COMPUTER DEPOT INC.
BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

Tech Bits and Bytes to Help You with Your Business

Thomas Hill, President & Founder

"The highest compliment we can earn is to be referred to a friend!"

School is open, watch for buses!

TRIVIA

CONGRATULATIONS

Mark

at

Locke Plumbing

Who knew that **the ostrich is the largest living bird on earth**!

Locke Plumbing Since 1948

4 BIG Mistakes You're Making By Being Cheap With Technology

Technology is more affordable and accessible than it's ever been. Whatever you need is only a few clicks away, whether it's a product or a service.

But there are still many small businesses that cheap out on their technology and IT solutions. They just don't want to commit to quality hardware, software, security or backups – the list goes on. They go for the cheapest solutions, which often means they spend nothing at all. They don't commit to reliable security or current software. They're setting themselves, and their customers, up for disaster.

The question is, are you setting your own business up for disaster? Here are four HUGE mistakes you should do everything to avoid.

MISTAKE #1: YOU ARE NOT BACKING UP DATA
As convenient as it is to have all of your business's information in one place, such as a single local server or even a desktop PC, you're

toast if anything happens to that hardware. For one, if you're lacking in IT security, you're making a cybercriminal's job easier. And two, if that hardware fails (as hardware eventually does; there's no way around this), you're left scrambling to recover that data and hoping it's still accessible.

You should never risk your business like this, considering how easy it is to back up your business's data. You can back up data on-site, get a cloud-based service or you can do both. The point is, you need to back up everything so you're ready should anything go wrong.

Once you have a solution, you can customize how your data is backed up. Do you need to back up data every day? Once a week? Once a month? It's up to you. Here's another thing to remember: your backup system isn't "set it and forget it." You need to check on it regularly and keep it updated to ensure your data is safe and ready to go should you need it.

MISTAKE #2: You aren't keeping up with the times.

Speaking of keeping things updated, you should always update your software. Developers are constantly fixing bugs, patching software and improving usability. Skipping updates can leave you vulnerable.

Earlier this year, Cisco's Series 1001-X router was found to have a fatal flaw that opened it up to hackers. This flaw potentially gave hackers network access – and access to connected devices. This isn't the first router to have this kind of flaw and it won't be the last. Cisco pushed out an update to fix the flaw, but the update is useless if you don't install it.
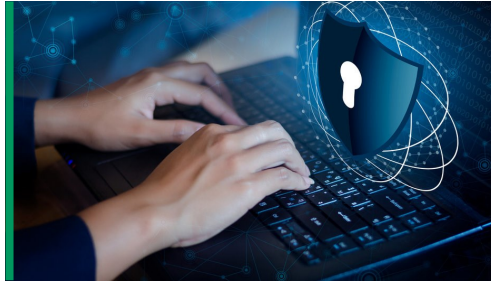
Updates don't just apply to software; they apply to hardware as well. When you're running old hardware, that hardware is more likely to fail. It's already been put through its paces. Over time, hardware performance degrades. Plus, the older your hardware is, the less compatible it is with current software. You don't have to invest in new hardware every year or two, but keeping up with the times keeps you on top of your game.

MISTAKE #3: You don't train your team.

While most businesses hire people who understand certain software products, you can't assume they know everything about that software. Your business might use a certain CRM application in a very specific way. Proper training on your systems ensures everyone is on the same page – and that they are using the software to its (and their) greatest potential.

More than software training, your team also needs to be trained up on IT security. They need to know the risks and how to keep your business's data secure. Never assume your team knows about the latest threats to small business – or that they even understand the basics of safe web browsing.

While you need to have IT security in place and protecting your network, servers, PCs and so on, you need to make sure your team understands that security

and the threats that are out there. Your team should also be aware of the consequences if any data becomes compromised.

MISTAKE #4: You skip data security.

Data breaches happen every day, and most of them go unreported. You only hear about the biggest breaches on TV or online. While major companies like Target or Facebook can more easily recover from a data breach (as they have a lot of money to throw at the problem), most small businesses can't.

If you're lacking in IT security, you're putting sensitive data at risk. This is proprietary business data as well as the personal and financial records of your customers. It can mean the end of your business if credit card numbers, names, addresses or phone numbers fall into the wrong hands. Customers will no longer trust you. Your own employees likely won't trust you either, especially if their personal data is on the line, not to mention their reputation. When you skimp on IT security, you're about one step away from handing hackers and cybercriminals all the data you should be keeping under digital lock and key. When you invest in a solid IT security and work with experts who understand today's security landscape, these are things you don't have to worry about.

The bottom line is, if you don't invest in your business's technology and IT solutions today, you will pay for it tomorrow. You'll be dealing with upset customers if you get hacked, and you may end up closing your doors, temporarily or perhaps even permanently, as you attempt to recover lost data. Don't make these mistakes because you wanted to save money.

3 Things About Cyberspace You Should CONSTANTLY Remind Your Kids About

All parents need to closely monitor their kids' social media profiles as well as their use of tablets, phones and devices. It's no secret that sexual predators lurk online, looking for their next victim. While what you tell your kids should be age-appropriate, here's a list of things you ought to KEEP reminding them.

1. Everything you do online is public. If you wouldn't do or say it standing in the middle of your classroom with everyone present, don't do it online.

2. There is NO delete button. Removing comments and photos is like trying to take pee out of a pool.

3. Trust NO ONE online. Really bad, ugly, nasty people are online looking to fool you.

As for your older kids, you might remind them that schools and employers use social media to review you, so make sure what you post is what you'd want them to see.

HIPAA FACTS

*Protect Your Practice
from HIPAA Violations*

Top 3 Causes of Data Breach
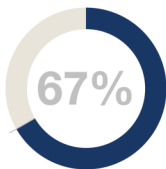
Employee Action

Third-Party Error

Lost or Stolen Devises

The average cost

per lost record:

$401

HIPAA Fines Can Range From

$100-$50,000

67% of healthcare organizations plan to spend money on HIPAA audit services.

Want to avoid a data breach and validate your compliance?

Call us today: 909-7606

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"There are three, count 'em, three I's in 'Team Building Exercise.' Just saying."

Chilling, Grilling, & Building (Boats & Teams)

In any business, it is important to show appreciation for the team that makes awesomeness happen! We love fun opportunities to build up our team that go beyond the proverbial "employee of the month." We especially like getting the team together outside of work and we really enjoyed this summer's event. After issuing a boat building challenge with specific parameters for size and materials, we hosted a cookout and competition. Check out these awesome entries.

The first across the water was the Hendren (Larry) Family's boat that was steady more than speedy.

THE BOATS

Mjölnir (the hammer of Thor) was too heavy to float and The Titanic took on water *before* crashing into anything.

Cassie's pirate ship was beautifully detailed but not quite sea worthy enough to make it across the pool. The finalist faced off in a championship race and in the end the Bruce (Wes) Family took home the trophy and the prize with their high performance boat "The Inheritance." It was a great day of friendly competition and comradery that got our team together for some relaxing fun! What do you do to build up your team and increase morale? No matter how big or small, doing *something* shows you care.

ATTENTION TAX PROFESSIONALS! IS YOUR DATA SECURITY PLAN IN ORDER?

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has issued a new release reminding professional tax preparers that they are **required by law** to have a written data security plan. Creating and maintaining a data security plan ensures that tax professionals are their data security protections and implementing appropriate safe guards. And Healthcare Professionals think they are the only ones. No worries, no matter what industry you are in, when the almighty government says you need to comply with blaa blaa blaa, we've got your back!

www.ComputerDepotBusiness.com

This Month's

TRIVIA

Here is your next chance to WIN Lunch on us!

Email your answer to
RHill@ComputerDepotOnline.com

How many players make up a field lacrosse team?

August 2019

Look What's Inside…

- **4 BIG Mistakes You're Making By Being Cheap With Technology**

- 3 Things About Cyberspace You Should CONSTANTLY Remind Your Kids About

- Hurry-You could WIN this month's Trivia and this

- **Warning for Professional Tax Preparers!**

- What are you doing to build up you team?

- **2019 UT VOL SCHUDULE**

COMPUTER DEPOT BUSINESS SOLUTIONS - WE ARE BIG TECHNOLOGY FOR YOUR GLITCH-FREE SMALL BUSINESS

FOOTBALL

TIME IN TN

2019 TENNESSEE SCHEDULE

VS **AUGUST 31** KNOXVILLE, TN	VS **SEPTEMBER 7** KNOXVILLE, TN	VS **SEPTEMBER 14** KNOXVILLE, TN
AT **SEPTEMBER 21** GAINESVILLE, FL	VS **OCTOBER 5** KNOXVILLE, TN	VS **OCTOBER 12** KNOXVILLE, TN
AT **OCTOBER 19** TUSCALOOSA, AL	VS **OCTOBER 26** KNOXVILLE, TN	VS **NOVEMBER 2** KNOXVILLE, TN
AT **NOVEMBER 9** LEXINGTON, KY	AT **NOVEMBER 23** COLUMBIA, MO	VS **NOVEMBER 30** KNOXVILLE, TN