



360IT PARTNERS

"Partnering With Us Makes Your Business Run Faster, Easier And Increases Profitability"

Upgrading To Windows 10? Avoid Headaches, Downtime And Frustrations By Following This Advice

For the past few months, we've been swamped with questions about Windows 10.

If you're wondering whether now is the best time to upgrade your system, here's what you need to know:

First and foremost, if your organization relies on your computers in any way to make money or save lives, consider the risks carefully.

As with any software upgrade – but especially your computer's operating system – you've got to weigh the advantages of upgrading now against potential downtime if there are problems with the new code.

A good rule of thumb regarding any operating-system upgrade is to wait six months after the product release before deploying it into any system or group of systems that your business depends on.

Since January 29 marks six months since the Windows 10 official release date, it's a good time to look at whether it's wiser to upgrade now or wait for further fixes and improvements.

That being said, here are a few of the key questions we've been fielding – and pitfalls to avoid:

Q. It's free for a "limited time" – don't I have to act now?

A. No. You have until July 2016 to take advantage of the free upgrade. And, if your system hasn't prompted you to upgrade yet, you'll need to wait. If and

continued on page 2

December 2015 Virginia Beach, VA

Inside This Issue ...

Upgrading to Windows 10? Avoid Headaches, Downtime and Frustrations By Following This Advice.....**Page 1/2**

Client Spotlight.....**Page 1**

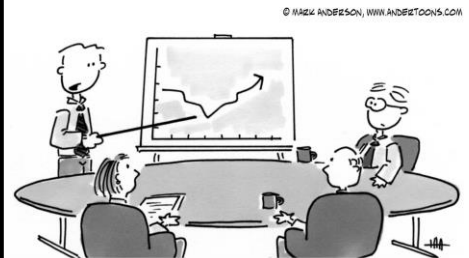
Trivia Question.....**Page 2**

iTranslate.....**Page 3**

Voice Tips for Effective Speaking.....**Page 3**

Employee Spotlight.....**Page 3**

Tips for the Holiday Season.....**Page 4**



"So, as you can see, customer satisfaction is up considerably since phasing out the complaint forms."



Client Spotlight: Willis Furniture

Since 1893 the Willis family has been a mainstay in furniture retailing in the Norfolk/Virginia Beach area. In 1950, Willis Wayside Furniture Company purchased property on Virginia Beach Boulevard and Thalia Drive where it remains today. Ben Willis III continues to carry on his family traditions with an emphasis on quality items offered at guaranteed low prices. Willis Furniture attracts the best designers in the area. At Willis Furniture, the relationship between designer and client is one of collaboration. We will listen, make suggestions, and sketch concepts.

As a team, we will work together in the selections of furniture, accessories, art, flooring, window treatment, or whatever is needed to reach your dream. We work on all levels of projects from re-staging a home with existing items to assisting in new construction to designing the total home. This service is complimentary for the clients who are choosing to purchase through Willis Furniture. Stop by and see us at 4220 Virginia Beach Blvd. just east of Town Center.

Continued

when your system is deemed capable of adapting to the upgrade, your current Windows OS will notify you. Either way, you have until July 28, 2016. If you do plan to upgrade, we strongly advise that you get it done well before that date, in order to avoid any last-minute scrambling.

Q. It's better and/or faster, right?

A. Maybe... It depends. Here's what we're seeing:

- Windows 10 radically changes how your system operates, compared to Windows 7. While some computers make the change with no problem at all, it can cause older systems to lose key hardware drivers (like networking or printing), rendering them an "instant brick."
- Some systems, even those certified by their manufacturers as "Windows 10 ready," start misbehaving after being upgraded. That means undue downtime while you reinstall or upgrade MS Office or other software – or even revert back to your older OS.
- Some older systems actually run slower on Windows 10 than on Windows 7 or 8.1.

Q. Will my computer work with Windows 10?

A. Age is probably the biggest factor for any Windows-based device. Anything older than three years is not worth upgrading. At three years old, your machine is nearing the end of its useful life. You are better off leaving the old operating system in place and waiting for Windows 10 until you upgrade to a new computer.

Q. We use some custom software here. Will it run on Windows 10?

A. Until your custom software vendor blesses Windows 10 for that program, the answer is no. In all cases, we advise against upgrading to Windows 10 until your custom programs are 100% fully vetted, compatible and supported for it.

Deciding when to upgrade to Windows 10 isn't as simple as Microsoft and some pundits would have you believe. But if you know the pitfalls we've laid out for you here in advance, you've at least got a fighting chance for a smooth, headache-free transition.

Want help setting a target date and plan for your business to upgrade to Windows 10?

Email us at luke@360itpartners.com to schedule a free Windows 10 Readiness Assessment.

Want To Win A \$25 Gift Card?

Ready to Play?

Here's this month's question:

What is the name of the Grinch's dog?

a) Mutt b) Max c) Marley d) Cindy

E-mail Kirsten Conti (kirsten@360itpartners.com) Right Now With Your Answer!
She will put all the correct answers in a hat and draw the winner at the end of each month.

Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:



iTranslate

Other than the occasional epic (and hilarious) fail, translation apps are getting pretty good. And one of the best, iTranslate, now gives you voice translations on the spot.

Here's an "at-a-glance" rundown of all that iTranslate can do:

Speak into your device and, with a tap or swipe, it recites what you just said in your choice of over 90 languages. That's twice the number of languages offered by Google Translate.

You can select a male or female voice, as well as dialect and speaking rate. It also turns Chinese characters into alphabet-based words in English.

And you can run it on your iWatch, iPhone, Android or Windows phone.

One downside is that the free version displays ads, but for five bucks you can upgrade and turn them off.

With this handy app, your world just got smaller — and, potentially, a whole lot more interesting.

Voice Tips for Effective Speaking

When George H.W. Bush ran for president in 1988, he hired a voice coach to help him lower his voice an octave. Why? Because the candidate's high-pitched voice had helped saddle him with the "wimp" image, even though Bush had proved his valor as a Navy combat pilot during World War II.

Fairly or unfairly, we impute strength and confidence to the person who speaks with a low-pitched, well-modulated voice.

We convey feelings, moods and attitudes through a variety of voice qualities, which are sometimes called *paralanguage*. Among these qualities are volume, pace, intonation and juncture.

Volume and Pace should be used in a careful, controlled way. They can achieve powerful effects, especially when persuading from the public platform. You can let your voice rise to a crescendo, the pace and volume quickening until you reach a peak of excitement. Or you can drop to a dramatic whisper.

Volume should always be great enough that you can be heard by everyone in your audience. When you're addressing a group through a microphone, that generally presents no problem. When speaking without a microphone, keep checking the people farthest from you for signs that they're straining to hear, or that their attention is straying.

Intonation refers to the voice pitch. We usually speak in a range of pitches, from low to high. The range between high and low intonations varies from individual to individual, and from one linguistic population to another. The English, for instance, generally have a greater range than do Americans.

Juncture refers to the way vowels and consonants are joined in the stream of speech. If you listen to someone speaking in a foreign language, it sounds like a continuous flow of syllables. That's because you haven't learned to recognize the signs that tell you where one word stops and another begins.

Inattention to juncture can make your speech indistinct or hard to understand. If you tell a carpenter to build a greenhouse, make sure you don't end up with a green house; the difference in appearance and cost can be substantial...

If you ask your secretary to get you the night rate and have it on your desk the next morning, be sure it doesn't sound like "nitrate." Otherwise, you may find a sack of fertilizer in your in-basket.

Employee Spotlight



James Seymour, Systems Engineer

James is a true outdoorsman. He enjoys kayaking, camping, and target shooting. James is also an enthusiastic Muay Thai Martial Artist.

Now don't let him fool you, he does have a soft spot. His world revolves around his two beautiful dogs, Lilly and Daisy.

Tips for the Holiday Season

Your Time

3 Ways to End Holiday Overwhelm. This holiday season, skip the stress with these time-saving tips: 1) Do your homework before hitting the stores. Catch coupons on sites like dealcatcher.com, couponcabin.com and retailmenot.com. Quality-check gift ideas at Consumerreports.org for expert reviews, or sites with user reviews such as Amazon.com or Cnet.com. Then, rather than drive all over town for the best deal, check out Pricegrabber.com. 2) Plan a trip — it's a great way to share experiences rather than acquiring more things. 3) For those on your list who already have plenty of "stuff," give a Good Card. The Good Card lets users give to their choice of over 1.2 million charities.

Your Health

Eat, drink and be healthy this holiday season. Here's how: keep the pounds down by knowing your number. Visit heart.org/explorer for a quick read on your recommended daily intake of calories. Think of it as your expense-account limit for holiday gatherings, and choose how much you want to spend on drinks, appetizer, entree, dessert, etc. You could even keep a food diary to help stay on track with your target weight goal. At parties, wear snug clothing and keep one hand busy. With a drink in your dominant hand, you'll be less likely to grab goodies. And your snug-fitting outfit will keep you so busy pulling your tummy in, you won't have time to feel hungry.

Page 4

Discover More Information About Our Dynamic Services and Team: www.360itpartners.com



5269 Cleveland St. Suite 201
Virginia Beach, VA 23462