

What's New

2019 Cybersecurity Webinars

Starting next month we're going to hold monthly cyber security webinars to help users learn the dangers of cyber threats as well as find ways to decrease your risk "footprint." Some of these cost nothing more than time and attention.

January 24, 2019 @ 11am

We haven't designated a topic to focus upon and would love for YOU to help us out by telling us what questions you have such as how to quantify your risk.

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This monthly publication is provided courtesy of Rick Rusch, CEO of Secure ERP, Inc.

Secure ERP is a network security & ERP integration specialist in central

Indiana with over 25 years of experience supporting small to medium sized businesses. Founded by a CPA and Sophos certified architect, Secure ERP is dedicated to our clients' security and growth objectives.



3 Fatal Errors You're Making By Hiring The Cheapest Computer Support Company

Somehow, 2019 is already almost upon us. In preparation for the New Year, business owners across the country are taking a close look at their finances, scratching their heads as they inspect their budgets, line by line, to cut everything that isn't absolutely necessary and searching for new investments that will boost their bottom line. In the midst of all this, it's vital that leaders take a long, hard look at their technology budgets. Chances are those budgets are a far cry from where they should be.

Many business owners – especially those running smaller organizations with tighter resources – assume that IT is the ideal spot to cut costs. But they forget that, today, technology is the foundation upon which their business is built. We can almost guarantee that if you partner with a cut-rate IT support company, you will sorely regret it down the line. You'll

end up spending thousands more on broken equipment and systems, you'll lose customers to server downtime and you may even fold completely under the weight of a cyber-attack.

The minuscule amount you'll save by hiring a cheap support company will be vastly outweighed by the long-term cost of your decision. It is just not worth it. While looking at your budget this December, check whether you're making one of these three potentially deadly mistakes with your IT investment. It might just save your company.

1. YOU'RE INVESTING IN A "BREAK-FIX" APPROACH.

This is the primary place where bargain-barrel IT support companies cut costs. Instead of proactively managing your network, your technicians hardly touch

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your network until something breaks and it's time to fix it. Sure, this way is cheaper in the short term, but when you consider the enormous crises that can arise when something shuts down and the fact that they could easily be avoided with the foresight of a managed services provider, the true expense quickly becomes obvious. Not only will your business suffer many more tech catastrophes than they would if you partnered with a more reputable company, but those catastrophes will take significantly longer to fix. A technician who shows up only when something's wrong simply doesn't know your network as well as somebody who works with it all the time.

2. YOU'RE INVESTING IN A COMPANY THAT DOESN'T BOTHER BEING PROACTIVE.

Technology shifts rapidly day by day. The arms race between hackers and security software designers is constantly happening behind the scenes, as is the hurtling pace at which hardware and software become supplanted by newer, better options. Without a managed services provider keeping you abreast of the latest tech trends, you're both incredibly vulnerable to cyber-attacks and at risk of falling behind your competitors. Technology shouldn't just be something you set up and hope it doesn't break; it should be something you and your team are actively leveraging to maximize your impact. A managed

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services provider is genuinely invested in your success and will do everything they can to help you do exactly that.

3. LET'S FACE IT: YOU'RE JUST UNDERINVESTING.

In order to keep your company at the top of its game, you need to invest in your technology in accordance with how vital it is to your day-to-day operations. We're guessing that it's pretty much essential for your success, so why are you so quick to cut corners in tech? Allocating your resources to support your technology is more than a baseline cost to stay alive in the business world – it's an investment that can substantially increase your bottom line and amplify the reach, scope and efficacy of your operation. So, this year, as you comb through document after financial document, ask yourself: are you really doing all you can with the technology at your disposal?

Free Report Download:

The Business Owner's Guide To IT Support Services And Fees

You'll learn:

- ...# The three most common ways IT companies charge for their services and the pros and cons of each approach.
- ...# A common billing model that puts ALL THE RISK on you, the customer, when buying IT services; you'll learn what it is and why you need to avoid agreeing to it.
- ...# Exclusions, hidden fees and other "gotcha" clauses IT firms put in contracts you DON'T want to agree to.
- ...# How to make sure you know exactly what you're getting to avoid disappointment, frustration and added costs later on that you didn't anticipate.

IT BUYERS GUIDE

What Every Business Owner MUST Know About IT Support Services And Fees



What You Should Expect To Pay For IT Support For Your Business And How To Get Exactly What You Need

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Cyber Security TIPS

Want to know what every hacker hopes you believe? "We're small...nobody wants to hack us." This is the #1 reason why people (companies) get hacked. They dismiss the importance of IT security because they're only a "small business." This is a lazy, irresponsible excuse.

One thing is for certain: NO ONE is immune to cybercrime. In fact, one in five small businesses falls victim to cybercrime and that number grows every year. Plus, half of all cyber-attacks are aimed at small businesses BECAUSE they make themselves low-hanging fruit with sloppy or non-existent security protocols.

I tackle this head on in my blog post:

["Small Business Cyber Security, The Ostrich Effect"](#)

Here's another shocker:

85% of MSPs (IT firms) Don't Offer Their Customers a Cyber Security Service Offering

Want proof you're targeted? Ask your IT professional to show you the failed login attempts to your firewall. All business class firewalls provide this. So if you've never been offered a cyber security service, your IT firm is NOT doing you a favor or saving you money in the long run.

90 Ways To Be Better

Would you believe that there is an organization in America today that lists 90 traits, characteristics and soft skills they want their employees to have? Well, there is. My first thought when I saw the list was, "These folks are nuts!" But, after actually reviewing the list, I changed my tune. All of them are doable and warrant our attention. Success is always all about constantly becoming a better version of ourselves. The question is: What do we have to go by? How do we grade ourselves?



If I gave you a list of things that would help make you more successful, would you do them all? Well, here is an excellent list to start with. Now all you have to do is be really honest with yourself and decide if you live by each of the listed traits.

After reviewing the list several times, you may decide you want to add to it. There's nothing wrong with that! Personally, I would add "Be nice" to the list. In fact, I would start with that

one. But maybe they think "compassionate," "respectful" and "empathic" cover that. I like it stated in simpler terms: be nice!

Good luck with grading yourself. The list sure does make you think. I am working on several of them right now!

- Ability to compromise for the greater good • **Accepts criticism constructively**
- Accountable • **Adaptable** • Analytical • **Applies current best practices** • Approachable
- Assertive** • Attentive to detail • **Belief in the dignity of others** • Calming • **Candid**
- Community-oriented • **Compassionate** • Confident • **Consistent** • Constant learner
- Courageous** • Customer-focused • **Decisive** • Dependable • **Detail oriented**
- Disciplined • **Discreet** • Effective communication skills • **Embraces change**
- Emotionally healthy • **Emotionally intelligent** • Emotionally resilient • **Empathetic**
- Energetic and enthusiastic • **Ethical** • Flexible • **Focused** • Frustration-tolerant
- Honest** • Humble • **Informed** • Shows initiative • **Innovative** • Inquisitive • **Displays integrity**
- Intelligent • **Excellent interpersonal skills** • Judicious • **Knowledgeable**
- Leadership • **Learns from mistakes** • Level-headed • **Logical** • Loyal • **Good memory**
- Moral fortitude • **Motivational** • Good at multitasking • **Non-impulsive** • Open-minded
- Organized** • Patient • **Perceptive** • Perseverant • **Has perspective** • Is physically fit
- Is prepared** • Preserves confidentiality • **Proactive** • Problem solver • **Professional** •
- Protective • **Reasoning ability** • Resilient • **Resourceful** • Respect for diversity • **Respect for the individual**
- Respectful • **Responsible** • Self-motivated • **Self-restraint** • Good sense of humor • **Sense of service to others** • Skeptical • **Exhibits sound judgment** •
- Strong work ethic • **Tact** • Teamwork • **Tolerance** • Trustworthiness
- Verbal communication skills • Written communication skills



Robert Stevenson is one of the most widely recognized professional speakers in the world. Author of the books How To Soar Like An Eagle In A World Full Of Turkeys and 52 Essential Habits For Success, he's shared the podium with esteemed figures from across the country, including former President George H. W. Bush, former Secretary of State Colin Powell, Anthony Robbins, Tom Peters and Steven Covey. Today, he travels the world, sharing powerful ideas for achieving excellence, both personally and professionally.

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■ These Recent Phishing Attacks Can Cause Your Business Serious Harm

According to Symantec's 2018 Internet Security Report, the number of reported blocked phishing attacks increased by 92% over the last year. Many of those were due to Ryuk, a variation on Hermes, the first known ransomware plague. The malware has been targeting law firms, convenience store chains, and even medical facilities, netting hackers as much as \$640,000.

Then there are state-sponsored attacks hitting small businesses across America, funded by hostile governments. In addition, there has been a Facebook e-mail scam going around, masquerading perfectly as an e-mail from the massive company, but leading victims into

downloading malware. The same goes for false e-mails from FedEx, as well as Bank of America. Hackers have even begun offering false SEO services to get victims to click a link! Teach your team how to spot phishing attacks and stay vigilant. You never know when they might show up in your inbox. *SmallBizTrends.com*, 9/19/2018

■ The Ugly Truth About Apps Sharing Your Kids' Data

It's always unsettling when apps secretly gather your data. But when it comes to apps for kids, that's doubly true. Recently, the attorney general of New Mexico filed a lawsuit against Tiny Lab, which develops games for kids like *Fun Kid Racing*, and other companies, including Google and Twitter. The suit alleges that numerous applications violated

child privacy laws by tracking and sharing data for users under 13. *The New York Times* looked into it and found that dozens of other kid-targeted apps may be doing the same thing. Keep an eye on the apps your child is using, as well as the data they're sharing. You don't want them becoming a victim of this gross data-sharing. *Wired.com*, 9/15/2018

■ All Great Leaders Obsess Over This One Thing

Tales abound in the news about leaders treating their employees like trash, discriminating against women or minorities, or just simply being ignorant of the policies that hurt or hinder their teams. At the core of all these problems, argues Donna Hicks, is the concept of human dignity. Her book *Leading With Dignity: How to Create A Culture That Brings Out The Best In People*, focuses on the core of all successful human interaction: recognizing that every human being has inherent value and worth. By creating a safe, comfortable space for their teams, being fair to the entire organization, and accepting the particularities that make their employees unique, excellent leaders create an atmosphere where everyone is allowed to be themselves. Success follows pretty easily after that. *Inc.com*, 8/6/2018



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