

What's New

Welcome to the inaugural edition of our newsletter. IT is changing. New technology, that can improve your business, is constantly being introduced. There is a persistent and growing threat landscape. If a company is not prepared, just one person clicking just one bad link in just one email has the potential to jeopardize an entire organization.

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3 Deadly Mistakes You're Making By Being Cheap With Technology

Today's small and midsize businesses (SMBs) have an uneasy relationship with technology – even if they don't realize it yet. As the marketplace reaches new heights of complexity and speed, and consumers migrate to cyberspace en masse to make their buying decisions, SMBs are responding in turn. Today's savvy business owners utilize ever-evolving technologies to capture their customers' interest and imagination, make conversions and manage their day-to-day operations with unprecedented ease and clarity. Certainly, the Internet age is a thrilling time to be in business. Each business is equipped with wildly powerful tech that has transformed the landscape of commerce forever.

But there's an uncomfortable truth that goes hand in hand with this

increased dependence on technology. At its best, IT allows us to do incredible things we never would have imagined were possible even 10 years ago. At its worst, IT is an unreliable, finicky and potentially hazardous scaffolding upon which we built our loftiest hopes and dreams. Even the best IT requires wrangling to shape it to our needs and keep it on track and safe from intruders.

Despite this reliance on technology, the vast majority of business owners consider it an extra expense rather than a foundational element of their company. As a result, they skimp on technology spending. But being cheap comes with a cost – one much bigger and more dangerous than you probably realize. Here are three mistakes you're making by underspending on this key part of your business.

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1. You're spending on technology based on an unrealistic, poorly planned budget rather than building your technology budget around your actual needs.

When you're an SMB with limited resources, it's easy to see any money saved on software and hardware as a success, leading businesses to opt for cheap, clunky and outdated solutions. But in a world where the lion's share of your day-to-day operations is dictated by the digital equipment you and your team use, where small businesses exist under constant threat of cyber-attack and data is a precious commodity that could disappear at the speed of a failed backup, cutting corners is unwise. Updating your digital approach and tightening your cyber security may not result in obvious, immediate returns on your investment. But adequate technology spending is just that – an investment. When you invest in the latest technology, you're investing in the long-term productivity and security of your business.

2. You're opening yourself up to disaster.

It's one thing to have an employee's computer unexpectedly fail or for an Internet connection to have a momentary hiccup.

"When you invest in the latest technology, you're investing in the long-term productivity and security of your business."



But if you're skimping on technology, you're leaving your business vulnerable to catastrophes that could cost you thousands. One of the most prominent and overlooked of these threats is cybercrime. According to the 2016 State of Cyber Security in Small and Medium-Sized Businesses report, half of all U.S. small businesses fell victim to a cyber-attack in 2015 – a number that has only continued to climb. The majority of these attacks are ransomware, in which entire systems are locked out of vital data and forced to shell out enormous sums to recover it. Even if you assume you're secure (and you probably aren't), there are other risks to contend with. Server failures, backup loss and system downtime can shutter businesses just as easily as a vicious hacker.

3. You're letting the competition get ahead.

Outsmarting your competitors takes more than just mimicking whatever latest strategy the thought leaders of your industry are championing at the moment. It requires anticipating future trends and acting on them. And in business, there's one universal truth you can count on: The future of your industry lies in technology. Cloud services, new and constantly updating software, CRMs and a staggering array of productivity-enhancing tools are just a few of the advances your competitors are considering (if they haven't snatched them up already). If you neglect the future, your company is destined to become a thing of the past.

Free Cyber Security Audit Will Reveal Where Your Computer Network Is Exposed And How To Protect



At no cost or obligation, we will come to your office and conduct a comprehensive cyber security audit to uncover loopholes in your company's IT security.

After the audit is done, we'll prepare a customized "Report Of Findings" that will reveal specific vulnerabilities and provide a Prioritized Action Plan for getting these security problems addressed fast. This report and action plan should be a real eye-opener for you since almost all of the businesses we've done this for discover they are completely exposed to various threats in a number of areas.

**To Get Started And Claim Your Free Assessment Now
Call Our Office at 845-237-2117**

**Get More Free Tips, Tools and Services At Our Website: www.meetingtreecomputer.com
(845) 237-2117**

Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:



Watch What You Eat With LinkSquare

Everywhere we go, most of us use vision to navigate our world. Whether our mouth begins to water at the sight of a tasty dish or our brow furrows at the sight of a shady-looking dollar bill, our eyes are one of our primary means of connection to the world around us. But, just by looking, can you tell whether that delicious-looking food is as high quality as it seems? Or be absolutely sure that the dollar is real?

Enter LinkSquare, the pocket-sized spectrometer that enables us to gaze deeper into the objects around us. After you scan an object with the device, it uses machine learning to analyze the properties of all sorts of items, including the freshness of food, the authenticity of money or gold, the identification of stray medications and a huge variety of other potential applications. If you're interested in purchasing this wildly futuristic technology, it'll cost about \$300.

Learn more at LinkSquare.io.

3 Questions No Leader Should Ever Ask

At **ghSMART**, we advise board members and CEOs of large companies on their most important leadership issues. One of the most important skills we discuss is making sure they are consulting on the right questions.

I think of a "right" question as one that matters – a question that will cut to the heart of an issue, produce an answer on which the leader can act and provide the highest value to the leader in terms of results.

But the "right" question then becomes, "What are the wrong questions?"

There are three categories of "wrong" questions that I've heard time and time again over the years. Merely asking these questions can lead you down the wrong path when you're seeking to achieve your career's full potential.

1. If you have to ask an ethical question, just don't do the thing you were considering.

The wisest, most successful leaders I have served or worked alongside all seem to lead according to this rule regarding ethical questions: "If you have to ask, then don't." In other words, if there is something you're considering that's in a moral gray area or might be misinterpreted as unethical, then just don't do it. At **ghSMART**, we call this "having 110% integrity." We do things that are not only 100% ethical, but we give an extra 10% safety margin to avoid things that could be misinterpreted.



*Geoff Smart is chairman and founder of **ghSMART**. Geoff is co-author, with his colleague Randy Street, of the New York Times bestselling book, *Who: A Method for Hiring*, and the author of the No. 1 Wall Street Journal best-seller, *Leadocracy: Hiring More Great Leaders (Like You) into Government*. Geoff co-created the Topgrading brand of talent management. He is the Founder of two 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organizations. SMARTKids Leadership Program™ provides 10 years of leadership tutoring and the Leaders Initiative™ seeks to deploy society's greatest leaders into government. Geoff earned a BA in Economics with honors from Northwestern University, an MA, and a PhD in Psychology from Claremont Graduate University.*

2. If you have to question whether someone is underperforming in their job, they are.

There's a common cycle of "facing reality" I often see my clients go through. They have a bold vision and a goal to achieve something great. And when they realize that they don't have the team to make it happen, they start to fantasize and think, "I wonder if Fred or Amy is going to rise to the occasion and display strengths we've not yet seen to achieve these results." Great leaders know who they can count on. They don't expect a subordinate to suddenly start performing well in a role that does not appear to fit their talents and interests.

3. If you wonder whether you can trust your boss, you can't.

There is a saying: "People don't quit companies; they quit bad bosses." So if you find yourself wondering whether you can trust your boss or not, you likely can't. Instead, go find a boss you can trust. Find a boss who will hold your interests in high regard and care about your career goals as much as you do, giving you coaching and feedback to help accelerate your learning. These bosses will have your back during bonus time. Rarely do you see great leaders who wonder about the trustworthiness of their boss staying at that particular job very long.



Client Spotlight: Fitzpatrick Insurance Center

If you are looking for a company to take the headache out of your insurance needs and save you a bundle too, look no more! We have known this company for several years. They were having some problems with their network that we fixed immediately. Contact them at the following number and see what they can do for you: 914-739-6117.

Would you like your company highlighted here in our "Client Spotlight"? Email me today at mduci@meetingtreecomputer.com

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Protection has evolved as well. Even a few years ago, having a good anti-virus program was sufficient. Now, best practice mandates layered protection including next-generation anti-virus, Unified Threat Management routers, constant Operating System and third party software updates, user education, dark web monitoring and business continuity backup. To manage these changes, we are always improving products and services we offer to keep you safe and productive.

The purpose of this newsletter is to illuminate this rapidly changing environment. To educate you regarding what is out there and what is new and different, both good and bad, so you may make informed decisions to benefit your business.

If you have questions about anything you read, or just want to make an appointment to discuss the state of your IT, please call me. I look forward to speaking with you.

Ed,
Director of IT, President



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Phone: 845-237-2117

A referral from a friend, client or colleague is the highest compliment we can receive.

Top Ways To Stay Secure In The Social-Media World

Social media allows millions of people to reconnect and stay up-to-date with family members, friends, acquaintances and even former in-laws. But as social media reshapes the way we communicate with one another, it's important to keep a couple of things in mind to protect yourself and your data.

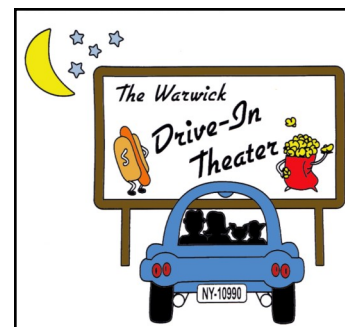
Remember that there's no "delete" button on the Internet. Even if something seems temporary, a simple screenshot or check through the archives can make it permanent. Even if you keep your social media completely private, relationships change, and what was private yesterday may suddenly become public record. The question you need to ask is whether you'll be comfortable in 10 years with what you're posting today.

In the same vein, if you post in online forums or on message boards, consider using a pseudonym. Never share names of real businesses, clients, friends or family. If a bank manager wouldn't allow a picture of all the money in the vault to be shared on the web, you shouldn't allow a picture containing confidential, financial, legal or other protected documents and items to be shared either. A good social-media policy in the office now can save headaches down the road.

Things To Do Near You

Catamount Adventure Park has opened it's doors for the season!

The park is an exciting aerial forest adventure that provides a variety of courses that are fun for all ability levels. After participants are fitted with harnesses, they are led through a safety and park usage demonstration, fitted with gloves and are then free to navigate their chosen treetop courses. With twelve courses of varying difficulties, you are challenged to cross bridges, climb ladders, obstacles and zip lines. For ages 7yrs and up. Check out their website at: <http://www.catamounttrees.com/>



Check out these movies at the Warwick Drive-In:

June 15th
The Incredibles
June 22nd
Jurassic World
July 6th
Ant Man and the Wasp
July 13th
Skyscraper

Barton Orchards will be hosting their 27th Annual Hudson Valley Hot-Air Balloon Festival.

The Festival will be held in Rhinebeck at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds. Add it to your calendar! The festival will be held on July 6, 7, and 8. Check out their website at: <https://www.dcrcoc.org/balloonfesthv.org>
You can even reserve helicopter rides!

Who Wants To Win A \$25 Gift Card?

Here is this month's trivia question. The first person to correctly answer this quiz question will receive a \$25 gift card!

Which of the following search engines has been helping people find things online for the longest? (i.e. which came first of the four)

- A. Ask Jeeves
- B. Yahoo!
- C. Google
- D. WebCrawler

Call us at 845-237-2117 with your answer.