



“As a business owner, you don’t have time to waste on technical and operational issues. That’s where we *shine*! Call us and put an end to your IT problems finally and forever!”

- John David Kistler – Business Owner

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Inside This Issue...

If I Were Buying What You Are Selling, Would I Buy It From You?.....Page 1

Are You Getting “Scroogled” By Google?Page 2

Free Business Advisory Guide.....Page 2

I’m Just A [Insert Title Here] Who Just Can’t Say “No”Page 3

Shiny New Gadget Of The Month: “The Flip Pal”Page 3

The Lighter Side: How’s Your Job?Page 4

7 Reasons Why It’s Time To Give Up Windows XP Once And For All.....Page 4



"I need Flag Day off."

Technology Times

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

If I Were Buying What You Are Selling, Would I Buy It From You?

Rosser Reeves coined the phrase “unique selling point” back in the 1940s when researching why some advertising campaigns worked better than others. Since then it has been used by various marketers and has morphed into “unique selling proposition,” which is now more commonly used. Ogilvy said you need a “big idea.” Trout says you need to “differentiate or die.” Others talk about your value proposition or competitive advantage.

Regardless of how you phrase it, the meaning is the same: **What’s the single most compelling reason why a prospect should buy from YOU over all the other options, vendors and choices they have?** The key word in unique selling proposition is, of course, unique. The answer should be unique to you and dependent on your company’s abilities, systems, niche and offering. Here are some guidelines that we’ve used:

First, your services have to be FOR somebody specifically, not the masses. When I ask many local companies “What’s your target audience,” I’ll often hear, “Anyone that lives in the such-and-such area.” Bull. A “family of 4” is different than a 5-person company and is an entirely different animal than a 100-person company. Totally different situations, needs, budgets, etc. You can’t niche the phone book. That doesn’t mean you must have a particular vertical to be successful. You can certainly have a variety of people as clients; but I would urge you to find the commonality of those clients be it size, income, pace of growth, consumer/business, etc.

Second, whatever makes you unique must be RELEVANT to your clients—something exciting, engaging or of particular value to the person paying you money. That means you need to know what your competition is offering and doing and find that point of difference that matters the most to your clients and MASTER it. For my company, our USP is bringing enterprise level support to the small business marketplace. We work best with organizations who have 5 to 75 computers and are tired of just ho-hum service and are ready for the best money can buy. Now that doesn’t mean that we aren’t able to support other companies that are outside of this definition, but we are able to define who we work best with, and that’s important. It’s important that our USP is true, is unique to us (therefore cannot be copied) and is relevant to the people we want as clients.

Last, if you’re struggling to figure out what your USP is or what it SHOULD BE, find out what the top pet peeves are for prospects in your niche regarding IT. What on an everyday basis are they trying to get rid of? Once you know that, make it your personal mission to eliminate those irritants or solve those problems better than anyone else. Then you can back your claims up with facts and statistics, client case studies and guarantees. That’s how we started out, and it’s working pretty well for us so far. This process is really never done, but we’re confident that for now we know who we serve and what we do best to serve them.

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FREE BUSINESS ADVISORY GUIDE:

“12 Little-Known Facts Every Business Owner Must Know About Backup, Security And Disaster Recovery”

If you are relying on tape drives, external hard drives or USB devices to back up your data, then it's critical for you to get and read this informative eBook. You will learn what most IT consultants don't know or won't tell you about making sure your company's critical data is safe from loss, corruption, cyber criminals, natural disasters and employee sabotage, in addition to:

- 1) The only way to know for SURE your data can be recovered if lost, corrupted or deleted—yet fewer than 10% of businesses have this in place.
- 2) 7 critical characteristics you should absolutely demand from any offsite backup service.
- 3) Where tape backups fail and give you a false sense of security.
- 4) The number one cause of data loss that businesses don't even think about until their data is erased.

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Are You Getting “Scroogled” By Google?

If you use Google for search, Gmail for e-mail or an Android phone as your smart phone then, according to Microsoft, you're getting “scroogled” daily! What exactly does that mean? Well, according to

www.scroogled.com, it means that Google systematically uses your private information that it collects online through your search, your emails, your Android app store purchases and more to sell more ads.



And there's no way to opt out.

Let me explain further how they do it with a few examples:

- **Gmail:** Google's systems go through all of your personal Gmail emails ever sent and received looking for keywords they can use to target you with paid ads. So that email you just sent to your spouse, your child or whomever you just sent it to... Google is looking to see how they can use that to target you with advertisements. And 46% of users of the e-mail service don't even know it. Great for advertisers. Not so great for your privacy.
- **Google Android App Store:** When you buy an Android app from the Google App Store, they give your full name, e-mail address and the neighborhood where you live to the app maker. This occurs without clear warning to you every time that you buy an app. That might be OK in a handful of instances, but it's impossible to tell what the app maker might do with that information. App makers are spread all around the world and not all app makers are trustworthy.

Consumer Privacy Groups are up in arms about this blatant sharing of your personal information. A Consumer Watchdog Complaint to the Federal Trade Commission on Feb 25, 2013 said “The various applicable Google privacy policies promise not to share user information collected by Google outside of the company. The policies contain no exceptions that would justify Google's disclosure to app developers of confidential user information.”

In full disclosure, the term “Scroogled” has recently been hyped up in a series of big marketing campaigns bashing Google's services. So are these privacy concerns a bunch of marketing hype or real concerns to act on? That answer is really up to you.

So what to do now? Only you can determine how much you want to risk your own personal information in the hands of Google. The online world has an increasing number of security risks to consider these days and most of them don't have anything to do with Google. How do you respond? Hopefully by being informed and making decisions based on real information and not because you didn't know any better.

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Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:



The Flip Pal

The Flip Pal Mobile scanner has no wires and scans directly to a SD Card (just like a camera).

Have you ever come across a picture that you wanted to scan but were afraid to take it out of the album because it was stuck? With the Flip Pal, you can leave it in the album and place the scanner right over the picture and get the scan without having to disturb anything.

The scanner has a built in screen so that you can see the scan before you are done.

The Flip Pal is battery powered, compact and lightweight. It produces high quality digital scans in 300 or 600 dpi and can scan in color. The scanner only weighs 1.5 pounds which makes it easy to carry around.

The software that comes with the Flip Pal allows you to take a number of scans and digitally stitch them together into one large picture.

The Flip-Pal retails for \$149.99.

If you would like more information, you can go to www.flip-pal.com.

I'm Just A [Insert Your Title Here] Who Can't Say No

Whether or not you're familiar with the song from the classic musical Oklahoma, I find that this is an applicable title in the world of today's entrepreneur and busy executive. Macro-multitasking is just as significant a problem as the garden-variety, moment-by-moment multitasking. Macro-multitasking is the splitting of one's attention across many different projects, businesses, ventures, causes, and even careers.

No matter how talented a person is, he or she will always be constrained by the truth of time. The truth of time is that there are only 24 hours in a day. When those 24 hours are filled up with too many different activities, these activities always end up competing against each other, no matter how worthy they may be. People fail to understand that by saying "yes" to one thing they are by default saying "no" in a small degree to every other activity in their life.

Let me offer two main categories of people who can't say no and one suggestion to help those in each of those categories:

1. Can't say no to others - Some of the nicest and most selfless people that I've met are successful business owners and executives. People often approach these business leaders and ask for help. And, more often than not, they selflessly donate their time. However, when business leaders spread themselves across too many causes, they fragment their attention in every other area of their life. Instead of being of service, they end up shortchanging themselves and others. Maintaining focus often requires the skill of saying "no" in a polite and diplomatic manner.

Option: Ask for requests via e-mail. There are two main reasons why e-mail is such an effective tool to protect the person who can't say no to others.

- It is too easy for someone to make a verbal request of the business leader in the spur of the moment. The leader who wants to be everyone's friend has difficulty saying no face to face to the individual, even when they know that they probably shouldn't get involved. Asking for an e-mail puts responsibility on the person asking for help.
- When someone sends you an e-mail, it allows you to consider the request in a calm environment away from the individual.

2. Can't say no to yourself – The classic serial entrepreneur has great difficulty limiting himself or herself to the project at hand. These business leaders are constantly spinning new ideas and new ventures and seeing opportunities around every corner. While these opportunities may be valid, they are not valid all at the same time. The truth of time limits their ability to act on all of their desires. The entrepreneurial type has to recognize that they are causing these problems for themselves when they undertake too many projects simultaneously.

Option: Store ideas away for review. When new ideas come to mind, ignoring them is neither practical nor profitable. However, neither is taking immediate action on every single "next big idea." Instead, store those ideas away in a specific location set aside for just those ideas. But storing them away isn't enough. By implementing a system of regular review, you allow yourself to put off but not forget great ideas. Set a recurring appointment with yourself to review the list and decide if now is the right time to embark on a new adventure.



Guest article provided by:
Dave Crenshaw is an author, speaker and CEO coach. He has appeared in TIME magazine, Forbes, SIRIUS XM Radio, and the BBC News. His first book, *The Myth of Multitasking: How 'Doing It All' Gets Nothing Done*, has been published in six languages and is a time management best seller. His latest book, *Invaluable: The Secret to Becoming Irreplaceable*, is also an organizational behavior and motivational bestseller. For videos and articles from Dave, visit www.DaveCrenshaw.com

Windows XP End of Support!

April 8th, 2014, is a little less than a year from now and Microsoft will end support for Windows XP and Office 2003. This isn't as horrible as it has to be and here's the reason, Windows 7. Although Windows 8 is out and nearly everyone hates it, there are downgrade rights available to continue to use Windows 7, so please don't hold onto Windows XP because of Windows 8. We can help migrate you to Windows 7 and truly enjoy the experience which seems improbable if not impossible. Give us a call today at (314)993-5528.

The Lighter Side: How's Your Job?



Q. How's your job at the clock company?

A. Only time will tell.

Q. How's your job at the banana company?

A. I keep slipping up.

Q. How's your job on the new highway?

A. I'm so busy I don't know which way to turn.

Q. How's your job at the travel agency?

A. I'm going nowhere.

Q. How's your job at the swivel chair company?

A. It makes my head spin!

Q. How's your job at the lemon juice company?

A. I've had bitter jobs.

Q. How's your job at the pie company?

A. It didn't pan out.

Q. How's your job at the balloon factory?

A. We can't keep up with inflation.

Q. How's your job at the crystal ball company?

A. I'm making a fortune.

Q. How's your job at the history book company?

A. There's no future in it.

Q. How's your job at the clock company?

A. I'm having second thoughts about it.

Q. How's your job on the farm?

A. Problems keep cropping up.

7 Reasons Why It's Time To Give Up On Windows XP Once And For All

Although businesses have been getting rid of Windows XP for at least the last 3 years, the fact remains that as of last December, around 500 million users will still be running Windows XP. Here are 7 of the top reasons it's time to finally give up Windows XP now.

1. **Tons Of Viruses.** There is a huge library of viruses aimed at Windows XP and limited antivirus support still available.
2. **XP Is OLD (almost 12 years old!).** The 1st iPod was released the same year as Windows XP. In a world where the 5th iPhone has been released, no one should be left using an O/S that pre-dates the 1st iPod!
3. **Least Secure Operating System (By Far!).** ALL other platforms, including Linux, all versions of Mac OS X, Windows 7 and Windows 8 are more secure than XP by a huge margin. Windows Vista is actually a far safer option (scary!).
4. **Built For A Simpler Time.** XP was created for a simpler world of technology. It was formatted to fit to a screen only 640 pixels wide, and it showcased IE6 as a new product. The internet was a different place when XP was developed. Smartphones were non-existent, laptops were a luxury and tablet computers were science fiction.
5. **No More Band-Aids.** Only so many band-aid fixes on top of each other can be effective.
6. **Support Is Ending.** Mainstream support of XP ended 4 years ago (April 2009) with only critical security updates since then.
7. **Malware Everywhere.** You can continue to use XP, but with more malware than ever. XP is by far the most vulnerable platform to connect to the internet.

XP is a relic from a different world. Use at your own risk.

“Referrals are the lifeblood of all businesses, they turn small businesses into big businesses!”

Each and every day a customer comes in and says “you come highly recommended” or “my friend / co-worker / neighbor told me to just bring it here” Most of you may have referred people to us in the past and I want to personally take the time to thank you for your help and confidence in us. I would also like to take the time to say that we are striving to get better at our service. We would like to get an email address when you drop off a computer so we can email a status report. We have invested in an alerting software that enables us to have a jump on any issues you might have. We are adding new vendors to our recommended list so that we can continue to treat you the way you deserve to be serviced.

Call us today! (314) 993-5528

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