

THE TECH CHRONICLE

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

The Human Virus!

We spend a lot of time talking about computer viruses, but if your office is like ours this time of year, it's the human viruses going around that we should be concerned with. One simple tip for helping combat the flue and other germmy nasties, lightly wipe your computer, keyboard, mouse, phone and desk area with a disinfectant wipe. You don't even have to turn your PC off if you are careful and don't press down on the keys too hard. However, do NOT use such a wipe on your LCD screen, mostly because it smears it and looks awful. A soft, damp cloth will do there.



3 Questions Your IT Services Company Should Be Able To Say "Yes" To

At a time when businesses are more dependent on information technology than at any point in history, IT services providers need to rise to the occasion. The worst thing for your business to discover down the line is that your IT company isn't actually as well-equipped to serve your business as they claim to be - or, even worse, that they aren't actually fully invested in the success of your business.

Every business owner knows that finding a reputable IT services partner to steer the digital architecture of your organization in the right direction is a difficult, laborious process. Not all IT companies are created equal. If you don't do your research, you could end up paying for more security and service than you're actually getting.

But it doesn't have to be so complicated. The best way to

determine whether an IT company is a good fit for your organization is to ask them direct, well-thought-out questions. Here are three queries any IT services company you have in your corner should be able to say "yes" to. If they can't, you shouldn't be working with them at all.

1. WILL YOU PROACTIVELY MANAGE MY BUSINESS'S NETWORK?

There are two types of IT companies. The first is the type you call up when there's an outage in your network, your server finally gives up the ghost or your e-mails aren't sending for some reason. They show up at your business, charge by the hour, (hopefully) fix the issue and leave. This is, understandably, an attractive option for many small businesses with tight budgets. Why pay to fix something if it doesn't appear to be broken?

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Great things in business are never done by one person. They're done by a team of people
-Steve Jobs

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The problem with this line of thinking is the fact that, without a dedicated team of professionals working on your network every day, things get missed. No one's really taking charge of driving the technology of your company into the future; no one is looking to optimize your processes and give your team the tools they need to do their best work. Security becomes a low priority because it's assumed that everything is fine - until it suddenly isn't.

Any managed services provider worth their salt won't wait for your system to fail before they take action. Instead, they'll proactively work to keep your network running at its highest level - security, optimization and everything else. When you crunch the numbers and really break down the cost of an outage or digital crisis, it's easy to see how this approach will help you in the long run.

2. IN THE EVENT OF AN ISSUE, CAN YOU GIVE ME A GUARANTEED RESPONSE TIME?

When you and your team are in the trenches, putting stress on the network while you go about your operations, the last thing you need is a long outage. These blips in service bring productivity to its knees, frustrating your customers and costing thousands of dollars. So you need someone on your side that can give you a definite time frame of when they'll be on the scene in the event of a crisis. If an IT

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company dodges the question when you ask them for this, run for the hills - they're not a company you want on your team.

3. DO YOU HAVE EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE OF THE BEST PRACTICES FOR MY INDUSTRY?

Even if an MSP is solid and experienced, that doesn't mean they're experienced in your particular line of business. You need someone who's worked with organizations like yours for years, with tried-and-tested methods for addressing industry-specific concerns and streamlining workflows. If your MSP can't answer this question with a definitive "yes" and provide examples and insight into how they stay abreast of your field, keep shopping for an organization that can.

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How to Check if Your Twitter Account Has Been Hacked

Ever wonder if your Twitter account has been hacked? Twitter now lets you see all the devices logged into your account. Twitter has a new security feature called Apps and Devices (on a computer) or Apps and Sessions (on mobile), which allows a user to gain insight into which apps and devices are accessing your Twitter account along with the location of those devices. You can get there by following these easy steps:

- Open the Twitter and login to your profile
- Open your account settings
- Select 'Settings and privacy'
- Scroll down to 'Apps and devices'

You will then be shown a list of all devices active on your Twitter account in the last month, the location they're in, along with a list of third-party apps that have access to your Twitter account. After clicking on the devices, you may see more information including the name of the device your Twitter account was accessed on, the browser it was used on, the date, the time, and the approximate location the device was used in.

6 Ways To Turn Regrets Into Resolve

Regrets. We all have them. Some of us ignore them, while others wallow in them. Fewer learn and benefit from them.

Wouldn't it be great if you could benefit from your regrets and convert the negative emotions surrounding your missteps into positive emotions that fuel your success?

Here are six things you can do to achieve just that:

1. It happened, so accept it. Don't play "what if?" At this point it doesn't matter. The more you rehearse your regrets, the bigger your mistakes become.
2. Deal with the emotional first and, as quickly as possible, let it go. Why? Because if you don't deal with your emotions, the negative ones will continue to gnaw at you. Spend a few minutes going deep into the pain of the regret, and then loosen your grasp on it. Stop the negative from trickling in.
3. Identify what you've learned. No loss or setback should be wasted. If you don't find a lesson, you're likely to make the same mistake in the future.
4. Decide what you won't do again.
5. Commit to a different and better course of action. What's better than knowing what not to do? Knowing what to do instead.
6. Let the disappointment feed you. Disappointment is natural, but with the right attitude, it can be converted to resolve. Bring the same energy you formerly had about your regret and convert it into the positive energy of commitment and determination.



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■ What To Do BEFORE You Get To The Airport

It's another Tuesday in the airport. You clear the TSA line in record time and decide to use those extra few minutes to grab a bite at the pretzel shop before heading to your terminal. You set your laptop down on the table, grab a straw, turn around – and your laptop is gone. Vanished in a puff of smoke, along with the thief who ran off with it.

If you have a strong password on your laptop, that will likely prevent the crook from gaining immediate access to your private documents. But it won't stop them from removing the hard drive from your laptop and connecting it to another computer. No muss, no fuss – and suddenly the contents of your entire private life are there on the screen, ready to browse and plunder.

So what do you do to prevent this situation? Encrypt your drive! It may sound complicated, but it's actually a relatively simple first

step toward protecting the hard drive of your laptop and other mobile devices. With the drive encrypted, a thief can't just pull it out, hook it up and suddenly have access to all your files. And, as a result, your data is exponentially safer.

■ The Best Ways To Communicate With Your Customers

Just like your marketing needs to zero in on target demographics, your communication strategies should differ from customer to customer. For baby boomers and Generation Xers, talking over the phone is a good bet, especially when an urgent message needs to be delivered. E-mail is excellent for those Generation Xers who consider it the be-all and end-all of business communication. Social media, however, is best for millennials who feel comfortable communicating via such platforms – and, as a bonus, response times are often much faster. Texting is an option with this demographic as well. Chat

services on your website can be effective for a wide variety of post-baby boomers, as many people are more comfortable chatting via text rather than going through the trouble of calling you up. It's important to master all of these forms of communication to reach as many people as possible.
SmallBizTrends.com, 6/21/2018

■ Crazy Gadgets Your Home Will Have By 2050

1. Mood- and sleep-boosting lighting. By mimicking the natural cycles of the sun and utilizing different types of light, we'll be able to experience subtle benefits without even noticing.
2. Cook-free kitchen. Many experts predict that the entire process of cooking will be automated much sooner than you might imagine. Some refrigerators can already order your groceries for you!
3. Virtual decor and clothing. By changing textures and style, you will be able to shift your clothing and decorations all around your house with minimal effort. Augmented reality will make this even more interesting.
4. VR vacations. This is already beginning to happen, but as we move forward, VR tech is sure to become even more advanced.
5. No more garages. It's expected that when self-driving ride-share services become standard, owning your own cars will largely become a thing of the past. No more costly breakdowns or sky-high gas bills! *Inc.com, 5/11/2018*

