COMPUTER DEPOT BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

Tech Bits and Bytes to Help You with Your Business

Thomas Hill, President & Founder

"Our Go-Getter Attitude allows us to have confidence in our solutions while continually adapting to an everchanging landscape."

Happy Mother's Day to All the Special Moms in Our Lives

M M

May 8th

TRIVIA

CONGRATULATIONS

Doug Daniel

from

CROSS Food Ministry

The easiest way to eat crow is while it's still warm, because the colder it gets, the harder it is to swallow.

CROSS
FOOD MINISTRY

Stay Compliant

By Upping Your Cyber Security Practices

If you own or operate a business, there are plenty of things you must do to ensure success. You have to make the right hiring decisions; develop a product or service that you can sell; build relationships with clients, employees and partners; and much more. One of the biggest responsibilities that comes with owning or operating a business is ensuring that your business is compliant with any guidelines put in place by regulatory bodies.

Every business needs to make an effort to stay compliant, and a big part of that is making sure your cyber security practices are up to standards. With technology rapidly advancing and regulations changing fairly often, you have to stay up-to-date on any changes that should be made going forward. You also need to make an effort to plug any holes in your current cyber security plan.

You can do this by asking yourself a few questions and making the necessary adjustments if you answer no to any of the following:

- Is my business protected by a firewall and antivirus software?
- Do I use backup solutions, and do I have a disaster recovery plan in place?
- Has my storage stayed up-to-date with any technological changes?
- Do I have any content or e-mail spam filtering software?
- What data am I encrypting?

Ensuring that your business stays compliant will be extremely important in maintaining client and employee relationships. If a customer's information gets compromised because your business did not have the necessary cyber security in place, they probably won't come through your doors again. As technology changes and evolves, so do many of the regulations and cyber security practices that you should put in place. It can be difficult to become compliant if your business was lacking previously. Luckily, there are a few steps you can take to help ensure that your business becomes and

stays compliant with any regulating bodies.

First, you should document all of the consumer data your business holds. If a customer asks what information your business has collected on them, then you should be able to give them an honest answer. You might also be obligated to share this information. By keeping and maintaining this information, you will be able to supply your customers with it if they ever do ask.

It can also help greatly to partner with a managed services provider who manages IT needs since they will be able to perform routine IT data checks and work to better protect your customer and the private information within your business. MSPs go a long way toward helping all of your potential IT needs, but their usage when it comes to cyber security, protection and compliance should not be underestimated. Partnering with an MSP will help get your business on the fast track to becoming cyber-secure.

Another big part of ensuring that your business stays compliant is to

> ## "Cyber security and compliance work right alongside each other."

introduce cyber security training for all of your employees. Did you know that 88% of cyber-attacks start with human error? If your team has not bought into a cyber-secure culture or does not know the proper cyber security practices, you could be in some trouble. Make sure that cyber security training is part of your onboarding process and continue to train your employees throughout their tenure with your business.

Once your employees are aware of the risks of cyber-attacks and have bought into a cyber-secure culture, it's time to upgrade your cyber security. One of the best things you can do for your business is to invest in regular software patching. Technology is ever-evolving, and we should make the necessary changes to ensure it continues to cooperate with our network and systems. Put technology in place to cover these holes or partner with an MSP that can help take care of any lapses in your cyber security.

Additionally, you should invest in some content-filtering software. There are plenty of toxic websites with nefarious intent that can wreak havoc on your cyber security if accessed by an employee on your network. Content filtering allows you to restrict certain websites. It also goes a step further by recognizing patterns in

websites that have malicious codes and blocking those websites that might pose a risk.

Cyber security and compliance work right alongside each other. If you're trying to ensure that your business stays compliant, you need to buff up your cyber security practices. There are many methods you can take to do this, but if you're unsure of where to begin, give us a call. We would be glad to help you take the next steps toward creating a cyber-secure business.

To see if we can help, schedule a call today. Go to **http://www.ComputerDepotBusiness.com/DiscoveryCall.**

This Month's

TRIVIA

What company did the founders of YouTube work for before starting up YouTube?

Email your answer to RHill@ComputerDepotOnline.com

A winner is randomly selected from all correct responses.

The tradition of honoring our country's fallen defenders began as a springtime custom following the Civil War. Originally called Decoration Day, it was a time to remember those fallen heroes.

To the list of those who died at Gettysburg and Bull Run, we have added names from San Juan Hill, Verdun, Corregidor, Inchon, Khe Sanh, Jalibah, the deserts and mountains of the Middle East and a thousand other places touched by war.

For most of the year, these souls lie in quiet repose, but on Memorial Day, we visit them again with our thanks for their great sacrifice.

It is not really a time for sadness. Rather, it should be an affirmation that these men and women did not lose their lives in vain.

This special day is a time to pay tribute to those who fell and to a country that plunged onward in pursuit of justice and democracy. We mourn our dead, but we rejoice in their memory and in the democracy they defended.

Mom Tweets:

"Currently helping my son search for his chocolate that I ate last night."
-- @hypercraxy

"The 8yo disrupted my sleep again, so I texted my mom at 2AM to ask when it stops."
-- @LMEgordon

"Ever notice in the story of the 3 bears, Paps Bear's porridge is pipping hot, baby's is perfect, & poor Mama Bear's is cold? I get it now."
-- @domesticgoddss

Here's Why Small Businesses Need Strong Password Policies

Human error is responsible for 88 percent of data breaches. This means someone's unintentional actions or failure to take action caused the breach.

In fact, the National Cyber Security Alliance found that after a data breach, 10 percent of small companies (up to 500 employees) went out of business, while 25 percent were forced into bankruptcy and nearly 40 percent suffered financial losses.

Unfortunately, weak passwords often play a role during cyber security acts. Hackers target login portals with brute force attacks, trying various passwords to see if one fits. Often, criminals use lists of the most common phrases. Employees use these phrases because they're easy to remember. By doing so, they welcome interlopers into your hardware and software.

Once a hacker gains access to platforms, back-ends, databases, payment information or other sensitive data, they can create chaos. And if this happens, you're not only at risk of suffering financial losses, but also brand damage. Customers may no longer trust your organization, especially if they get caught in the crossfire and their private info gets exposed (i.e. credit card numbers).

Github, Nintendo, Dunkin Donuts and many others have fallen victim to brute force attacks. Fortunately, simply strengthening passwords can ward off hackers before they ever get into your systems. That's why businesses big and small should implement strong password policies. Such guidelines require complex passwords, like mandating capital letters, numbers and symbols. Further, you can blacklist common, weak phrases like "password1234." If you don't have a strong password policy in place, you need one NOW. Call 865-909-7606 to see how we can help you protect your business.

"ARE WE BROKE YET?"
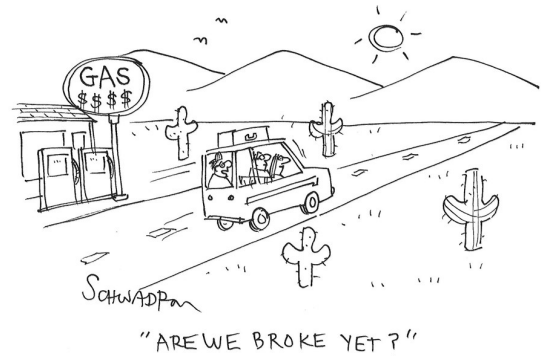
May 2022

Look What's Inside…

- **Stay Compliant By Upping Your Cyber Security Practices**
- Small Businesses **Need** Strong Password Policies
- Hurry-You could WIN this month's Trivia and this
- **Mom Tweets That For Real**
- **A Day to Remember and Honor**
- **Good Luck Trying to Get This Shiny New Gadget!**

COMPUTER DEPOT BUSINESS SOLUTIONS - AFFORDABLE IT HELPDESK AND CYBER SECURITY SUPPORT IN 20 MINUTES OR LESS

A Shiny New Gadget For Spring
Bird Buddy

Bird-watching from your home has never been easier or more cool. Even if you see "little rats with wings" or "tiny pooping machines" this might be just the gadget to turn you into a friend to the feathered fowl. Bird Buddy is the newest development in the world of birdhouses. Bird Buddy looks like your normal birdhouse but has so much more to it. It has a built-in camera that will send a push notification to your phone whenever a bird is visiting. Bird Buddy comes standard with artificial intelligence bird recognition so you'll know exactly what types of birds visit your home. Of course, you can then share with family and friends. It's easy to install and can even be mounted to the outer walls of your house or on fence posts. It's built from incredibly durable materials; you won't have to worry about inclement weather or squirrels destroying your birdhouse. Bird Buddy is the most advanced birdhouse on the market and

was available for pre-order. At the time of this writing, they are sold out until September! Maybe Mother's Day 2023?

Contact Us

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