Technology Update

by B4 Networks

"Insider Tips To Make Your Business Run Faster, Easier, And More Profitably"

In this issue

"As a business owner, I know you don't have time to waste on technical and operational issues. That's where we *shine!* Call us and put an end to your IT problems finally and forever!"

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5 Steps To Protect Your Business From Cyber Crime

A Seattle company was recently broken into and a stash of old laptops were stolen. Just a typical everyday crime by typical everyday thieves. These laptops weren't even being used by anyone in the company. The crime turned out to be anything but ordinary when those same thieves (cyber-criminals) used data from the laptops to obtain information and siphon money out of the company via fraudulent payroll transactions. On top of stealing money, they also managed to steal employee identities.

Another small company was hacked by another "company" that shared the same high-rise office building with them. Management only became aware of the theft once they started seeing unusual financial transactions in their bank accounts. Even then, they didn't know if there was internal embezzlement or external cyber theft. It turned out to be cyber theft. The thief in this case drove a Mercedes and wore a Rolex watch… and looked like anyone else walking in and out of their building. Welcome to the age of cybercrime.

You Are Their Favorite Target

One of the biggest issues facing small businesses in the fight against cybercrime is the lack of a cyber-security plan. While 83% lack a formal plan, over 69% lack even an informal one. Half of small business owners believe that cybercrime will never affect them. In fact, small businesses are a cybercriminal's favorite target! Why? Small businesses are not prepared and they make it easier on criminals.

The result? Cyber-attacks cost SMBs an average of $188,242 each incident and nearly two-thirds of the businesses affected are out of business within 6 months (2011 Symantec/NCSA Study). A separate study by Verizon showed that over 80% of small business cybercrime victims were due to insufficient network security (wireless and password issues ranked highest). With insecure networks and no formal plan to combat them, we make it far too easy for criminals.

How They Attack

The #1 money-generating technique these "bad guys" use is to infect your systems with malware so that whenever you (or your employees) visit a web site and enter a password (Facebook, bank, payroll, etc.) the malware programs harvest that data and send it off to the bad guys to do their evil stuff.

They can get to you through physical office break-ins, "wardriving" (compromising defenseless wireless networks) or e-mail phishing scams and harmful web sites. Cyber-criminals are relentless in their efforts, and no one is immune to their tricks.

5 Steps To Protect Your Business

1. Get Educated. Find out the risks and educate your staff.

2. Do A Threat Assessment. Examine your firewall, anti-virus protection and anything connected to your network. What data is sensitive or subject to data-breach laws?

3. Create A Cyber-Security Action Plan. Your plan should include both education and a "fire drill."

4. Monitor Consistently. Security is never a one-time activity. Monitoring 24/7 is critical.

5. Re-Assess Regularly. New threats emerge all the time and are always changing. You can only win by staying ahead!

The 3 Biggest Mistakes Niagara Business Owners Make With Their Computer Network That Cost Them Time, Money And Aggravation

Want to avoid the most common and expensive computer problems that most Niagara business owners experience? Then read on! We've compiled a list of 3 things you should be doing to save yourself a lot of time and money by avoiding a big, ugly computer disaster.

1. Have an automated off-site backup system in place. I cannot stress the importance of this enough. Having an off-site backup of your data will be the equivalent of wearing a seatbelt in a major accident. You don't think much about it until you need it, and then you will thank your lucky stars you had it in place.

2. Centralize your data on your server. At one time, servers only made sense for large organizations because of their high cost and complexity. But today, there are very affordable and easy-to-implement server systems designed specifically for any size small business. Depending on your business needs, your server can be in your office or hosted in the cloud. A server will not only speed up your network, but it will also make backups easier, allow secure remote access (allowing you and your employees to work from home or on the road) and make it much easier to share documents, databases and printers.

3. Keep your anti-virus software up to date, and perform weekly spyware scans. Almost everyone understands the importance of anti-virus software, but many businesses still do not perform weekly spyware sweeps. Spyware can cause a host of problems, including slowing down your systems, pop-up ads and even identity theft.

Want An Easy Way To Make Sure You Aren't Making These 3 Mistakes (Or Others) In Your Business? With our PreferredIT programs, we take full responsibility for managing your computer network! This service is guaranteed to eliminate expensive, frustrating computer problems and give you the peace of mind that your data is safe and secure.
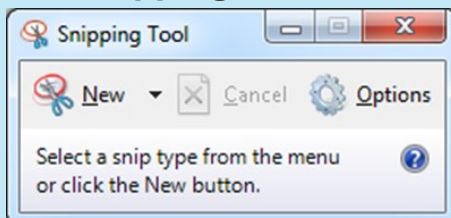
The Lighter Side

Useless Summer Fun Facts

- The Eiffel Tower can grow by more than 6 inches in summer due to the expansion of the iron on hot days.

- July is the month where most ice cream is sold in the US. Americans eat about 5.5 gallons of ice cream per year on average.

- Popsicles were invented by accident in 1905 by 11 year old Frank Epperson. He mixed soda and water and left the mixture out overnight with the stirring stick still in it. Since the temperature was low, the mixture froze.

- Watermelon is not a fruit, but a vegetable.

- Many people enjoy throwing Frisbees in summer, but they were originally designed as pie plates in the 1870s. Students started throwing them in the 1940s.

Tek Tip of the Month

The Snipping Tool - By William Morris

This is a very simple tool that can be used for capturing anything that is on your screen, such as errors to give to your IT department to help solve your issues.

To open the Snipping Tool, Click on the start button and start typing *snipping tool* in the search box, and select the Snipping Tool from the menu.

Make sure you can see the screen you would like to copy, then click on New. When the big plus sign appears, left mouse click and drag the plus sign over the area you wish to copy, such as an error, then let go the mouse button. The snipping tool window will open your image in it. From here you can copy *(Edit>Copy)* your error to paste into an email, or save *(File>Save As)* your snapshot as an image file.

William Morris
Support Technician

Need Help Right Away?   Call our team 24/7 at 905.346.4966.

A New Favorite Way Hackers Are Gaining Access To Your PC

Do you have Java turned on in your web browser? If your answer is "Yes" or "I'm not sure" then it's time to take action to find out. Why? The biggest threat to your computer systems in 2013 (and beyond) is no longer Microsoft Windows - it is Oracle Java.

After 20+ years as the poster child for insecure software, Microsoft's newest operating systems (Windows 7 and 8) have gotten their act together. Cybercriminals like to get the greatest bang for their buck and therefore they're attacking the Java platform because of its huge market share and because it's an easier platform to hack than the Microsoft operating system. Java is now installed in over 1.1 billion desktops and 3 billion mobile phones. That's a big target that is very attractive to hackers. Hackers also love that Java is multi-platform, which means it's capable of corrupting PCs running Windows, Mac OS X or Linux. And since many Mac users don't have anti-virus, hackers were able to infect over 600,000 Macs with serious malware via the Java software installed on their machines.

Right now, cybercriminals are aware and exploiting any security flaws in Java that could lead to infections on your computer. There are even automated kits now available to capitalize on any security hole found within days, if not hours of them becoming known. It's not unusual to see hackers use Java as a first attack to weaken the defenses before serving up an Operating System specific attack. Even the U.S. Department of Homeland Security suggested that *"To defend against future Java vulnerabilities, their users should consider disabling Java in web browsers."*

Here are 3 steps you can take today to minimize your risk:

1. Disable or uninstall Java wherever you can. If you don't need it, remove it.

2. Where Java is necessary, use a separate web browser only used for Java based websites and be sure to patch Java regularly.

3. Have your staff report the first signs of slowness, possible infections and web browser popups to your IT guy as soon as they happen.

Client Of The Month

"Burbage Barristers offers legal services to businesses and individuals in and around the Niagara Region. Jane Burbage, sole proprietor, is Certified by the Law Society of Upper Canada as a Specialist in Civil Litigation, and has been practicing for 30 years. Areas of practice include but are not limited to insurance, disability, human rights, employment, contract, product liability, personal injury and corporate law.

As a member of the St. Catharines Downtown Association, Chamber of Commerce, Small Business Clubs Niagara and Women In Niagara, Jane Burbage is passionate about contributing to the community and promoting local businesses.

What sets Burbage Barristers apart is their responsiveness, focus on putting their clients' interests and needs first, and ability to 'think outside the box'.

Visit us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and DON'T MISS BURBAGE'S BLOG – EVERY MONDAY.

www.BurbageBarristers.com"

L. JANE BURBAGE
B A R R I S T E R S
* CERTIFIED as a SPECIALIST in CIVIL LITIGATION

TRIVIA CHALLENGE

Lachapelle Family Update

This months winner will receive a $50 Gift Card to *Kelsey's*

This month's trivia question is:

Which musician died in August of 1977, leaving behind a huge following of fans who still adore him to this day?

a.   Jerry Garcia
b.   Jim Morrison
c.   John Lennon
d.   Elvis Presley

To enter, visit the website below or email me: bryan@b4networks.ca and answer the question below.

www.b4networks.ca/trivia

Submit your entry by the 25th of the month, and if your answers are correct, your name will be added to the draw for a $50 Gift Card.

*See website for full trivia rules

What a wonderful summer this has been so far.   Nate has been having a great time playing baseball and soccer, and his team even placed during a recent competition!

We recently went to Center island in Toronto with the boys, and Nate just loved going on the Ferry with his brother.   It's amazing just how much these two get along (so far), and how quickly they are growing up.

Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:
The 30-Day Lantern

It's summer time and that means more outdoor activities. This 30-Day Lantern is the perfect companion for your cookouts and camping trips. Not to mention, it's a handy gadget to keep in your vehicle or garage for those emergency situations when power is down.

This lantern provides up to 30 days of reliable light on one set of batteries. The lantern generates up to 300 lumens of bright, white light that can

be seen from up to 75 1/2' away. Made from impact-resistant ABS with rubberized encasements, the lantern is shock- and water-resistant. The device has a green LED that flashes when the device is off for easy location in blackouts, and a built-in hook allows the lantern to be hung upside down. It has three light output levels and a flashing mode (provides 32 hours of light on high).

Get your lantern at www.hammacher.com

Services We Offer

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