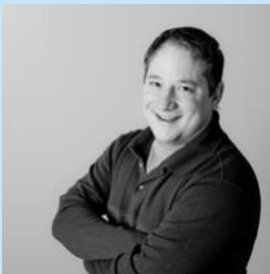


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"As a business owner, I know you don't have time to waste on technical and operational issues. That's where we *shine!* Call us and put an end to your IT problems finally and forever!"

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## Can Apple Computers Get Viruses?

A very common misconception is that Apple Mac products cannot get viruses. Not true! There is no such thing as a 100% safe computer. Devices running OS X, Windows, Linux, Android, iOS, or any other operating system are all capable of being infected with a virus or other malware.



However, the likelihood that an Apple / Mac user gets a virus is much lower than for Windows users. In fact, many Apple users don't even run any antivirus software on their computers. Whether that is a smart strategy is debated by many IT professionals, and we sure don't recommend it.

A few of the reasons why Macs don't get as many viruses as PCs are:

Mac OS X is based on the Unix operating system, which is one of the oldest and most secure operating systems around.

Microsoft Windows is used by many more people, so it's a bigger and better target.

Many of the tools designed to create viruses or malware are written for the Windows operating system.

### Windows Threats Even For Macs

Many Mac users find themselves having to use Parallels, BootCamp or other virtual software to run Windows only programs such as Microsoft Publisher. Because these Macs are now running a Windows operating system, they are now susceptible to Windows viruses. In addition, an Apple computer can become a "carrier" of a Windows-based virus. This virus would not infect the Apple machine, but could infect other Windows machines on your network if it were to send that virus via email or across the office computer network.

### And Even More Threats...

Any software, plug-in or other 3rd party add-on that is installed onto any computer that connects to the internet can introduce its own security risks. One of the most common ways that the "bad guys" are able to attack a Mac is through browser applications and browser plug-ins such as Adobe Flash, Adobe Reader, Java and others. Just about every Mac user has all three of these plug-ins installed on their computers (and many more). These are a necessary part of business, but do introduce additional security risks for all computers.

### The Human Factor

Although Apple Macs are less vulnerable to viruses, they are still operated by flawed humans who can still be the victim of Trojan Horses, phishing and other online fraud. Your best bet is to keep everyone informed about online security risks in your business, no matter the computer they're using.

### The Bottom Line

As Mac's become more popular, the "bad guys" will take the time to go after them just like any other OS. The Bottom line is that you should never feel like because you run a Mac, that your immune to viruses, always have an AV installed, and always be vigilant.

## 7 Reasons Why It's Time To Give Up On Windows XP Once And For All

Although businesses have been getting rid of Windows XP for at least the last 3 years, the fact remains that as of last December, around 500 million users will still be running Windows XP. Here are 7 of the top reasons it's time to finally give up Windows XP now.



1. **Tons Of Viruses.** There is a huge library of viruses aimed at Windows XP and limited antivirus support still available.
2. **XP Is OLD** (almost 12 years old!). The 1st iPod was released the same year as Windows XP. In a world where the 5th iPhone has been released, no one should be left using an O/S that pre-dates the 1st iPod!
3. **Least Secure Operating System (By Far!).** ALL other platforms, including Linux, all versions of Mac OS X, Windows 7 and Windows 8 are more secure than XP by a huge margin. Windows Vista is actually a far safer option (scary!).
4. **Built For A Simpler Time.** XP was created for a simpler world of technology. It was formatted to fit to a screen only 640 pixels wide, and it showcased IE6 as a new product. The internet was a different place when XP was developed. Smartphones were non-existent, laptops were a luxury and tablet computers were science fiction.
5. **No More Band-Aids.** Only so many band-aid fixes on top of each other can be effective.
6. **Support Is Ending.** Mainstream support of XP ended 4 years ago (April 2009) with only critical security updates since then.
7. **Malware Everywhere.** You can continue to use XP, but with more malware than ever. XP is by far the most vulnerable platform to connect to the internet.

XP is a relic from a different world. Use at your own risk.

## The Lighter Side

### The Lighter Side: How's Your Job?

Q. How's your job at the clock company?

A. Only time will tell.

Q. How's your job at the banana company?

A. I keep slipping up.

Q. How's your job on the new highway?

A. I'm so busy I don't know which way to turn.

Q. How's your job at the travel agency?

A. I'm going nowhere.

Q. How's your job at the swivel chair company?

A. It makes my head spin!

Q. How's your job at the lemon juice company?

A. I've had bitter jobs.

Q. How's your job at the pie company?

A. It didn't pan out.

Q. How's your job at the balloon factory?

A. We can't keep up with inflation.

Q. How's your job at the crystal ball company?

A. I'm making a fortune.

Q. How's your job at the history book company?

A. There's no future in it.

Q. How's your job at the clock company?

A. I'm having second thoughts about it.

### New Computer? Use The Easy Transfer Wizard - By Steve Lamarre



So you've bought a new computer and you want to transfer all of your old data to your new computer. To make everyone's lives easier Microsoft created Windows Easy Transfer. It is built into Windows Vista and later and is downloadable for Windows XP. You can pick what you want to transfer specifically or just tell it to copy all of your user profiles, then you can restore the files to the new computer. If you have both computers on the same network you can do a direct transfer from one computer to the other! There are many guides online that can assist you with the specifics but this is one tool you probably want to learn about. Programs do not transfer over but your files should depending on what you choose.



Steve Lamarre  
Service Coordinator

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

## Do You Roll Out The Red Carpet For Identity Thieves?

Just about every web site you visit these days wants you to register and choose a password, especially when making a purchase.

However, if you do this carelessly, you may be setting yourself up as an easy prey for online criminals.

Although we know we should choose unique and hard to decipher passwords that contain both numbers and letters, most people still use easy to remember passwords and words for their convenience.

Below are the top 10 passwords used online according to PC Magazine. If you are using any of the following, you're putting a big red bullseye on your account for identity theft:

1. password
2. 123456
3. qwerty
4. abc123
5. letmein
6. monkey
7. myspace1
8. password1
9. link182
10. [your first name]

Another thing most people don't realize is that the owner of most websites could potentially have access to the password you entered on their site, so if you use this password anywhere else, especially your email account which you also gave them when signing up, you are effectively giving

them access to just about every other website that you've used that email account with, including potentially your online banking. Always assume that the owners of the website can see your password. In many cases they cannot, but there's nothing stopping someone from setting up a website where they store your password in plain text.

If you want to avoid having to remember dozens of hard-to-remember passwords, Robo Form is a great FREE software you can download without having to fear adware or spyware.

RoboForm was named PC Magazine Editor's Choice, and CNET Download.com's Software of the Year. After you download the software, it memorizes your passwords and logs you in automatically to every web page with one click.

Best of all, it encrypts your passwords and generates random passwords that hackers cannot guess. You can even back up your passwords so you can copy them to another computer.

There are many password tools out there, but bottom line is, using the same password everywhere, is a sure-fire way to have your identity stolen. While we recommend having unique passwords everywhere, at the very least, your email password, and banking passwords should both be completely unique.

## Meet Our New Employee

This month we'll take a break away from our Client of the Month Series to introduce our new staff Member. As you may know, a few months back we published our Meet the Staff Insert. Our feedback from that insert was very positive, with most clients not realizing how much we have grown in the past year.

Due to the high demand in the last few months (thank you for all your referrals), we've hired yet again to ensure our levels of service are not affected by the surge in clients and support calls. This brings our total technical staff available to 6 technicians, and the total count of employees to 9.



Without further delay, our new team member, comes to us from Niagara College's *Computer Systems Technician* program (Both Bryan and Steve are on the College's Advisory board for this program).

William Morris (goes by Bill), is a recent graduate of the program, and has join our team 3 weeks ago. Bill has already been to some of your businesses to help with new computer installations, sever deployments, and general troubleshooting, and has fast become an integral part of the B4 Networks Team. If you see Bill around, please join me in welcoming him to our Team. Good luck!

For a full staff list, see:  
<http://www.b4networks.ca/about-us/staff/>

## Secure Your Network Free Report

### Secure Your Network

"What Every Small Business Owner Must Know About Protecting And Preserving Their Company's Critical Data And Computer Systems"



Discover Common Mistakes Business Owners Make When it Comes to Protecting Their Company Data and Computer Systems

### If You Depend On Your Computer Network to Run Your Business, This Is One Report You **DON'T** Want To Overlook!

This report will outline in plain, non-technical English common mistakes that many small business owners make with their computer network that cost them thousands in lost sales, productivity, and computer repair bills, as well as providing an easy, proven way to reduce or completely eliminate the financial expense and frustration of these oversights.

#### Read this report and you'll discover:

- The single most expensive mistake most small business owners make when it comes to protecting their company data.
- The universal misconception business owners have about their computer networks, and how it can end up costing thousands in damages.
- 6 Critical security measures every small business should have in place.
- How to greatly reduce – or even completely eliminate – frustrating crashes, slow performance, and other annoying computer problems.

Download your copy FREE at:

<http://www.b4networks.ca/free-reports>

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The Grand Prize Winner of last month's Trivia Challenge Quiz is **Andrea Vaandenberg** from the **Employment Help Center**

This month's winner will receive a \$50 Gift Card to ??? (*Mystery Prize*)

Now, here's this month's trivia question.

"All June I bound the \_\_\_ in sheaves, Now, \_\_\_ by \_\_\_, I strip the leaves." What flowers does Robert Browning Hamilton refer to?"

- a. Tulips
- b. Dandelion
- c. Carnation
- d. Rose

To enter, visit the website below or email me: [bryan@b4networks.ca](mailto:bryan@b4networks.ca) and answer the question below.

[www.b4networks.ca/trivia](http://www.b4networks.ca/trivia)

**Submit your entry by the 30th** 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

## Lachapelle Family Update



Nate and Aiden both surprised me this month. Aiden was very sick for a few weeks, but unless you spent some time at our house, you likely wouldn't have known. Even when sick with a very high fever, Aiden was still smiling, and laughing (Well most of the time). Nate was very concerned with Aiden being sick, and he spent lots of time with him, helping both me and Amanda take care of Aiden, and kept him and us in good spirits the whole time.

## Shiny New Gadget Of The Month: The Flip Pal

The Flip Pal Mobile scanner has no wires and scans directly to a SD Card (just like a camera).

Have you ever come across a picture that you wanted to scan but were afraid to take it out of the album because it was stuck? With the Flip Pal, you can leave it in the album and place the scanner right over the picture and get the scan without having to disturb anything.

The scanner has a built in screen so that you can see the scan before you are done.

The Flip Pal is battery powered, compact and lightweight.



It produces high quality digital scans in 300 or 600 dpi and can scan in color. The scanner only weighs 1.5 pounds which makes it easy to carry around.

The software that comes with the Flip Pal allows you to take a number of scans and digitally stitch them together into one large picture.

The Flip-Pal retails for \$149.99.

If you would like more information, you can go to [www.flip-pal.com](http://www.flip-pal.com).

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- Virus and Spyware Protection
- Network Security / Firewall Solutions
- Commercial Wireless Networking
- Fixed Cost Monthly Managed Services
- Remote Monitoring and Diagnostics, Troubleshooting and Repair
- Project Management
- Technology Consulting
- Hosted Exchange Service
- Cloud Services



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