



Innovations

Review Twice, Implement Once. Doing IT Right the First Time.



AN UNUSUAL NEWSLETTER

We all know these are tough times. Not just for business, revenues and cash flow but for our sanity as well. I hope by the time you get this the stay-at-home order will have been lifted and you're able to see your extend family and friends again — or get a break away from your roommate, partner, spouse, kids, etc. (you've probably never spent so much time with them).

Now, more than ever, you not only need to be steadfast in protecting yourself, family, coworkers and clients, but you need to keep a perspective. **A sense of humor is not only needed, it is healthy too.** Are you sick and tired of hearing "This too shall pass"?

We know you've been inundated with emails about COVID-19 this and Coronavirus that as well as a multitude of tips, offers, and platitudes — even CARE Act emails have become a regular staple hitting my inbox. We felt you needed a small break from all the technical information and warnings. **This special edition of our printed newsletter was created to put a smile on your face;** it is mostly humor (or at least we hope you consider it as such).

Don't hesitate to pass it on to brighten up someone else's day. You can also download a longer, color version from our web site at <https://www.bssi2.com/free-stuff/newsletter-archive/>

Wishing you and your family a healthy year,
Scott Bernstein and the BSSi2 Staff



Feeling guilty about your kids watching too much TV?
Just mute it and put the subtitles on.
Boom. Now they're reading.

I made the mistake of telling my husband an early symptom of COVID is loss of smell.
He's take to passing gas in my vicinity and then when I react, informing me he is helpfully "performing a health check".

Eighth day of self isolation and it's like Vegas in my house. We're losing money by the minute, cocktails are acceptable at any hour, and nobody knows what time it is.

In case you've lost track of the days, today is March 187th

We are travelling! Today we visit the kitchen again—the Capital of our House.

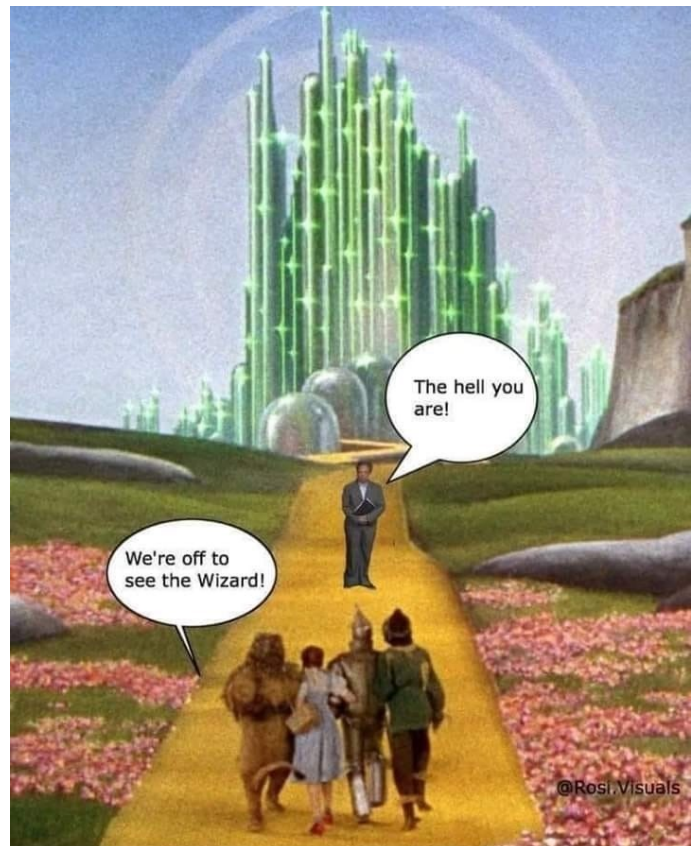
For the third time this week I'm going to buy food for two weeks ahead.



Me Drinking Home Alone in 2019:
Sad, Disturbing, Loser
Me Drinking Home Alone in 2020:
Good Citizen, Inspiration, Hero

We are almost two whole weeks into isolation and quarantine. But it breaks my heart to see my wife staring at the living room window and at the sky crying her eyes out. I'm thinking very hard how to cheer her up. Someday I'll be able to let her in the house, but rules are rules!!!

EXPERTS RECOMMEND
TRYING TO STICK TO YOUR
NORMAL DAILY ROUTINES.





Can we uninstall 2020
and install it again?

This version has a virus.

CRITICAL ADVISORY

9pm is now the official
time to remove your day
pajamas and to put your
night pajamas on

Be like DARTH Vader



- Wear a mask
- Doesn't visit his son and daughter
- Socially and emotionally distant
- Follows orders

boredpanda.com

My new social distancing outfit just
arrived from amazon



boredpanda.com

WORK FROM HOME TIPS FROM THE BSSI2 STAFF

With COVID-19 closing many workplaces people are grappling with the challenges of working from home for the first time. But at BSSI2 business is as usual - we've been a virtual company since our inception. Below are tips we've gathered from our team to help you create a more balanced and productive work from home experience.

CREATE AN OFFICE SPACE

Shannon suggests finding a quiet designated space with limited or NO distractions. If you don't have the square footage for a designated office create a tiny separate space using room dividers, drapes, or something similar. Ben agrees, noting that an area free from distraction can help focus on tasks at hand.

If you're in a dark room and/or basement, consider adding plants and/or natural lighting lamps to brighten your space.

Beside a work spot your work supplies are equally important. Invest in a good chair, you'll be in it all day! If you like to move get a standing desk or convertible desk. Make space for your writing implements, your phone, your snacks, your coffee, etc.

DON'T CROSS CONTAMINATE

That easy chair or recliner or such might seem like a tempting place to set up camp. Rich, one of our newer work from home converts, says 'Don't Do It'. That's your normal relaxation area. You're going to want to preserve that later. Right now, you'll get distracted because that's where you normally go to "NOT WORK". After a month or two, you'll be looking for a new spot to "NOT WORK."

Learn to Define When You're "AT WORK" and "NOT AT WORK"

Living in your work area, and vice versa, those lines can blur. When those lines blur, after a while, everyone starts to suffer. You, your work, your personal relationships. Trust us, it can take over everything both ways. Learn to set boundaries between work and life.

DON'T GET TOO COMFORTABLE

When you're at home, it's easy to think how great it'll be to work in your pajamas. Do it for a week and get the novelty out of your system. After a week, you may start to see your professionalism slip. Be aware of this. You don't need to dress in your business best, but definitely put some pants on, especially if you video conference. This also ties into setting boundaries. Give yourself a chance to have a mindset of working when you're at work. It'll help stave off the distractions of everyday life. It'll also help redefine those moments when you're not at work, so you can put your full focus at that.

KEEP A ROUTINE

One thing that all of our employees said was find ways to maintain your routine. Get up like you did. Do your morning grooming. Use that time you'd be commuting to work to check Facebook and YouTube and then start and end your work day when you normally would. Scott N says that setting up a schedule, especially an end time, is really important.

A routine is a healthy habit for permanent work-from-homers, but it's also equally as important for temporary situations. When this is all done and over and we can return to our offices, the transition won't be as bad.

SET BOUNDARIES - TIME

Get up and walk away. Seriously. Get up and walk away every so often. Get some sun, get some air. Take 15 minutes. You'll come back with a clear head. When working from home it's easy to lose track of time. If needed set an alarm to remind yourself to take a break, or schedule like an appointment in your calendar.

SET BOUNDARIES - FAMILY AND PETS

Dogs, cats, and kids bring a whole new distraction to the 'office', especially during video calls! Trying to talk on the phone while the dog is barking can certainly test one's patience. Scott B tries to keep his dog out of his work area by closing the door during meetings. On the other hand, cats often want to lay on or in front of keyboards, Jennifer finds having a cat bed right next to her work PC as well as a nearby cat tree helps prevent that issue. Kids (and even spouses) are a whole other issue. Having a visual cue that lets them know you're on the phone/video can help curb interruptions. An 'In a Meeting' sign on the door, a special light at the corner of your desk, or letting them know every time your headset is on you're unavailable can help minimize unnecessary distractions.

When you take your breaks away from your computer spend some of that time lavishing attention on the other members of your household. Take a few minutes to play with your dog, pet your cat, and checking in with your spouse and/or kids. Not will it give you a moment to relax and connect with those most important to you, but it makes them feel seen and can limit later interruptions.

COMMUNICATE

Creating a company policy on communication is huge. If your company doesn't have one, ask for one. Making sure that everyone isn't overwhelmed with notifications/alerts or calls that tend to stack up as a result of not being in an office. Defining when to check emails can help open up space to complete tasks and retain focus.

TAKE TIME TO HAVE FUN WITH YOUR COWORKERS

Virtual communication can feel cold, impersonal, and like you only speak with people when they need something from you. Keep the work relationships healthy by socializing. At BSSI2 we have Slack for work communication, but we also have share work-related humor and stories. We used to get together in person for meetings followed by a fun team-building event. With COVID-19 in place we've taken to doing bi-weekly Friday virtually Happy Hours. But something as simple as just checking in to say 'hi' can go a long way to keeping a friendly atmosphere when not physically in the same office.

RELAX

Most of all realize you're going to make mistakes, ignore advice, and will need to experiment to find what works for you. Don't get too down on yourself, we all did the same thing when first starting at home. And remember, 60-80% of the people you're speaking to on the phone are in the same boat as you. Be patient with longer phones and slow email replies.

This too shall pass. A lot of us want to plan for the future. Don't get too worked up, this will hopefully be over soon and life will go back to what we jokingly call normal. This will be over before we know it. And who knows, maybe you'll find a new favorite way to work.

I'm in a WFH meeting and my Google Home just answered a question someone on the video call asked, unprompted.

I nearly jumped out of my skin.

Every WFH meeting so far:

"I'm sorry, you go..." "no, sorry I-" "Well what I was sayi-" "I'm sorry, were you saying something?" "Go ahead, no sorry, you go..."

5 voices speak at once

suddenly no one speaks

****SLOW PORTAL ZOOM INTENSIFIES DURING AWKWARD SILENCE****

#COVID19

WORKING FROM HOME: THE ONLY TIME IT'S APPROPRIATE TO CALL YOUR COWORKERS 'CUTE'

Now that the coronavirus has people working from home, our pets are pretty psyched they get to spend more time with us. Some Twitter users have been asking their followers to tell them what their furballs are doing, but everyone had to refer to them as their 'coworkers' - here are some of the answers:

- My coworker keeps licking my laptop while making direct eye contact with me.
- My coworker is now following me everywhere I go, even the bathroom, I'll be letting HR know in the morning.
- My coworker screamed at her reflection in the mirror and then threw up on the floor.
- My coworker pees everywhere, won't stop begging for food, and cries when I leave the room.
- My coworkers just stare at me until I do all the work.
- My coworker is humping a throw pillow.
- My coworker woke me up by sitting on my face.
- My coworker was called into HR for biting another coworker.
- My coworker decided to nap at his desk which like, fine, but now he's talking in his sleep.
- Not one but two of my coworkers have been napping on the job, It gets tiring pulling all of the weight around the office!
- My coworker keeps climbing over the back of my chair and sniffing my ear.

TWEETS ABOUT WORKING FROM HOME (WFH)

This AM, WFH and prepping for 5 meetings:

Me: I don't have to put make-up on! Camera's pretty blurry, no one's gonna see this nose zit.

First meeting:

Coworker: There's something stuck to your nose. Is it food?

Subsequent meetings:

Me: Yes, it's a zit, let's move on.



A funny thing about quarantining is hearing your partner in full work mode for the first time. Like, I'm married to a "let's circle back" guy — who knew?

My wife works from home full-time, but I remember the day I realized she was the "one more question" person at the end of meetings. I was shook.

Day 3 of WFH and my family started screaming while I was in a meeting and my coworker remarked: "Now I understand why you prefer to go into the office everyday."

DO NOT APOLOGISE WHEN YOUR PETS JUMP INTO THE FRAME ON ZOOM CALLS. Was just in a conference with the CEOs of a major US org and Muffin jumped on my lap and the whole conversation stopped, IS THAT A CAT, SHOW ME THE CAT!
Everyone needs cats in these trying times.

Me thinking my mic is off: "why is she still talking I thought this was over"

My teacher: "friend you might wanna mute yourself"

Contrary to popular belief,
Duct Tape is **NOT** the solution
to **EVERY** problem!



If 2020 was a shirt



We all have Schrodinger's Virus now

Because we cannot get tested, we can't know whether we have the virus or not.

We act as if we have the virus so that we don't spread it to others.

We have to act as if we've never had the virus because if we didn't have it, we're not immune.

Therefore, we both have and don't have the virus. Thus Schrodinger's Virus.

**CHUCK NORRIS HAS BEEN
EXPOSED TO THE CORONAVIRUS**



**THE VIRUS IS NOW IN QUARANTINE
FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS**



Cobra Commander
@CobraCommander

Free facemask with every
enlistment. COBRA!



8:00 PM · 3/30/20 · Twitter for iPhone

Moment of silence for the people who agreed to live with lousy roommates because they "wouldn't be spending much time at home anyway"

Due to fear of getting coronavirus, I will not be having a girlfriend at this time. That is the only reason! Please, do not believe rumors that "no one is interested in me."

Knock knock.

Who's there?

No one because we're isolating.

Ran out of toilet paper and now using lettuce leaves. Today was just the tip of the iceberg, tomorrow remains to be seen.

If you had to sacrifice one Harry Potter character to end the Coronavirus right now who would it be, and why Dolores Umbridge?

Day 6 without Hockey: Dropped a biscuit this morning while heading to the dinner table. Son went to grab it and I checked him into the wall. Wife put up her hand and called boarding. Now I'm in the closet for 4 minutes.

History essays in 2053: "Explain the use and role of memes as coping mechanisms during the Coronavirus Pandemic of 2020."

Watching the US Government handle COVID-19 is like watching the Ministry of Magic handle Voldemort's return.

As a lifelong hypochondriac, watching everyone freak out over coronavirus makes me feel so seen."

I put on a pair of real pants today (with like a button and zipper) and I can't tell if the waistband feels tight because
A) I've gained weight (a definite possibility) or
b) because I've been wearing pajama pants for 10 days straight and just forgotten that this is how real pants feel.

There is going to be a lot of pressure over the next few days to talk to friends and family. Fight it. Stay positive.

Day 20 of social distancing: Struck up a conversation with a spider today. Seems nice. He's a web designer.

Social distance like you're a regency couple that dare not be closer than 6 ft
least you give into your feelings and embrace, thus ruining your reputation beyond repair



Quarantine day 13: The car has 29,833 parts



and now I seem to have misplaced my 10 mm socket



Monday you can
stay indoors.
Tuesday, Wednesday,
stay indoors.
Thursday stay indoors
instead.

Its Friday, stay indoors.

April 2020



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Shiny New Gadget of the Month

NexOptic DoubleTake Binoculars



Being stuck inside is a good time to take up bird or neighbor (*just kidding, please don't spy on your neighbors*) watching! Binocular technology has remained the same for a long time – and for good reason! It works well. But now, one company has decided to bring binocular optics into the 21st century and give it a technological makeover.

NexOptic's DoubleTake blends binoculars with common smartphone technology. With 10x digital zoom and a wide field lens, DoubleTake delivers outstanding 4K video and high-resolution photos. Plus, it's packed with a powerful imaging processor to ensure your videos and photos look fantastic every time, and its compact size makes it ideal for travel.

DoubleTake's battery provides three hours of continuous use, meaning it will last most people several days or more before the next charge. Images are saved to an onboard memory card and can be sent over WiFi to your phone or other device for easy sharing or personal use. Learn more at NexOptic.com/doubletake.



"I either need a shorter title or a longer desk."

Follow BSSI2 at:

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The Pets of BSSI2

Meet Scott Bernstein's dog:
Farley is a radical. He does not like to follow rules.

