



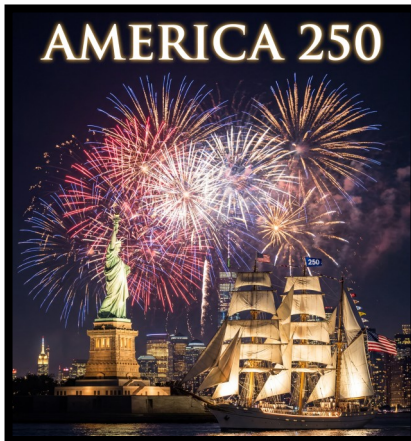
TECHNOLOGY TIMES

Insider Tips to Help Your Business Run Faster, Easier and More Profitably



Thomas Hill, President & Founder

"The future holds great change. Stay teachable and join me each month on my webinar to keep learning."



AMERICA 250

TRIVIA
CONGRATULATIONS

Susan Howe with East Tennessee Dental Associates

This month's trivia winner.

The United States Semiquincentennial, will be the 250th anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence.

TURN TO PAGE 3 FOR THIS MONTH'S TRIVIA



School's Out Cybercriminals Are In

School's out, which means the workday doesn't look quite the same as it did a few weeks ago.

Maybe you're starting earlier to wrap up sooner. Maybe you're working from home with a little extra background noise and fewer stretches of uninterrupted time.

Either way, you're adjusting to the new rhythm — and cybercriminals are adjusting right along with you.

This isn't your normal workday

Hackers know that summer fragments your day, and they plan around it. They're not waiting for a major lapse; they're just looking for a quick decision made while your attention is elsewhere.

Cybercriminals don't rely on big, obvious scams. They send messages that look routine — an invoice, a shared file, a quick request — timed to catch you in the middle of something else.

That's when the click happens.

The click isn't the problem. It's what that click has access to.

When someone clicks a phishing link or opens a malicious attachment, it doesn't stop there. It opens the door to email accounts, files and the systems your business runs on every day. From there, it moves quietly, spreading across accounts and accessing sensitive data before anyone realizes what's happening.

By the time it's noticed, the impact is already much bigger than one mistake.

Why 'just be more careful' doesn't work

That assumes people have time to stop and evaluate every click. They don't. Work moves fast, attention is split, and people are juggling more than usual.

The goal shouldn't be perfect attention. It should be building systems that don't rely on it.

If your team is moving fast and getting interrupted, your security needs to account for that.

In practice, that looks like:

- Unique passwords for every login so one compromised account doesn't unlock everything else
- Multi-factor authentication so a password alone isn't enough
- Email filtering that flags suspicious messages before they reach your team
- A culture where anyone can pause and ask, "Does this look right?" without feeling like they're slowing things down

None of this depends on perfect behavior. It's built for real workdays.

Summer doesn't create these risks. It just makes them easier to miss.

Continued on pg.2

Continued from cover

If your business still depends on every-one catching everything, it's worth taking a closer look now.



"When fireworks show signs of quietly quitting."

**Celebrate
and be
Safe!**



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"If you want service that is immediately available upon request, CD Technology is that provider. Responsiveness is the single biggest benefit of having CD Technology as our provider. We transitioned from having in-house IT to CD Technology and are pleased that they understand the level of service desired and respond accordingly."

L. Dunn

Strategic Services Company, LLC

Tech Gadget of the Month

Plaud Note Pro: Capture Every Conversation, Skip the Notes

If your day runs on conversations, this changes how you keep up. The Plaud Note Pro is credit-card thin, but what sets it apart is the "press to highlight" button – tap it during a meeting and the AI prioritizes that exact moment later. It records from up to 16 feet away, auto-detects calls vs. in-person conversations, and turns everything into structured summaries, tasks, and insights.



Free Report Download: The Business Owner's Guide To IT Support Services And Fees

You'll learn:

- The three most common ways IT companies charge for their services and the pros and cons of each approach
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- How to make sure you know exactly what you're getting to avoid disappointment, frustration and added costs later on that you didn't anticipate

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That 'Old' Tech? You're Still Paying For It Every Month

Most people treat outdated technology like a favorite sock with a hole in it. Clearly past its prime, but not bad enough to throw out yet.

You notice it here and there. It suddenly takes forever to send a simple email. You hit save, and the screen freezes like it forgot what it was doing. It's frustrating, but it's not enough to stop what you're doing. You deal with it, move on, and the tech keeps hanging around.

What doesn't feel like a big deal in the moment is costing you more than you think every single month.

At some point, "still working" stops being enough

Holding onto older systems can feel like a practical, frugal choice. If it's still working, why replace it?

The problem is that these systems don't just sit there. Over time, they start costing you in ways that aren't always obvious.

Your energy bills begin to creep up because older equipment works harder just to keep up. It uses more power, generates more heat, and puts extra strain on everything around it, especially during summer. Newer systems are built to be far more efficient. They use less power and run cooler while doing more, which means lower operating costs over time.

Then there's the time side of it. Tasks that used to be quick take longer. Systems lag, files take longer to open, and small delays become part of the day. Work doesn't stop, but it stretches out. That lost time adds up faster than most people realize.

On top of that, interruptions become routine. Systems freeze, connections drop, and restarting things becomes part of how people get through the day. Each interruption might only take a few minutes, but it breaks focus and slows everything down.

When you step back and look at the full picture — higher bills, lost time, and constant interruptions — it becomes a lot harder to justify what you thought you were saving.

What it looks like when you stop paying for problems

Once outdated systems are replaced where it makes sense, the difference shows up quickly.

Systems start when they're supposed to, without delays or second attempts. Restarting things stops being part of the daily routine. Your team spends their time working instead of waiting on tech-



nology. Energy use drops as newer, more efficient equipment takes over. And the ongoing costs tied to inefficiency and downtime start to come down.

The day runs more smoothly, your team stays focused, and you're no longer spending money to keep systems barely functioning.

What this actually costs you

Here's a way to think about it. If outdated technology costs each person on your team just 20 minutes a day in delays, freezes, and workarounds, that's nearly two hours a week per person. Across a team of ten, that's close to 1,000 hours a year. Hours spent waiting, not working.

That's before you factor in the energy bills, the repair costs, and the wear it puts on everyone who has to work around it every day.

Is it time for a change?

If your systems are slow, if issues keep coming back, or if your team has quietly gotten used to working around the technology, you're already covering the cost. The only question is how much longer you want to keep doing that.

This doesn't fix itself. It just keeps costing you through lost time, higher bills, and interruptions that never quite go away.

That's where we come in. As your IT partner, we don't just fix issues. We help you stop overpaying for technology that isn't pulling its weight. That means identifying which systems are costing you more than they're worth, helping you decide what should be replaced now versus later, and recommending upgrades that are right-sized for your business, not unnecessary ones.

We handle the transition so your team isn't disrupted, and we maintain everything going forward so you don't end up in the same position again.

Instead of guessing or putting it off, you'll have a clear plan and systems that truly support your business.

If you're ready to stop paying for problems, let's talk.
865.909.7606

Four Famous Dogs: A National Hot Dog Day Tour

Ask for a hot dog in Chicago, Detroit, Seattle, or Tucson, and you may not recognize what arrives. Each region has spent decades perfecting its own version, and locals defend their preferences like sports rivalries. National Hot Dog Day on July 18 is a fine excuse to survey four of the country's most beloved variations.



The Chicago Dog. This all-beef frankfurter dates to the Great Depression, when street vendors sold a hearty, vegetable-loaded version for a nickel. Today's version sits on a steamed poppy seed bun and is "dragged through the garden," as Chicagoans say: yellow mustard, neon-green relish, chopped onion, tomato wedges, a dill pickle spear, sport peppers, and a dash of celery salt. One rule, according to AOL Food, is non-negotiable. No ketchup. Ever.

The Detroit Coney Island. Despite the name, this one is pure Motor City. Greek immigrants began serving these beanless, chili-topped dogs to autoworkers in the early 1900s, and Detroit now has over 500 Coney Island diners. The formula: a natural-casing beef frank in a steamed bun, smothered with meaty chili sauce, yellow mustard, and chopped white onions.

The Seattle Dog. Vendor Hadley Long invented this one in 1989, smearing cream cheese on hot dogs sold from his Pioneer Square bagel cart. The combination spread to stadium crowds and late-night club-goers, and today the Seattle Dog means cream cheese plus grilled onions on a toasted bun.

The Sonoran Hot Dog. This Mexican-American fusion crossed the border from Hermosillo in the 1980s and put down roots in Tucson. It features a bacon-wrapped frank tucked into a fluffy bolillo roll, then topped with pinto beans, grilled onions, fresh onions, tomatoes, mayonnaise, mustard, and jalapeño salsa.



Chicago Dog



Detroit Coney Island Dog



Seattle Dog



Sonoran Dog



This Month's

TRIVIA

Here is your chance to win
Lunch On Us!

How many hot dogs will
Americans eat on the 4th of
July?
Hint: It's A LOT!!

Email your answer to
RHill@CDTechnology.com



THUMBS UP: GOOD AI IDEAS

- **Polish writing**
(improve grammar & flow)
- **Summarize public material** (summaries of open articles)
- **Generate outlines** (kickstart ideas)
- **Learn new skills** (quick tutorials/explanations)
- **Brainstorm** (creative suggestions)



THUMBS DOWN: BAD AI IDEAS

- **Confidential data**
(sensitive company info)
- **Client lists**
(private customer data)
- **Personnel matters**
(HR/employee info)
- **Proprietary code**
(original software/algorithms)
- **Uncritical reliance**
(blindly trusting AI output)

Connecting With Tennessee's' CPA Community: Continuing The Conversations After TSCPA 95

CD Technology was proud to participate in the Tennessee Society of CPAs' 95th Annual Meeting & Convention, held at the beautiful Wild Dunes Resort in Isle of Palms, South Carolina. With perfect coastal weather, engaging educational sessions, and opportunities to connect with accounting professionals from across Tennessee, the convention was a tremendous success.

Representing CD Technology were Thomas and Rebekah Hill who enjoyed the numerous opportunities to connect directly with attendees throughout the event. One of the highlights of the convention was the Hospitality Suite, proudly sponsored by CD Technology. The relaxed setting provided the perfect opportunity for meaningful conversations and making new connections.

Another standout event was the annual Bourbon & Bubbly fundraiser, which raised more than \$50,000 for TSCPA scholarship funds. The generosity of attendees and sponsors will help support future accounting professionals for years to come, making it one of the convention's most impactful events.

As a trusted technology partner for CPA firms, CD Technology was also pleased to provide attendees with its **IT Success Playbook for CPAs**. Developed specifically for accounting firms, the playbook offers practical guidance on:

- Strengthening cybersecurity
- Improving operational efficiency
- Leveraging technology to better serve clients and teams



To help firms take the next step, CD Technology is offering a complimentary Network Assessment. During the assessment, the company's technical experts evaluate an organization's IT environment, identify potential risks and vulnerabilities, and provide practical recommendations tailored to the firm's needs. Attendees who received the IT Success Playbook can simply scan the QR code on the final page to schedule their assessment.

If you are an accountant but were not able to attend this event, you can obtain these valuable resources as well. Simply go to **SupportForCPAs.com**.

CD Technology extends its sincere appreciation to the Tennessee Society of CPAs for hosting another exceptional convention and to everyone who stopped by to visit with Thomas and Rebekah during the event. The opportunity to strengthen existing relationships, build new ones, and support Tennessee's accounting profession continues to be one of the company's favorite parts of the annual meeting. The team looks forward to reconnecting with everyone throughout the coming year.

Mini Webinar Series

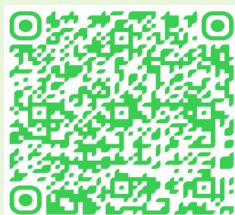
Join Thomas for our next webinar.

Email Security In 2026: How To Stop Today's Most Common Attacks

August 27, 2026 @ 10am

Register now:

CDTechnology.com



WELCOME

We want to officially welcome Angielyn Hughes, CPA to our CD Technology community.

We are so happy to have her as a client and appreciate that she is trusting us with her IT needs for her growing business.

If you are an accountant concerned about security, compliance, the FTC's Safeguards Rule, growth, or having a true IT partner, not just a vendor, check out

www.SupportForCPAs.com



July 2026

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- More Collaborative



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Using AI Work Without Getting In Trouble

It is a Tuesday morning. Half your coworkers are quietly using ChatGPT, Claude, or Gemini to draft emails, summarize meetings, and clean up reports. Most of them have never asked anyone whether they are allowed to.

That is the typical state of AI at work in 2026. Nearly 50% of enterprise employees use generative AI at work. According to research from Concentric AI, sensitive company data now makes up 34.8% of what employees paste into ChatGPT.

That is the problem. Not the AI itself. The pasting.

What gets people in trouble. According to IBM's 2025 Cost of a Data Breach Report, one in five companies has suffered a breach tied to "shadow AI" Ñ employees using AI tools the company never approved. The most common mistakes:

- Pasting client lists, customer emails, or phone numbers into a public chatbot
- Uploading internal financial documents or

pricing models

- Sharing source code or proprietary product specs
- Putting confidential personnel matters or complaint investigations into a prompt

Samsung famously banned employees from public AI tools in 2023 after engineers pasted confidential semiconductor code into ChatGPT. Other major companies including Verizon, Amazon, and Accenture have followed with similar restrictions.

What is usually fine. Most employers are not opposed to AI itself Ñ they are opposed to confidential data leaving the building. Generally safe uses include:

- Polishing your own writing
- Brainstorming a problem
- Summarizing public material like news articles or industry reports
- Generating outlines, lists, or templates
- Learning a new skill or concept

Contact Us

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for over 25 Years

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