

## Security Alert

A China state-sponsored cyber actor known as Volt Typhoon has been targeting various networks and poses a significant risk to US organizations.

### What's the risk?

The vulnerabilities exploited by this actor enable them to execute any malicious code on your devices, potentially compromising your sensitive data, business operations, and reputation.

### Important Action

If you would like to have a third-party analyze your cybersecurity posture and explore how our expert team can assist you in safeguarding your organization against evolving cyber threats, now's the time. Our team will analyze your cybersecurity tools, show you how you can make improvements, and share steps you can take to protect yourself from this type of attack. Don't wait until it's too late! Take proactive steps to better secure your organization today.

June 2023



Too many businesses are exposed and vulnerable to cyber attacks. With a unique Guardian Angel Protection solution, our clients get back to their business and sleep better knowing their data is secure

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



## Get Ready To Maximize Efficiency With Help From Co-Managed IT Services

IT services are necessary for every business in the country – IT companies help businesses protect their data, ensure day-to-day operations run smoothly, increase productivity across the board and keep up-to-date with the latest technology trends and updates. Without IT services, your business can fall prey to hackers and cybercriminals bent on stealing your company's and clients' personal information. But if you don't have IT services, where do you even start looking?

Many businesses choose to keep their IT services in-house with a dedicated team of IT professionals who are able to offer quick support in most situations. Others decide to outsource and hire a managed IT services provider to handle all of their technology needs. Yet there's another option many are unfamiliar with that could help fill their needs.

It's a hybrid of in-house IT services and managed IT services called co-managed IT, and it truly provides business owners with the best of both worlds.

With co-managed IT services, you can outsource many of the IT tasks and responsibilities that prevent your in-house team from doing their best work. The outsourced team will watch over your network and address any issues before they become more significant problems. They'll also install the necessary protections to ensure your business is protected against hackers and cybercriminals. If more hands need to get on deck, your in-house IT team can step in and work to fix any issues that arise.

When you set up co-managed IT services in your business, you'll likely have a game plan to ensure every need is met. You can partner

*Continued on pg.2*

*Continued from pg.1*

with a third-party organization and analyze your existing IT department to evaluate its skills, needs, resources and tools. This will tell you where you need the extra help. From there, you can determine which services you need to reach your company goals, regardless of whether they're related to IT or not. Then you can build a package to cover every base while staying within budget.

Co-managed IT services are truly a win-win for business owners. They can utilize the third party for specific tasks while allowing the in-house IT team to tackle other projects. In most cases, your in-house IT team will retain control of administrative access while gaining the ability to use tools and resources provided by the third-party team. Utilizing a co-managed IT service takes tasks and responsibilities off your shoulders, as you won't have to check in on every single task the third-party team is managing. This means you can focus on other essential projects that directly impact your business. A co-managed IT service will also allow you to keep up with the latest technology and cyber security trends as they release, and you'll be able to determine what you want to implement in your business. You get around-the-clock

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support, so even if your in-house team has people on vacation, you can keep up with your daily responsibilities without worrying everything will come crashing down.

Another great feature of co-managed IT services is the sense of relief you and your team will feel about everything related to technology and cyber security. You don't have to worry about sensitive information getting leaked or passwords becoming compromised since you'll have two layers of defense. And all of your technology needs will be satisfied, so operations will rarely run into issues that put them at a standstill.

Now that you've read through the benefits of co-managed IT services and understand how beneficial they can be for your business, you're probably wondering what the catch is. The first obstacle is finding the right co-managed IT service partner for your business. Luckily, we can help you out with that! There's also the cost associated with these services. You have to pay for an in-house and a third-party team, which can be expensive, depending on your needs. If you can manage the cost and partner with the right IT company, you'll reap the benefits almost immediately.

Getting IT services for your business is one of the best things you can do to ensure you stay protected. Contact us today to figure out the best options available for your business!

## Do You Safeguard Your Company's Data And Your Customers' Private Information BETTER THAN Equifax, Yahoo and Target Did?



If the answer is "NO" - and let's be honest, the answer is no - you are leaving yourself and your company open to massive liability, *millions* in fines and lost business, lawsuits, theft and so much more.

Why? Because you are a hacker's #1 target. They know you have access to financials, employee records, company data and all that juicy customer information - social security numbers, credit card numbers, birth dates, home addresses, e-mails, etc.

Don't kid yourself. Cybercriminals and hackers will stop at NOTHING to steal your credentials. And once they have your password(s), it's only a matter of time before they destroy your business, scare away your customers and ruin your professional and personal life.

### Why Not Take 4 Seconds Now To Protect Yourself, Protect Your Company And Protect Your Customers?

Our 100% FREE and 100% confidential, exclusive CEO Dark Web Scan is your first line of defense. To receive your report in just 24 hours, visit the link below and provide us with your name and company e-mail address. Hopefully it will be ALL CLEAR and you can breathe easy. If your company, your profits and your customers are AT RISK, we'll simply dig a little deeper to make sure you're protected.

Don't let this happen to you, your employees and your customers. *Reserve your exclusive CEO Dark Web Scan now!*

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## Ransomware Extortion

When successful ransomware attacks don't breach any customer information the organization has no duty to inform customers of their lack of cybersecurity. Cyber criminals are changing that so you have to worry about reputational damage.



### Their latest tact is to RANSOM YOUR REPUTATION.

The crooks will threaten to disclose you've been successfully attacked to the public if you don't pay. They may even say (real or bluff) they HAVE breached your data.

Previously, as long as you had strong backups and could withstand the recovery time, (still costly downtime,) you could ignore the ransomware notice and move on. Your customers and the public were none the wiser.

Your reputation to your customers will now be on the hostage list. Be sure to discuss this with your cyber insurance agent to ensure your financial risk is minimized. Talk to us to help prevent a successful ransomware attack altogether.- R2

## Are You A Great Remote Leader? Find Out By Answering 5 Questions



Business books from the 1980s encouraged managers to wander around the office, chat with colleagues and learn valuable information at the watercooler. Today, leaders of various organizations find themselves managing people remotely, which means it's time to say goodbye to watercoolers and hello to Zoom.

My company, ghSMART, has been fully remote for over 25 years, and in that time, I have found a few essential qualities that great remote leaders often possess. Here are five questions you should ask to determine whether you're a great remote leader.

1. **Are you great at setting goals?**
2. **Are you great at hiring?**
3. **Are you great at delegating?**
4. **Does your compensation system reward high performance?**
5. **Do you always do what you say you will do?**

You're most likely a great remote leader if you answered "yes" to all five questions. In a remote setting, the importance of these leadership skills is amplified. Let me explain why.

If you set unclear goals, it's easier to clarify them for those working in the same office. But if you are working remotely with a team, it's vital that everyone understands your expectations and what they must accomplish. If you're not great at hiring, you immediately notice the ill effects

of a hiring mistake in a traditional office environment. But when you work remotely, it's harder to detect if you have made a hiring mistake, which can cost you time and money.

If you are not great at delegating, you might find that you can physically see if somebody is getting their work done and can pitch in to help them if you work in the same office. But you can't really operate that way in a remote setting. Delegating effectively — and following up clearly and regularly — is critical in a remote environment.

Compensation is just one way to influence human behavior. In a traditional office context, peer pressure also affects human behavior, but that is less impactful in a remote context. Therefore, it's extra important to ensure the compensation system rewards the right behaviors.

I believe building and maintaining trust is easier when you work in the same office as the team you lead. But if your teammates are spread around many locations, it's imperative to build two-way trust with them to give them the confidence to make decisions and to ensure they stay rather than quit. Therefore, to amplify the trust with your team and empower them to operate remotely, do what you say you will do.



*Dr. Geoff Smart is chairman & founder of ghSMART, a leadership consulting firm that exists to help leaders amplify their positive impact on the world. Dr. Smart and his firm have published multiple New York Times bestsellers. He stays active in his community and has advised many government officials.*

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## Google Has A Renewed Competitor. Have You Tried The New Bing?

Google has dominated the search engine market for over two decades. According to web analytics service StatCounter, Google makes up 93% of the global search engine market. Most of us hop on Google whenever we have a question, and we have no problem finding an answer, which has left the other search engine developers wondering how they can compete with the industry titan. Bing, the search engine with the second-highest percentage in the search engine market at 2.8%, has unveiled a handful of new features its developers believe will help it gain a greater foothold in the search engine market.

One of the most unique features of the new Bing is its expanded search box. It allows users to

type up to 1,000 characters into the search box, which enables them to be more specific than on other search engines.

Additionally, some users will have access to detailed AI-powered answers that help them refine their search and locate the information they need. Bing will even produce additional questions related to the search to provide users with even more information.

Bing also allows users to change the personality and tone of the AI chatbot that assists them. They can choose between three different options: creative, balanced and precise. Creative allows the chatbot to provide more original or imaginative responses, while the other two lean more toward providing factual and accurate information.

While Bing still has a long way to go until it can truly compete with

Google for the lion's share of the search engine market, the developers are taking steps in the right direction to create a more intuitive search engine for Bing users.

## The Secret To Successfully Recruiting Gen Z Employees

Young employees join the workforce for the very first time every day. Now that Zoomers are graduating from college, business owners need to prepare so they can successfully recruit them and provide a workplace where they want to work. If you research different ways to attract these individuals to your business, you'll see conflicting ideas, but one strategy will immediately draw in Zoomers and other applicants: clear communication.

People want to know about day-to-day responsibilities, company culture, industry specifics and, of course, compensation before they accept a job offer. Be sure to include these when posting a job opening and don't shy away from any questions an applicant might have during their interview. The applicant will quickly learn whether you were dishonest or unclear with your answers after they start working and may even resign if the issue is problematic enough. You can avoid this stress by being as clear as possible in all communication with employees and potential new hires.



*"Cancel that call to tech-support. This may be beyond their capabilities."*