Section 179

Most people, including me, think of Section 179 as some mysterious or complicated piece of tax code.

The bottom line is that it is important that you understand what this specific code means for your business because you may be missing out on big deductions.

Computer equipment and software are included in the Section 179 deduction! Now is the time to get that network upgrade planned out before you run out of time.

Give us a call to go over any upgrades or new equipment you've been considering.

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

Our Mission: To leave those we encounter better than we found them.

Our Vision: To become the company that others use and an example of world class service, community support, and giving.

How The Cloud Could Have Averted Disaster For Hundreds Of Companies Affected By These Catastrophes

Two months after hurricanes Harvey and Irma wreaked havoc on coastal cities, large swaths of the United States are still reeling from their impact. In their wake, the nation has been moved as we witness numerous communities unite to rebuild, finding their bearings among the millions of dollars of flooding damage and rampant destruction. Though the wonderful people of these cities will persevere, these wounds will leave indelible scars on the affected areas.

Even with the concerted efforts of thousands of volunteers and community members alike, Russel Honore — the former Joint Task Force Katrina commander — told the FOX Business Network that an estimated "40% of small businesses don't survive" widespread natural disasters like hurricanes. Part of this is due to raw damage, lack of proper insurance or business infrastructure simply being washed away in the flood. Other businesses can't afford to hemorrhage money as they wait for the electricity grid to come back online, and are forced to shutter operations for good.

However, what is even more commonly fatal to companies both big and small is the loss of vital data. Many businesses can handle cleaning up flood damage, and they regain their footing quickly after a natural disaster. Still, if on-site servers, computers or network infrastructure soaks up the brunt of the water, then it's going to be difficult, if not impossible, to get the company back to a pre-disaster point. If a company's main server fails, it can mean *thousands* of hours of hard work down the drain, the loss of most clientele and hundreds of hours of downtime spent desperately trying to recover key data, which usually remains lost forever.

But if, prior to catastrophe, a business has migrated their precious data to the cloud, they're going to have a much easier time getting back on their feet and going straight to work. Even if an entire business is leveled, with cloud computing, employees can easily access the data central to the company's operation and keep it afloat in the interim.

Most cloud services back up your data with several levels of redundancy, making it almost impossible to lose it all, regardless of what may come. Whether it's earthquakes, hurricanes or solar flares, you can rest easy knowing that your data is safe and sound and ready for you to access it. It's a much safer, more secure way to go than having a server lurking in your back office, where it's far more exposed than you might think.

This principle applies not only to environmental disasters, but to numerous other ways companies lose data each and every day. Whether it's a disgruntled employee damaging or stealing precious data, or a hacker snaking their way deep into your systems and holding them for ransom, it's all too

> **"The cloud sidesteps these concerns almost entirely, guarding your data behind highly secure cloud-based computing solutions and providing you with numerous backup options."**

easy to lose localized data. Some business owners feel uncomfortable holding their data off-site, citing security concerns, but it's quite the opposite: the cloud sidesteps these concerns almost entirely, guarding your data behind highly secure cloud-based computing solutions and providing you with numerous backup options. Not to mention, according to a 2012 Alert Logic report, "on-premises environment users actually suffer more incidents" than those that use the cloud, and also suffer "significantly more brute force attacks compared to their counterparts."

While it's true that not *every* business is right for the cloud, it's certainly something business owners should look into if they want to ensure the longevity of their company. If you're interested, give us a call.

Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:

Security Cameras Just Got Cheaper

The average American household is packed to the gills with expensive electronic equipment and a startling amalgamation of pricey knickknacks, so investing in home security is an attractive investment. And these days, you don't have to shell out a sum equal to the stuff you're protecting to get peace of mind.

Take the Kodak 180-degree Panoramic HD WiFi Security Camera, for example, a high-end security camera you can pick up right now for just under 70 bucks (regularly priced at $149.99). Place the camera anywhere in your house, and it'll automatically record motion-triggered video clips straight to the cloud with its 180-degree lens, accessible on any Internet-enabled device. The camera uses wide dynamic range to automatically adapt to changes in lighting, ensuring that it doesn't miss a thing. Perhaps best of all, you can check in on the camera's feed at any time, streaming its HD video straight to your phone or computer.

Update on Bad Rabbit & KRACK

In the past week two new threats are making the news when it comes to Internet security. I've outline both threats below and what steps have been taken to ensure your network remains protected against these new threats.

Malware: Bad Rabbit

This week a new wave of data-encrypting malware was discovered in Eastern Europe causing havoc at train stations, airports and news agencies. While the primary targets are still overseas a "vaccine" has already been discovered and deployed to all clients in our normal maintenance process.

WiFi Flaw: KRACK

You may have seen an article about the recently discovered vulnerability in WPA2.

At this time, Microsoft has fixed the issue in their operating system and has released an update, which we have deployed as part of our normal maintenance process. Updates to Apple, Android, and iOS devices will depend on the various phone manufacturers, along with Google and Apple. While I don't have a timeline on this, the WI-FI Alliance says major platform providers are aware of this issue and have already started to deploy patches to their respective platforms. **There is no sign that this vulnerability has been exploited maliciously at this time**.

Introducing AlwaysOnIT's 'Secure Staff' security awareness training

These two threats are making the news because of their potentially large impact. The news doesn't routinely mention the countless other threats discovered daily that can compromise your business with a simple click of a mouse by an unsuspecting employee. Every day, phishing emails are sent to businesses like yours in order to trick your employees with the intent to infiltrate your network, steal information, or hold your precious data for ransom.

Research shows that ongoing security awareness training can help lessen the chance of your organization falling victim to a cybersecurity breach.

We're rolling out a security awareness program that provides ongoing end-user testing and training for you and your employees.

How it works is pretty simple:

1. We send out very realistic looking 'phishing' emails to you and your staff, designed to trick users into doing things like opening an attachment, clicking a link in an email, or entering their login information in an online form.
2. If a user falls for the trap, instead of something 'bad' happening, they get directed to a short 1-3 min training video that alerts them to what went wrong and how to avoid falling victim to a similar scam in the future.
3. You can even optionally require a short quiz to have the user demonstrate what they learned from the training.

We will provide reports to you showing how your organization fared in the testing.

If you have 20 minutes I'd love to tell you more about this new end-user security training, give us a call and we can schedule a time that works best for you. Or you can book directly on my calendar: bitly.com/ChrisBenson

◼ Here's A Perfectly Legal Way To Save A Bundle Of Money On Taxes, Computer Hardware And Support … But You Have To Act FAST!

When you're running a small business, you need to stay abreast of every possible

money-saving strategy. That's why, this year, you should look into the Section 179 Deduction small-business tax incentive. Section 179 allows a business to write off an entire equipment purchase for the year it is purchased, rather

than writing a portion off for the next few years. According to the website for the deduction, "all businesses that purchase, finance and/or lease less than $2 million in new or used business equipment during tax year 2017 should qualify" for the deduction. The only stipulation is that the equipment purchased must be "placed into service in the same tax year that the deduction is being taken." This has the potential to save small businesses thousands of dollars. Just make sure that the equipment is both

purchased and put into service by the end of this year, December 31, 2017! *Section179.org.*

◼ 3 Ways Technology Can Increase Your Home's Value AND Save You Cash at the Same Time

Implementing tech upgrades into your home — taking one more step toward the coveted "smart home" — can be a good time, but beyond that, it'll save you precious time and money every day. With smart lighting, you'll never accidentally leave a light on again, which will save you a lot more than you might think over time. If you have a smart thermostat, you'll have that much more control over the temperature of your home, easily making adjustments with the touch of a button and reducing heating and cooling bills. Not only that, but more permanent installations like solar panels can drastically increase the value of your home while reducing your carbon footprint and your utility bill at the same time. Smart homes may seem like a luxury, but in fact, they're a lot more cost-effective than they appear. *inc.com 8/21/17*

Who Else Wants To Win Movie Tickets?

The winner of last month's drawing was Toni P of Portland!
The correct answer was **D) 1859**

Here's this month's trivia question.
The winner will receive 2 tickets to Cinetopia.

What is Oregon's state fish?

A) Rainbow Trout B) Chinook Salmon C) Steelhead D) Bull Trout

Email your answer:
trivia@alwaysonit.com
Correct answers will be entered into our monthly drawing.
Drawing held on November 20th