

360IT PARTNERS

"We build lasting partnerships with our clients based on trust, communication, and consistency"



Summer is upon us... Time for a stroll in the park... softball... fishing... a few rounds of golf... Yet how could you possibly relax if some random bit of malware, software glitch or cyber-attack catches you off guard just as you're walking out the door? A well-designed secure computer network gives you the confidence that "all systems are go," whether you're having fun in the sun, or just getting things done with your team.

Here's a quick nine-step checklist we use to ensure that a company's computer network, and the data for that business, is safe and secure from disruption, if not absolute devastation:

1. **A written recovery plan.** Simply thinking through what needs to happen when things go south, and documenting it all IN ADVANCE, can go a long way toward getting your network back up and running quickly if it gets hacked, impacted by natural disaster or compromised by human error.

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Worried about replacing your aging phone system?



Our partnership with **Nextiva** provides concierge level of service and we will walk you through the process step by step! Call us today to schedule a consultation with our in-house expert.

The Up Center Step Up 2017



Did you know over 1,000 kids in Hampton Roads are living in foster care? The Up Center, headquartered in Portsmouth, VA, provides adoption services, foster programs, mentoring programs, and more to over 10,000 people in need in Hampton Roads each year.

On April 29th, we proudly supported this fantastic organization by participating in their fundraising event, the Step Up Challenge. Step Up was a 37-flight climb to the top of the tallest building in Virginia, The Westin at Town Center. This event raises nearly \$200,000 annually to provide vital services for children and families across Hampton Roads. We were honored to take part in this event and give back to our community.

Continued...

2. **Have a clear communication plan.** What if your employees can't access your office, e-mail or phone system? How will they communicate with you? Make sure your communications plan details every alternative, including MULTIPLE ways to stay in touch in the event of a disaster.
3. **Automate your data backups.** THE #1 cause of data loss is human error. If your backup system depends on a human being always doing something right, it's a recipe for disaster. Automate your backups wherever possible so they run like clockwork.
4. **Have redundant off-site backups.** On-site backups are a good first step, but if they get flooded, burned or hacked along with your server, you're out of luck. ALWAYS maintain a recent copy of your data off-site.
5. **Enable remote network access.** Without remote access to your network, you and your staff won't be able to keep working in the event that you can't get into your office. To keep your business going, at the very minimum, you need a way for your IT specialist to quickly step in when needed.
6. **System images are critical.** Storing your data off-site is a good first step. But if your system is compromised, the software and architecture that handles all that data MUST be restored for it to be useful. Imaging your server creates a replica of the original, saving you an enormous amount of time and energy in getting your network back in gear, should the need arise. Without it, you risk losing all your preferences, configurations, favorites and more.
7. **Maintain an up-to-date network "blueprint."** To rebuild all or part of your network, you'll need a blueprint of the software, data, systems and hardware that comprise your company's network. An IT professional can create this for you. It could save you a huge amount of time and money in the event your network needs to be restored.
8. **Don't ignore routine maintenance.** While fires, flooding and other natural disasters are always a risk, it's more likely that you'll have downtime due to a software or hardware glitch or cyber-attack. That's why it's critical to keep your network patched, secure and up-to-date. Deteriorating hardware and corrupted software can wipe you out. Replace and update them as needed to steer clear of this threat.
9. **Test, Test, Test!** If you're going to go to the trouble of setting up a plan, at least make sure it works! An IT professional can check monthly to make sure your systems work properly and your data is secure. After all, the worst time to test your parachute is AFTER you jump out of the plane.

Be certain that you have all 9 steps fully covered with our FREE Disaster Recovery Audit.

Contact us at **757-499-6761** or **luke@360itpartners.com** to schedule our Disaster Recovery Audit FREE of charge, now through May 31. Contact us TODAY to get scheduled!

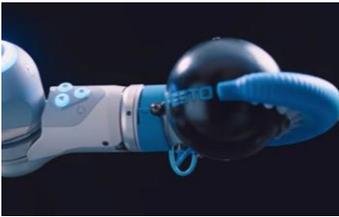


EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Jessica St. Michel, Customer Service Coordinator

Originally from North Carolina, Jessica is a former Navy Seabee where she served as a heavy machinery mechanic. After the Navy Jessica stayed at home with her kids and went to ECPI University to obtain her Bachelor's in Business Management. Her favorite thing to do is spend time with her husband and children at the water park or beach and taking road trips to visit new places. She loves all kinds of music and trying new foods!

Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:



OctoGripper, the Octopus-Inspired Robotic Arm, Is Here

The animal kingdom is a reliable place to turn for mechanical inspiration. The German automation company Festo just made a robotic arm that takes its cue from an octopus. Meet the OctoGripper!

Festo figured it's hard to beat the octopus' flexibility. Built with a soft silicone structure that can be pneumatically controlled, the device bends inward to grip an item with two rows of suction cups. These create a vacuum, allowing the gripper to hold onto objects tightly while moving quickly- a common challenge in robotics.

This isn't the only thing Festo is taking from nature. They want to see the OctoGripper incorporated into their BionicMotion Robot, which is inspired by an elephant's trunk. These could work side by side with humans, perhaps speeding up work.

Or they could pair up with Boston Dynamics and start the best robotic zoo this side of "Horizon: Zero Dawn."

TECHNOLOGY UPDATES

Use This App To Pinpoint Dangerous Drivers.

The open road is full of jerks and road rages, and a new app is taking them on. Nexar asks you to mount your phone to your dashboard, and it will monitor surrounding traffic. If someone starts driving dangerously, it will ask if you want to record what's going on with a 30-second video. The goal is to capture license plates of bad or hostile drivers. This is useful if you witness a crash or a criminal offense. According to trafficsafetystore.com, Nexar also uploads data to a central database. It will let you know if someone with a bad driving history enters the camera's field of vision, helping you spot potential bad drivers. In the future, Nexar plans to use GPS to identify dangerous cars to the side and behind them, too. *Safety Resource Center - December 1, 2016*

Should You Have A Mobile App For Your Business?

One of the great things about apps is that you don't need to be a big developer or company to build one. In fact, according to www.smallbusinesscomputing.com, 42 percent of small businesses in the United States have their own mobile app. By the end of the year, that figure is expected to hit 67 percent! Somewhat unsurprisingly, the most cited reason SMBs said they decided to build mobile apps is to increase sales (39 percent), followed by improving customers service (30 percent). Others turn to mobile apps as a competitive advantage in specific markets (22 percent) while for some organizations, their parent company suggested an app (10 percent). But with apps becoming more affordable than ever, there are lots of reasons to invest in your own app, and lots of ways to recoup that investment. What would your ideal app do?

SmallBusinessComputing.com March 09, 2017

Want To Win A \$25 Gift Card?

Ready to Play?

Here's this month's question:

Which technology, which changed the face of home entertainment, emerged the victor in a format war during the late 1970s and early 1980s?

a) 8mm b) Betamax c) VHS d) V-Cord

E-mail Kirsten (kirsten@360itpartners.com) right now with your name, company, and answer!

She will put all the correct answers in a hat and draw the winner at the end of each month.

Where Have Tablet Sales Gone?

Remember when they said tablets would outsell desktop and laptop computers? That now seems a tad optimistic. In March, Techcrunch.com reported that tablet sales are going down. But why? It turns out that folks treat tablets like computers, meaning they don't upgrade them nearly as often as smartphones. "The iPad 2 is still in use today," IDC Senior Analyst Jitesh Ubrani tells TechCrunch. "The [original] iPad Minis and Air are all still in use today. They were being supported by Apple until very recently. People have been hanging onto these devices and they're finding that they work just as well as they did when they were released." That's bad news for the tablet giants, who are still releasing new versions of tablets at least once a year. In the future, don't expect big releases or online unveilings for slates. *Techcrunch.com March 21, 2017*

Awesome tech you can't buy yet: Airport Jacket - Cargo jacket for Travel

If you always find yourself forking out for excess baggage every time you take a flight, then an Aussie-based startup has come up with an ingenious solution that'll have you confidently packing the kitchen sink for your next trip. The "Airport Jacket" is, for all intents and purposes, a wearable suitcase. With a whopping 14 pockets and two detachable pocket panels capable of taking up to 15 kgs. (about 33 lbs.) of stuff, your only concern will be ensuring your legs don't give way as you stagger toward the check-in desk. The jacket, with all the stuff inside, can be quickly transformed into a small bag so you only need to put it on when you arrive at the airport. Once you're through check-in and on the plane, you can fold it back up again before throwing it into one of the overhead bins. *Digital Trends - February 26, 2017*

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