

## What's New

### VOIP Phone Service

As we've met with our clients over the past few months, we've heard more and more concerns about costly phone bills. We've been testing a cutting-edge solution over the past several months and have found one that meets our extremely high standards. We are now offering this to our clients, as a way to see an average 40% cost savings on their monthly phone bill. If you want to be one of the first to experience this savings, call quality and ability to use cutting-edge features, just give us a call at 503-601-4335.

## June 2016



This monthly publication provided courtesy of Chris Benson, Owner of AlwaysOnIT.

"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!"



# Shadow IT: Ignore At Your Own Risk

**I**t's one of those little secrets that nobody wants to talk about...

The term "Shadow IT" refers to apps and devices used at work that operate outside your company's sanctioned policies and protocols.

Shadow IT takes many forms, like conversations on Facebook Messenger, Google Hangouts, Gmail or Skype. It can include software from Excel macros to cloud-based data storage apps such as Dropbox, Google Docs and Evernote. Or collaboration spaces like Slack, Asana and Wrike. And then there are devices: USB sticks, smartphones, tablets and laptops within your network that you have no control over.

Robert J. Moore, CEO of RJMetrics, relates how companies like Slack and Dropbox craft their pricing models to encourage rapid proliferation. One day, a few of his engineers were using Slack, then all the engineers, then the whole rest of

the company was using it. He said, "We reached a point of no return and paying for it was pretty much our only option."

**The hidden dangers of shadow IT**  
When users on your network adopt apps and devices outside your control, protocols aren't followed, systems aren't patched, devices get infected without people knowing it and data breaches happen... As a result, confidential information can be exposed, accounts taken over, websites defaced, goods and services stolen, and precious time and money lost.

Not only that, you end up with siloed information in unknown places, data compliance issues and missed opportunities for bulk pricing.

The obvious solution would be to crack down and forbid use of all but company-approved devices and apps. Unfortunately, that tends to slow things down, stifling

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productivity and innovation.

**Bringing your shadow IT out into the light.**

Obviously, burying your head in the sand won't make the problem go away. Here's what you can do to not only take control of the situation, but actually use it to drive innovation and agility at your company.

**Cut loose the "control"**

**mentality.** It's no longer feasible to simply ban certain apps. If you don't give employees the software they prefer, they June start using their own. They can easily access a vast and growing variety of apps, all without your help - or control.

**Recognize the delicate balance between risk and performance.**

Evaluate risk on a case-by-case basis. Then take control of high-risk situations and keep an eye on the rest.

*"Take control of high-risk situations and keep an eye on the rest."*

**Foster open communication.** Get employees involved in creating intuitive policies. You can turn them from your greatest risk to your greatest asset by leveraging their input and ownership of protective protocols. This helps everyone maintain security while keeping practical needs for performance in mind.

**Develop a fully tested plan.** Even if it's only 70% complete, a tested plan will be far more useful when the need inevitably arises than a 100% complete plan that's not fully tested. Most managers underestimate the confusion that occurs in the first few days following a breach.

Unfortunately, that confusion can create a defensive rather than constructive atmosphere centered on discovering how, when and where the breach occurred. A comprehensive incident response plan can go a long way toward achieving a speedy resolution, and keep an otherwise

manageable event from turning into a full-blown business crisis.

**Finding the right balance**

Focusing only on security and asset protection can drag down business performance quickly. However, balancing risk with performance enables you to maximize your return from investments in detection and response. It also helps you become more adept at adjusting as the security landscape changes. By developing your organization's ability to recognize threats and respond effectively to incidents, you can actually take risks more confidently and drive business performance to a higher level.

AlwaysOn IT can help you with this. Our proprietary Data **Security Assessment** helps you take the friction out of data protection. Contact us today at 503-601-4335 or [feedback@AlwaysOnIT.com](mailto:feedback@AlwaysOnIT.com) to take advantage of this offer (normally \$500), FREE through the end of June, and put an end to Shadow IT in your organization finally and forever.

**Free Report Download: What Every Small Business Owner Must Know About Protecting And Preserving Their Company's Critical Data And Computer Systems**



**You Will Learn:**

- 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 off-site backup service.
- 3) Where many backups fail and give you a false sense of security.
- 4) The #1 cause of data loss that businesses don't even think about until their data is erased.

**Claim Your FREE Copy Today at [www.AlwaysOnIT.com/12facts](http://www.AlwaysOnIT.com/12facts)**

## Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:



### What If Your Smartphone Had Wings

Video streaming from the air is about to get a whole lot more affordable.

It just so happens that the brains, gyroscope, GPS and camera aboard all those new drone cameras you may have seen can also be found in your smartphone...

Slip your smartphone into a PhoneDrone Ethos, and you have your own flying camera at a fraction of the cost of a fully equipped camera drone.

Worried about your smartphone taking a hit in the event of a crash landing? For about \$50 you can buy a cheap smartphone with all you need to fly the Ethos.

Built-in mirrors enable you to shoot down, forward or to the side. You can preprogram it, or fly it manually from the ground. You can even control it with an Apple Watch.

It's scheduled to start shipping in September 2016, and "early-bird" discounts may be available at [xcraft.io/phone-drone](http://xcraft.io/phone-drone).

## Separating Yourself From The Start-up Pack

Many of America's favorite companies began as a small start-up.

Ben & Jerry's sold ice cream out of an old gas station when they first opened in 1979. Mark Zuckerberg created Facebook in his college dorm room. Starbucks started with just one location in Seattle, Washington.

The ability to scale up is a defining trait among businesses that want to move ahead of the start-up pack. To do that, companies must learn how to lose the start-up mentality and focus on a few key areas.

### Building A Great Team

Nancy McCord, chief talent officer at Netflix, said, "The best thing you can do for employees – a perk better than foosball or free sushi – is hire only 'A' players to work alongside them."

Top talent likes to work with other top talent. Create a culture where team members challenge each other, learn together and propel the company forward. If your top talent is too busy managing disengaged, subpar workers, the work will get old very quickly. No one wants to go to work and babysit fellow team members.

To create a team of top-tier talent, focus your energy on engaging current members and improving the hiring process. Create a company scorecard for job candidates. Outline the type of person who excels in the position and the character traits they must possess. If an applicant doesn't meet the criteria, politely decline to pursue them further.

### Choosing The Right Strategy

Your company's strategy is the roadmap that

tells you how to get from where you are to where you want to be. It's the defined path that your start-up will take in order to grow and become a leader in your industry. You should live, breathe and make decisions based on this strategy.

This requires more than just vague goal-setting. What matters most to your organization? What's your mission? All of these should be taken into consideration before you pick a strategy. Once this strategy is established, your senior leadership should meet weekly to discuss its progress.

Include your entire team in the execution of the strategy and educate them on the "why" behind it. Each employee should have a solid knowledge of the company values, foundation and proposed direction of the company. This transparency will also aid in retaining the top talent you worked hard to recruit.

### Improving Your Cash Flow

Your cash conversion cycle (CCC), or the amount of time it takes for a dollar spent to make its way back into your bank account, is one of the most important metrics to watch while scaling your business up. Growth requires money, and the faster you scale up, the more money you need. Learn how cash flows through your organization.

Scaling up is possible, but it takes focus and dedication to these three areas. Every industry-leading company started somewhere, and there's no reason why your organization can't be next.



Andy Bailey can cut through organizational BS faster than a hot knife through butter, showing organizations the logjams thwarting their success and coaching them past the excuses. After all, as he tells his clients, 100% annual growth is only 2% growth every week. It's not easy. But possible. Andy learned how to build great organizations by building a great business, which he started in college then, grew into an Inc. 500 multi-million dollar national company that he successfully sold and exited. He founded Petra to pass on to other entrepreneurs, business owners and leaders the principles and practices he used to build his successful enterprise, which are rooted in the Rockefeller Habits methodology.

## Client Spotlight: Catena Consulting Engineers

As a long standing client of AlwaysOnIT, Catena Consulting Engineers has been through a number of major technology upgrades. Keeping their technology current allows Catena Consulting Engineers to bring their expertise to their clients while trusting that their hard work is protected and available for years to come. Would you like your company highlighted here in our "Client Spotlight"? Then give us a call today at 503-601-4335.

## Imagine just taking a pill to acquire a whole new skill set.

In *The Matrix*, Neo opens his eyes after being programmed and tells Morpheus, "I know kung fu." According to futurist and world-renowned inventor Ray Kurzweil, conversations like that will actually take place within the next 20 years. By implanting blood-cell-sized, cloud-connected nano-robots into the brain, humans will be able to literally download any skill set or body of knowledge from the cloud. Sound far-fetched? Scientists are already helping Parkinson's patients, using a pea-sized implant connected wirelessly to an outside computer. And Kurzweil has a 30-year track record of accurate predictions - including a little thing we now know as the World Wide Web.

-Inc.com

## Hootsuite, Buffer...or both?

Keeping in touch with new and

current customers via social media can suck up your time. Social media apps Buffer and Hootsuite both aim to help you achieve more impact in less time. So which one is right for you? While Hootsuite offers a full-featured social media dashboard, Buffer focuses simply on prescheduling your content. When it comes to managing posts and tracking which ones perform best, Hootsuite is the way to go. Yet Buffer gives you more timing flexibility by allowing you to pick when your posts get published, regardless of when you add them to the queue. Choose either of these apps based on your posting and tracking needs - and consider using them both.

-MarketingLand.com

## Which app best helps you take notes on the go - Google Keep or Evernote?

Google Keep runs faster with a cleaner mobile interface than

Evernote. It also wins on consistent quality of search across devices. Where Evernote shines is in its ecosystem of third-party integrations that add cool features. And its Clipper extension makes it easy to save web pages from Android or iOS directly into Evernote. So which app is best for you? If you just want to make quick notes on the go and share them easily, go with Google Keep. Plus, it's free. If you want a deep database of notes, lists and web content with lots of features, even if you have to pay for it, go with Evernote.

-CIO

## Facebook wants to help you blow up your business.

The Facebook Ad platform can work wonders when you apply these principles: 1) Have a strategy. Don't make the mistake of diving in without knowing how the money you put in will actually pay off. 2) Remember "T-O-M": TARGET the right audience with a great OFFER wrapped in a compelling MESSAGE. 3) Write great copy. Start with an engaging headline, keep your text simple and straight to the point. Make it easy to grasp and end with a clear call to action. Facebook ads give you access to the world's largest audience - over 1.5 billion at last count... And one good ad could make a world of difference for your business.

-Forbes

## Who Else Wants To Win A \$25 Gift Card?

The Grand Prize Winner of last month's Trivia Challenge Quiz is Paula at BPN! She was the first person to correctly answer my quiz question from last month: **How many dimples are there on a regular golf ball?** a) 336 b) 294 c) 418 d) 377

The correct answer was **a) 336**.

Now, here's this month's trivia question. The winner will receive two tickets to Cinetopia.

**Amazon was not the name Jeff Bezos originally selected for his Internet start-up company in 1995. What name was his first pick?**

a) Kagera b) Bookmeister c) Juggernaut d) Cadabra

*Call us right now with your answer!*  
**503-601-4335**