

# THE TECH CHRONICLE

"Insider Tips To Make Your Business Run Faster, Easier, And More Profitably"

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## Beware! 60% Of Businesses Lose Their Data Through These Breaches

When you're thinking about cyber security, you're usually thinking about your PCs, servers and precious data. But what if your printer is a vulnerability?

Well, it is, according to the Global Print Security Report, stating that 60% of businesses suffered a print-related data breach within the last year. While these breaches may not cost too much, they can still pose quite a problem. Printers are vulnerable not only to all the threats associated with IoT devices but also to those linked to hard-copy output. It's vital that we find ways to secure our print infrastructure for the long haul as we move forward. *SmallBizTrends.com, 2/24/2019*

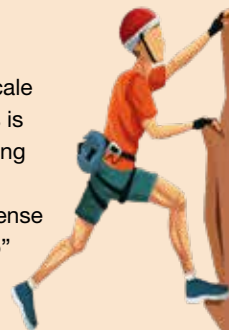
### GOOGLE TRICKS TO MAKE YOUR LIFE EASIER

The Google search bar is even more useful than most people realize. You can use it as a timer or stopwatch by entering "set timer for X" for instance. If you type "sunrise in X" or "sunset in X," you can pinpoint the exact moment the sun will rise or set in a given location. You can quickly convert between currencies,

or use it as a powerful calculator. Type "etymology + word" to discover its origin, or enter "query + filetype:extension" to search for results of a specific file type. Then there are the Easter eggs. Type "do a barrel roll" to see what happens, or "fun facts" or "I'm feeling curious" to learn something new.

### LEADERSHIP LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE FIRST FREE SOLO CLIMB OF EL CAPITAN

Whether you think Alex Honnold's attempt to scale the massive El Capitan alone and with no ropes is foolhardy or transcendent, we all can learn a thing from his incredible feat. Honnold knew that to cement his legacy, he'd have to top the less intense (but still insane to any normal person) "free solo" successes of his past. So he prepared for two full years to complete the 3,000-foot ascent. As leaders, we should all identify with this – what will we leave behind when we're gone?



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## The Founder's Dilemmas

By Noam Wasserman

Nothing can sink a budding business like the misstep of one of its founders. In *The Founder's Dilemmas: Anticipating And Avoiding The Pitfalls That Can Sink A Start-up*, Noam Wasserman seeks to pinpoint the decisions that lead fledgling companies astray. There's a tension that exists for the founders of any start-up, especially those that depend on investors: do they want to be rich, or be king?

This decision, and a healthy evaluation of which is most important to you, could make or break your business before it even starts. With his book, Wasserman will help you figure this out so you can understand and avoid the difficulties (and ego trips) that come with being a founder.



## Top Ways To Protect Your Business From The #1 Security Threat You Face

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This monthly publication provided courtesy of *James Pearson*, President of *The Computer Center*.

Wherever smart people work, doors are unlocked.

-Steve Wozniak

Today, cybercrime is more than a potential threat facing your business. It's an unavoidable force of nature.

"It's just like preparing for hurricanes, earthquakes or any type of natural or man-made disaster that could create business continuity issues," says Theresa Payton, the Fortalice Solutions CEO and former White House CIO, in an interview with *Cybercrime Magazine*. "[It's the] same thing with a digital cyber-event." For many of us, it's easy to imagine these kinds of things happening to "the other guy" and not us. The problem is that cybercriminals go after everyone. They cast a wide net because that gets results.

In fact, according to Roger A. Grimes, 11-year principal security architect for Microsoft and cyber security columnist and speaker, "Eventually every company is hacked." After decades consulting for many businesses, he's come to the conclusion that "every company is completely and utterly owned by a nefarious hacker or easily could be."

Owners of small and midsize businesses might imagine that – lucky us! – we don't have enough cash to justify some faceless hacker's effort. We'd be wrong. The reality is around half of cyber-attacks go after small businesses. These don't really get reported

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by the media. They're not as flashy as a cyber-attack against a big bank or retailer. But it's the attacks against small businesses that do the most damage. One 2016 study found that 60% of small businesses hit with a cyber-attack closed within six months.

Thankfully, it's not all bad news. While some business owners have no clue what cyber security they have in place, others are looking for ways to shore up their businesses. There are steps you can take to keep the bad guys out.

Two of the best ways to do that are to simply keep all your software up-to-date and keep your team educated about the threats. As Grimes puts it, "The two most likely reasons you will get exploited are due to unpatched software or a social engineering event where someone is

**“60% of small businesses hit with a cyber-attack closed within six months.”**



tricked into installing something they shouldn't ... It would be a stretch to claim every other exploit type in the world, added together, would account for 1% of the risk."

How can you keep your software up-to-date? You can actually automate a lot of it. There are several easy-to-use tools built just for this. Many of them also let you manage your software across your entire network from one set location. Say goodbye to jumping around and coordinating updates. Even better, there are many platforms capable of updating themselves. You just want to keep a close eye on them.

More than that, it's always a good idea to put strong company policies in place. You want to be clear about your security and help inform employees about the dangers posed by malicious files and e-mails, among other things. Take time to educate them on the threats that are out there. And keep the education ongoing, because the threats are ongoing. The bad guys are always looking for new ways to break in.

And don't forget about accountability. Keep the conversation going and talk to your employees about what they know about cyber security. Some businesses go so far as including cyber security training in their onboarding. Education is everything.

Finally, you MUST partner with a highly trained, security-focused managed service provider or other IT organization dedicated to keeping you protected from these constant threats. Some businesses try to do it on their own only to realize they don't have the resources. Others think they need an entire in-house IT team to handle all of these threats.

But the fact is, by outsourcing the work, you save money while keeping out the bad guys and optimizing key parts of your network and software. It's a win/win. It's all about being proactive. When you have a group of experts working every day behind the scenes, cyber security stays top of mind in your organization, whether you're thinking about it or not. Really, it's one less thing you have to stress about.

We can also learn from his thorough preparation. We need to think beyond "What will it look like to achieve our vision?" We need to think, "What does it mean for us to have a perfect run today?" Take the guesswork out of the equation as much as possible.

Once Honnold had his ideal outcome in mind, he practiced, climbing El Cap over and over and over again. In addition to full routes, he'd drill challenging sections repeatedly until it felt impossible to make an error.

For most leaders, making a mistake won't lead to death. But keeping this "deep practice" mentality in mind is essential for doing something truly great. None of us are going to have a Nat Geo documentary made about us, but we certainly can leave our mark on the world before we go. *Inc.com, 3/26/2019*

## How To Establish Trust At Your Workplace

The most successful (and pleasant) business environments are built on a foundation of trust and cooperation. But how do you foster this spirit of camaraderie and mutual support?

First, break down the barriers between management and the rest of your team. Nothing kills trust like an arbitrary "need-to-know" list. Next, learn to welcome the moments that bind your team together as people; the best workplaces have as many friends as coworkers. Finally, don't make failure the end of the world. Instead, recognize that experimentation and creative ways of thinking are going to result in a few hiccups along the way. *Inc.com, 3/27/2009*



# Learn Like A Leader



Disraeli once said that all other things being equal, the person who succeeds will be the person with the best information. For leaders, learning isn't an academic pursuit. Leaders don't just learn to know more; they learn to be more. Learning is a critical means to this important end and how they find the ideas that fuel their ongoing improvement. Here's how the best leaders do it.

**1. They make investigation and inquiry a way of life.** In their classic book *Leaders: Strategies For Taking Charge*, Warren Bennis and Burt Nanus famously said that leaders are readers. My friend Bill Byrne was on the cover of *Fortune* magazine as one of America's 1% wealthiest entrepreneurs. He credits much of his success to his 15/15 program: he read 15 hours a week for 15 years.

**2. They ask more and better questions of more and different people.** The best leaders emulate the ancient city of Alexandria, where no ship was allowed to enter the port without surrendering its books to be copied. They query everyone who passes into their lives, hoping to add material to their learning arsenal.

**3. They think for themselves.** Just because the best ask lots of questions doesn't mean they accept what they learn at face value. Learn to consider what you learn with a healthy dose of skepticism.

**4. They choose critical thinking over the convenience of conjecture.** An important characteristic of the best is that they are the people who seek the truth. They

want to act on factual information rather than speculation and conjecture. They ask, "How do I know this is true? Who says? How does it affect me?"

**5. They learn in future tense.** Study for the future, not the past. Develop your learning agenda on what you will need to know to be successful, not what you used to need.

**6. They learn the most important stuff the fastest.** When an area of knowledge becomes important, a modern expert is able to recognize the importance of that knowledge and glean what's most important from it as fast as possible.

**7. They design their own continuing education program.** Unlike most people, the best design their own curriculum on an ongoing basis.

**8. They listen to their intuition.** Intuition is a great bunk detector. As Robert Bernstein, former chairman of Random House Publishing, says, "In an age of information, only intuition can protect you from the most dangerous individual of all: the articulate incompetent."



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## Cartoon Of The Month

"You're right, it is easier said than done. That's why I said it; because it's easy. Try and keep up."

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