	Vmware
Market Feedback		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complex solution design - Doesn't support older systems. - Doesn't support external storage. - Not user Friendly, need a professional to handle it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No Native file services - Need to add more nodes to increase storage - Not user Friendly, need a professional to handle it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Single hypervisor support - Very limited natedata protection capabilities - No native file services - Latency to recover in case on Node failure - Not user Friendly, need a professional to handle it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Single hypervisor and server hardware - Very limited natedata protection capabilities - The cost is quite high. It's a very expensive solution to run
Scalabilty (Scale Up)					
CPU	Yes *	No	Yes (Limited)	Yes (Limited)	No
Memory	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Storage	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Network	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
GPU	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

Features	ISSQUARED	Nutanix	HPE	Vmware	DELL EMC
Scalability (Scale Up)	Compute + Storage - Std Compute only - Std. Storage Only - Std.	Compute + Storage - Std Compute only - Std. Storage Only - Std.	Compute + Storage - Std Compute only - Std. Storage Only - Not Available	Compute + Storage - Std Compute only - Std. Storage Only - Not Available	Compute + Storage - Std Compute only - Std. Storage Only - Not Available
Backup Feature	Built-in (native)	Built-in (native)	Built-in (native)	External (vSAN Certified)	External (vSAN Certified)
Backup compatability	To local single, remote cluster & cloud storage	To local single, remote cluster & cloud storage	To local single, remote cluster & cloud storage (Not Standard)	Limited Compatability	Limited Compatability *
Seamless Integration (Cloud)	Fabulix Cloud & Azure	NO Sealmess Integration with any cloud Platform	NO Sealmess Integration with any cloud Platform	NO Sealmess Integration with any cloud Platform	NO Sealmess Integration with any cloud Platform
Licensing on Guest VM's with Windows	No additional cost on guest VM with Windows	Additional cost applicable *	Additional cost applicable *	Additional cost applicable for guest VM with Windows	Additional cost applicable for guest VM with Windows

HR's CORNER

LEARNING FROM BOTH SUCCESS AND FAILURES: ISSQUARED gives employees an equal opportunity to keep trying new things, taking initiatives, and focus on learning from both success and failures. ISSQ believes review and systematic analysis of both success and the failures provides valuable knowledge and generates useful information that can help improving employees future performance and facilitates organizational growth.



IN THE WORLD OF HR...

ISSQ ON-BOARDING:

There were 6 new additions to the ISSQUARED family during the month of December 2021. Welcome aboard.

ISSQ Work'versaries
Congratulations and keep going!!!!

Employee (s)	Milestone (Years)
Mohiddin Mehata Sayyad	05
Neville Mendonca	

ISSQ REWARDS AND RECOGNITION (RNR) FOR DECEMBER 2021:

Client Appreciation

Client: **Amgen**

ISSQ Team member: **Rakesh Patil**

Feedback from the client: I just wanted to highlight how Rakesh has been so very helpful over this year.

It's much appreciated as quick resolutions are essential so that our many external users we onboard in Development are able to access and work on Amgen projects.

Thank you also to you and your team for implementing the recent changes in the MyAccess Portal for the Spotfire groups.

Team Appreciation

Client: **Industrial Finishes**

ISSQ Team member: **Praveen Teegala, Mohammed Shafi, and Dilip Rudraraju**

Feedback from the client: Thank you once again, Praveen. And to Shafi and Dilip, if they were lurking in the background tonight as last night. Excellent work Guys!

Team Appreciation

Client: **Amgen**

ISSQ Team member: **Vithal Vysyaraju**

Feedback from the client: Vithal and Team, I wanted to thank everyone on the team for your extremely efficient, prompt and professional service – especially in the last few days.

The SVP level Decode escalation was critical and you guys handled it perfectly. Many,

many thanks!

Team member Appreciation

Client: **Amgen**

ISSQ Team member: **Sairam Yanakandla**

Feedback: Sairam, Thanks for your continued dedication and hard work at Amgen, while helping the customer with several projects and initiatives around Okta. Great to see many appreciation emails coming for you from Amgen team members for the work you have done in the recent weeks/months. Kudos to you. Keep up the great work!

Team Appreciation

Client: **Amgen**

ISSQ Team member: **SOC Team**

Feedback: Dear SOC Team members, ISSQUARED would like to appreciate all of you for doing a fabulous job with your continuous efforts and hard work.

25th December: Merry Christmas and Happy New year!! Before the employees go for a break for the holidays, ISSQUARED wishes them for their Christmas and a happy new year. This generates a spirit of comradeship and keeps the spirits of the employees high and motivated to work harder and continue to contribute to their own as wells as the company's goal both at personal and professional levels.



CURRENT OPEN POSITIONS

We are seeking new talents who would like to be part of ISSQUARED journey. [Click the link](#) to current openings for more details and refer individuals among your network who can fit in now. Also avail referral bonus for your connections.





LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT(L&D)

Website Translation Updates

We've completed integrating SEO content in the Dutch version of ISSQUARED website. With this, we've completed basic SEO work on all versions, including French, Arabic and Spanish.

We are waiting for PO approval for the vendor to translate the newly added pages in the website.

Next steps on the website: We're going to start keyword-based page linking strategy to interlink pages on the website for improving retention period the user.

Udemy

Updates

Let's appreciate Naveen Tanneru for being the top learner of the month, who devoted 20 Hrs 1 Min and closely followed by Subham Kumar for committing 20 Hrs 2 Mins on the ISSQ Udemy platform. As predicted in previous editions, we are glad to mention new top learners every month who inspire us to grow by learning.

According to the report of ISSQ employees' engagement with Udemy over the last 30 days, 132 users were active who watched training videos and 6.2% of the users were active via mobile app.

The average time spent on training per active user (in the last 30days) is 1 Hr 23 Mins.

The most-watched course based on employee count of the month is Tackle Remote Working Challenges.

To know what's more for you to learn, log on to Udemy and search for your favorite course!!!



SALES SUMMARY

A big thank you to all for the efforts to get through this year. It has been another challenging year globally, with all of us having to navigate through the continuing pandemic as well as natural disasters such as hurricanes and floods. Please stay safe and take the time to recharge over the winter holidays as we head into 2022. We look forward with optimism to 2022, as we see good reliance and consistency with our managed services. We will look to seize the opportunity to grow in 2022.

Top highlights from our customers:

We are closing the year with some good accomplishments in the Enterprise business, with more news to come early 2022.

As mentioned previously, major wins and execution success has been accomplished at:

Amgen, Booking.com, Merck, Providence, as well as customers such as Bank Of Guam, amongst others.

We are looking to use this momentum to continue to expand our base in these accounts as well as expand to net new logos.

In several cases, Identity & Access Governance related opportunities and IAG "assessment" sessions / engagements are leading to opportunities for 2022.

The rise in traction that we have seen from several enterprises and mid-enterprise clients continues in the following areas:

Interest in EIAG product and demo requests with proof of concepts.

Security-related inquiries and RFPs, primarily around XDR / SOC service.

To summarize some key successes and future opportunities in the VAR business:

Mobile Mini has some promising opportunities for account expansion in 2022.

Queen's Medical Group and Pole To Win are exemplary net new logos / wins – these continue to provide expansion opportunities into 2022, and should serve as good examples of customer success – Congrats to Jennifer McAllister, supported by Curt Hedges and key engineering, pre-sales and delivery leaders and staff to make this a possibility.

Established accounts such as SLED accounts in Portland and Washington continue to deliver, and provide further opportunities in 2022, along with several new logos in the NW.

Furthermore, there has been some excellent follow-up in the K-12 and SLED sectors in SoCal – Thanks to Kimberly Sitton leading Sales Operations, as well as excellent support from the distribution team in fulfillment of above mentioned accounts.

None of the above would have been possible without the Sales Operations and Distribution Teams working tirelessly.

Sales focus on product & service offerings:

We will be focusing in on the following, in 2022 with a combination of collateral updates, coordinated campaigns and sales trainings:

- Product Focus:
 - ORSUS, EIAG & Fabulix
- IAG Focus
 - Security & Cloud – EDR, MDR & focused areas within security & cloud
 - Strategic OEM partners
 - Collaboration / Connectivity – Carrier/UC

Cloud and Microsoft:

The Microsoft Customer Immersion Events (CIE) continue to be a very popular and successful format, both in terms of lead generation and marketing buzz.

The CIEs will resume in January.

The Inside Sales team has executed on a number of campaigns, and there are several learnings that we will take into 2022, as we execute a very coordinated strategy on the above items.

The Carrier and the UC teams have delivered a very consistent performance this year, and we are looking to go to market with a comprehensive message, encompassing connectivity, edge and UC into our overall offering message to clients.

Finally, and very critical to 2022, the management and sales leadership teams are focussed on keeping a very strong focus on Q1, as well as 2022 overall. The goal is to leverage the momentum from various initiatives, leading to a much stronger Q1 as well as 2022.

Salesperson of the Year (2021)

It is exciting to announce Jennifer McAllister as Salesperson of the year for 2021:

This recognizes Jennifer's achievements with new logos, as well as significantly expanding in these new clients as well as existing clients. The Management Team congratulates Jennifer on this achievement and looks forward to continuing with the momentum in 2022.

Jennifer's customer focus and ability to sell new security services is a good example of cross-sell and upsell execution.



THE UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

USA	
Martin Luther King's Day	
17-Jan-2022	
INDIA	
Bhogi	Republic Day
14-Jan-2022	26-Jan-2022
UAE	
New Year's Day	
01-Jan-2022	



Sainsbury's payroll system hit by ransomware attack

Sainsbury's owns the second largest chain of supermarkets in the United Kingdom and shares among the major businesses in UK and US. The Sainsbury's payroll system provider Kronos confirmed on Dec. 11 that it was dealing with ransomware attack on its computer system.

Many companies including Sainsbury's make use of Kronos to log, store, and process the working hours of employees. The company is known to have lost a week's worth of data for 150,000 UK employees but states to pay them before Christmas.

Learn the value of data

When hackers gain access to any computer network and encrypt critical data, the system is said to have hit by a ransomware attack and eventually ask for ransom in exchange of controlling further damage to the company.

Every department across accounting, payroll, and human resource are making use of previous data and patterns to ensure all employees receive the correct amount on time.

Kronos is run by the UKG company, a leading HR and workforce management solutions provider headquartered in Massachusetts that supplies a wide range of cloud payroll services, including automated payment system.

UKG affirmed that some services would be offline for a few months and the affected customers should evaluate and implement alternative business continuity protocols. NBC news reported that the US carmaker Honda North America and supermarket chain Wholefoods were among the affected customers who use Kronos.

[Click here](#) to visit the source.

End-to-end Encryption for one-to-one calls on Microsoft Teams is Available

Microsoft announced end-to-end encryption for one-to-one calls on Microsoft Teams to be available for all users. The company made it official on Microsoft Tech Community site on Tuesday Dec. 14 by John Gruszczuk, the technical product manager at Microsoft. The added support gives an option to IT admins to enable and control E2EE for one-to-one calls on Teams when the update is received.

The update describes as the new E2EE for one-to-one Teams call is enabled by IT admins, certain Teams features will be disabled such as call recording, call transfer, live caption / transcription, call merge, call park, and adding participant to create a group call. If these features are required in a call, the user can navigate to settings and turn end-to-end encryption off.

Many enterprise customers in the US and Europe across industries such as telecommunications, aerospace, professional services, and manufacturing are in the process of rolling out E2EE for one-to-one call on Teams.

[Click here](#) to visit the source.

Log4j software bug exposed!

A major security flaw was discovered in an extensively used logging software Log4j that was addressed over the weekend last month. If the vulnerability was left unpatched, the bug in Java-logging library Apache Log4j could have been exploited by cyberattackers and taken over computer servers, potentially putting corporate systems and government at risk. The cybersecurity firm Check Point posted that it had detected over 1.8 million attempts to exploit the bug since it became public and 46 percent of such attempts belongs to known malicious groups.

On Dec. 14, Apache released Log4j 2.16.0 (CVE-2021-45046) a few days after releasing 2.15.0 to address the Log4Shell vulnerability. According to the CVE, "the fix to address CVE-2021-44228 in Apache Log4j 2.15.0 was incomplete in some non-default configurations."

The US Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) announced to mitigate the Log4j vulnerability (CVE-2021-44228) and three other security concerns by Dec. 24 last year in accordance with Binding Operational Directive (BOD) 22-01: Reducing the Significant Risk of Known Exploited Vulnerabilities.

As per the recent update, Apache has updated Log4j to version 2.17. The latest version of the logging library fixes a high-severity denial-of-service issue. The vulnerability affects all versions of Log4j from 2.0-beta9 through 2.16.0.

[Click here](#) to visit the source.





THE IT NEWS STREET

Top 5 trends to look out in 2022

Though the impact of COVID-19 swung the planet in 2020, the tectonic plates of work culture, businesses, and technology were already shifting anonymously. The pandemic accelerated these changes in the middle of chaos and business continuity.

However, as we step into 2022; one question remains unanswered. Where are we heading to?

Hybrid Work



Surveys reveal that employees prefer working remotely to maintain work life balance and many have migrated close to family or moved away from city locations to have some space and time. Employers also are infatuated with the productivity gains of remote work and the ability to scale down their commercial real estate holdings for significant cost savings.

Future of Health



A lot of people are exposed to making video calls for health visits. The COVID-19 vaccine has changed the way vaccines and potentially other therapies were created. It's not too long for vaccines to take a decade to develop, but COVID-19 vaccines were created in 10 months with the help of genetics and mRNA technology. This proved to be one of the most significant medical breakthroughs of the century.



Inflation and Cryptocurrency

Cryptocurrencies have seen new heights and interests in the recent past. The crypto exchange app Coinbase surpassed YouTube and TikTok to become the most downloaded app in Apple's App Store a couple times in 2021. Some view the world's most well-known cryptocurrency, Bitcoin, as a hedge against inflation. Politicians, athletes and others started taking for their paychecks in Bitcoin in 2021.



Next Space, Travel, and Internet

Private space companies, initiated by Virgin Galactic, then SpaceX and Blue Origin sent civilians into the space in 2021 and claimed the promise of space tourism in future. This will be the year that SpaceX plans to put its Starship reusable rocket and space vehicle into flight for its first missions. SpaceX CEO Elon Musk said, "This is a profound revolution in access to orbit. There has never been a fully reusable, orbital launch vehicle. This is the holy grail of space technology. It is the fundamental breakthrough that is necessary for humanity to become a space-faring civilization."

Meanwhile, SpaceX's StarLink and Blue Origin and Amazon's Project Kuiper to launch thousands of low orbit satellites into the atmosphere in 2022. Their mission to bring fast, reliable broadband internet at a reasonable price to every corner of the planet is a welcome advancement.



EVs to Save Nature

Electric vehicles are on the edge for a huge year in 2022 after a number of breakthroughs in 2021, including the Tesla Model 3 being the bestselling vehicle of Europe in September. The writing is on the wall for fossil fuel-burning vehicles. The US will discontinue purchasing gas-powered vehicles by 2035, the UK will do so by 2030, and a broader coalition of countries have set 2040 as a global date for terminating fossil fuel vehicles.

[Click here](#) to visit the source.

NASA launched James Webb Space Telescope into the Space



The most powerful telescope ever made by NASA took off in the last month of 2021 from South American ground into the space. The hard work of brilliant engineers who were working for Twenty years on the multi-billion dollar and gold-plated James Webb Space Telescope eventually paid off.

[Click here](#) to visit the source.

CES 2022: Tech giants withdraw to attend CES in Las Vegas

The consumer electronics show is set to host a mega tech conference, CES 2022 in Las Vegas this month starting Jan. 5, though many exhibitors have canceled in-person attendance due to surge in the COVID cases of new omicron variant.

The major exhibitors who cancelled to appear in-person and switched to join virtually includes Microsoft, Google, Lenovo, T-Mobile, Intel, TikTok, and Meta.



According to the Consumer Technology Association, which runs CES, many additional exhibitors have signed up for physical space on the event floor. Though 42 exhibitors have cancelled till date, 60 new exhibitors have been added for in-person attendance since December 17, Friday.

The CTA affirmed that the show will host small and medium-size companies, though big names are backing out of attending CES in person.

[Click here](#) to visit the source.



There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure!!!



THE LATEST NEWS ON COVID-19

Omicron Updates

On 26 November 2021, WHO designated the variant B.1.1.529, named Omicron, on the advice of WHO's Technical Advisory Group on Virus Evolution (TAG-VE). This decision was based on the evidence presented to the TAG-VE that Omicron has several mutations that may have an impact on how it behaves, for example, on how easily it spreads or the severity of illness it causes. Here is a summary of what is known till date.

Transmissibility: It is not yet clear whether Omicron is more transmissible (e.g., more easily spread from person to person) compared to other variants, including Delta. The number of people testing positive has risen in areas of South Africa affected by this variant, but epidemiologic studies are underway to understand if it is because of Omicron or other factors.

Severity of disease: Preliminary data suggests that there are increasing rates of hospitalization in South Africa, but this may be due to increasing overall numbers of people being infected, rather than a result of specific infection with Omicron. There is currently no information to suggest that symptoms associated with Omicron are different from those from other variants. Initial reported infections were among university students—younger individuals who tend to have more mild disease—but understanding the level of severity of the Omicron variant will take some several weeks. All variants of COVID-19, including the Delta variant that is dominant worldwide, can cause severe disease or death, in particular for the most vulnerable people, and thus prevention is always key.

Countries affected by the COVID-19 variant Omicron

Since its detection in South Africa, the new Omicron coronavirus variant has been confirmed in more than 25 countries including Asian nations like Sri Lanka, India, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, and South Korea and the number is expected to rise, said Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

[Read More...](#)

To track the current number of cases across the globe, visit the WHO Coronavirus dashboard at <https://covid19.who.int/>

Vaccination Status

According to **Our World in Data** reports, 57.4% of the global population has received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

8.99 billion doses have been administered worldwide and 33.05 million doses are administered every day.

8.3% of people in low-income countries have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

[Read More...](#)

DO'S AND DONT'S TO STAY SAFE DURING COVID



Regular hand wash for 30 seconds will help you avoid germs or any kind of infection.



Cover your mouth and nose while sneezing.



If you are suffering from a common cold, cough, nausea, vomiting, shortness of breath and fatigue make it a point to consult a doctor at the earliest



Avoid being in crowded places. An infected person can spread the virus instantly and crowded places is a good way to accomplish this. Make sure you wear full sleeves shirts with anti-pollution masks when you travel. Staying indoors is a rather safe option.



Do not get close to anyone, especially touching or laughing closely. Also, use anti-pollution masks when out with friends or family. Avoid touching anyone and do not use the same utensils used by another.



Spitting can increase the spread of the virus. Avoid spitting in public and at home. Also, avoid getting close to a sick person suffering from a cold and cough.



Travelling may get you infected. Use anti-pollution masks and carry a hand sanitizer with you always. If you have to travel in an emergency, consider traveling by your vehicle, avoid public transport.



If you are suffering from dry cough, back pain, nausea, and shortness of breath it is recommended that you consult a doctor rather than opt for self-medication that can leave you battling with a deadly illness. Say no to antibiotics as it would later lead to antibiotic resistance.



Most often a state of fear can lead to taking wrong decisions and use of self-medication All you need to keep in mind is hygiene.



Do not touch your face, nose, and mouth often. This avoids the risks of developing the virus.

Note: All INDIA employees feel free to contact DJ for any COVID medical emergency.

Email: vdhanara@issquaredinc.com

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ISSQ extends its thoughts and support to all its employees amidst this crisis, we are in this together!



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FOR YOUR SAFETY AND OTHERS'