technology
times

What are the business benefits of adopting new IT?

When disaster strikes, recover your business in a new office in just minutes!

Rectify these 5 Wi-Fi issues with ease

Keep cybercriminals from attacking your business printers with these tips

Velocity Technology

When disaster strikes, recover your business in a new office in just minutes!

An office fire, burst water pipe or a typhoon could destroy your current office. Get back into business immediately by utilising a flexible office facility that provides you with office space to work from in the event of a disaster. There are 3000 office locations to choose from, across 900 cities, in 120 countries!

There are two options for your Workplace Recovery Office:

The Dynamic Option

- Recover your business to an available office space within your city
- Office space is available 24x7 for your use during an emergency event
- 30 recovery days are included per year, covering single or multiple events
- Two annual test days are included per location
- Business grade wireless and wired Internet access is included
- Managed telephone system with Direct Dial In number included
- Printing and photocopying included
- Discounted meeting room access (charges apply)
- Discounted on-site video communications (charges apply)

The Reserve Option

- Dedicated office space is available for you to use immediately in a selected office
- The office is available for you to use 24x7x365
- Custom IT & telephony requirements are available as options
- The office can be preconfigured and be used to store equipment
- This office can be used for other business needs (eg. sales or executive office)
- Unlimited recovery days per year
- Unlimited test days per year
- Business grade wireless and wired Internet access is included
- Managed telephone system with Direct Dial In number included
- Printing and photocopying included
- Discounted meeting room access (charges apply)
- Discounted on-site video communications (charges apply)

Contact us for full details of all the inclusions in the above options.

Keep cybercriminals from attacking your business printers with these tips

It's easy to overlook printers when implementing a cybersecurity strategy, as they may seem safe from cyberattacks. But in reality, many hackers these days exploit certain printer vulnerabilities to gather information about businesses or even infiltrate their systems without anyone noticing. Protect your business printers by following these tips.

What makes business printers vulnerable to cyberattacks?

When assessing network security threats, companies primarily focus on servers and computers not only because these are the most exposed to external threats, but also because they get the bulk of cyberattacks. Printers are often at the bottom of the list since they are not prime targets. What's more, their functions seem to be internal at first glance, as they don't interact with external systems.

But it's exactly because of their primary functions, namely printing and scanning, that make print devices perfect cybercriminal targets. Businesses run important documents such as tax forms, employee information, medical records, and financial statements through print devices — information that hackers would definitely love to get their hands on.

And they can, easily.

Network printers store previous print jobs in their hard drive, sometimes including those that have been canceled. If anyone accesses the printer — even remotely — they may be able to see those documents by hacking into the printer using a specialized tool.

Files can also be intercepted during wireless transmission, as modern printers can now be connected to the web. Not only can hackers exploit printers' open network ports to view data, but they can also take over vulnerable printers and transmit their own data through these machines.

Lastly, hackers can exploit vulnerable printers to bypass your cybersecurity system. Once they find a way in through your printers, crooks can then launch broader cyberattacks from within your network, which can be difficult to contain.

What can you do to protect your business printers?

Business printers should not be disregarded when planning a cybersecurity strategy. Keep your print devices secure by following these best practices:

1. Monitor your network surreptitiously and always promptly install printer software updates and patches. Printer manufacturers often release software support or updates, so always be on the lookout for those.
2. Change the default password and administrator login credentials of printers with web management capabilities.
3. Allow only company-owned devices to connect to your printers.
4. Always connect to your printers using secure connections. Conversely, avoid accessing your printers through a public internet connection.
5. Restrict printer access by using a firewall.
6. If your wireless printer has a feature that requires users to enter a PIN before they can print documents, enable it to prevent unauthorized access.
7. If you don't use your printer for fax and email, isolate your printer from your main company network and disable out-of-network printing.
8. If you handle classified data, do not connect your printer to any network. Instead, connect it directly to your computer using data cables or print from a thumb drive.
9. Secure your printouts by enabling manual feed. This setting requires a user to manually input paper (or any material to be printed on), reducing the risks of the printed document getting stolen or being left in the printing area.

Another way to secure your printers is by partnering with an IT company that can take care of your printer-related worries. From thwarting attacks to reducing management costs to keeping your printer at optimal functionality, our experts can help.

Are you interested in learning more about cybersecurity? Call us today and discover how our wide array of tech services can safeguard your business.

Rectify these 5 Wi-Fi issues with ease
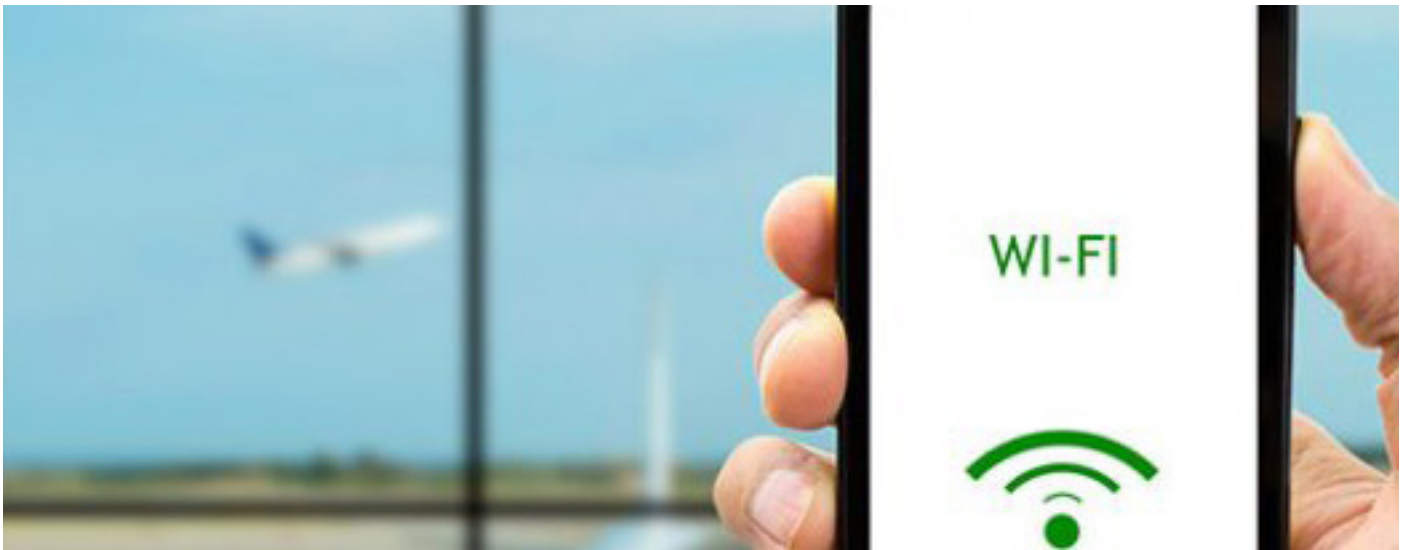
Your business has spent a lot on Wi-Fi routers so your employees can collaborate instantaneously and access files seamlessly without your connection faltering. But when your Wi-Fi starts acting up, resist the temptation to smash your router. Instead, try these simple troubleshooting techniques.

Range constraints

Wi-Fi works via radio waves that are typically broadcast from a device known as a router. To avoid a weak signal in your office, make sure that your router is placed in a centralized location and not hidden in the farthest corner of your facility. The Wi-Fi antennas must also be either in a fully horizontal or vertical position for optimal signal distribution.

Note that Wi-Fi range constraints can also be due to interference, so if your office is situated in a highly populated area, try changing your router's channel.

Slow internet speed

Despite having high-speed or fiber optic internet, slow load times can still occur from time to time. To eliminate this, try the following:

- Place your router in the same room as your computers.
- Add more routers to better accommodate a high number of connected devices.
- Limit the use of bandwidth-intensive applications and websites such as Skype, Dropbox, YouTube, and Facebook.
- Disable your router's power-saving mode.
- Create a new router channel to avoid network bottlenecks.

Connection issues
It can be frustrating when the Wi-Fi network shows up on your device but you just can't seem to connect to it. To solve this issue, try these fixes:

- Determine whether your Wi-Fi connection or internet

service is the problem. To do this, plug in an Ethernet cable directly to your laptop. If you get a connection, then the issue is on your end.
- Reset your router. Use a paperclip or a pen to hold down the reset button for about 30 seconds.
- Reboot your device.
- Call your internet service provider if none of these fixes work.

Unstable connection

Random Wi-Fi connection drops can happen occasionally. If this is a constant nuisance in your office, try moving your router to a different spot or room. Avoid having multiple routers in the same location as well, as this can confuse your device.

Network not found

Your Wi-Fi network may not appear on your devices if your router is glitching. To fix this issue, try disconnecting the router from the power source and waiting at least 30 seconds before reconnecting it. You may also need to check how old your router is. If it's more than three years old, then that may be what's causing the connectivity problems. Replacing your router with a newer model should solve the issue.

Implementing these tips will help you avoid serious downtime caused by Wi-Fi issues. However, if you prefer to have a dedicated technology provider handle these for you, give us a call and we'll be happy to help.

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Web hosting: A brief overview

Creating an online presence usually starts with building a website, but to access your website on the internet, you need to partner with a web host. This blog post breaks down the basics of what business owners need to know about web hosting.

What is a web host?

A web host sells or leases memory space on its servers so your website can have a virtual location on the internet. Their services include online storage for all of your site's files and web pages.

Many web hosts also offer domain name hosting, which creates a web address that users can type into a web browser to access your website (e.g., google.com, inc.com, etc.). Combine these two hosting services and you have the main foundations for your website.

You can also get domain-based email addresses (e.g., robert@acmeenterprise.com) and website databases from web hosts. Essentially, your web host can store everything your website needs.

When you sign up with a web host, you will usually pay a monthly fee, which the company uses to maintain and invest in new servers for hosting, increase access speeds, and provide better services.

What are the two most common types of web hosting?

There are hundreds, if not thousands, of web hosts around the world, but they usually fall into one of two categories:

- **Shared hosting** – Multiple, different websites are stored on one physical hosting server. Sites have their own partition (section of storage) that is kept separate from other sites on the same server.

- **Dedicated hosting** – One website is hosted per server. This means you have all of the server's capacity to yourself.

Which hosting type is best for my business website? Most websites use shared hosting because it's more affordable while still offering generally stable access and access speeds. This is the ideal hosting type for most small- and medium-sized businesses with fairly simple websites.

If your website is going to be large (e.g., thousands of pages) and you are going to host complex features like advanced eCommerce, streaming, communication portals, and other web applications, then it would be best to opt for a dedicated hosting service. Examples of large sites include Google, Amazon, and government sites, among others.

With numerous web hosts out there, selecting the right fit can be quite challenging. But with our IT expertise and solutions, we can help you find the web host that will work best for your business needs. Contact us today to get started with your online presence.

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What are the business benefits of adopting new IT?

Keeping up with changes in business technology can be difficult for small- and mid-sized businesses like yours. However, upgrading your company's technology is something you can't afford to put off or ignore completely — not if you want to stay relevant and competitive. Here's what you'll miss out on if you don't adopt new tech.

Better efficiency

Implementing new technologies introduces more efficient, flexible ways to carry out tasks, thus streamlining business processes. For instance, Voice over Internet Protocol phone systems and instant messaging apps enable your team to get in touch with one another, as well as with clients and business partners, whenever, wherever, on any internet-connected device. This makes relaying critical information much quicker and easier.

Similarly, business process management solutions automate repetitive tasks, like those involved in accounts payable processes. With automation, your staff saves time and effort and can focus on other, more important tasks.

Ability to address remote and hybrid work challenges

Many businesses are still struggling to cope with the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, including how to manage remote and hybrid workforces. These issues can be addressed by implementing modern communications and collaboration solutions. Such tools allow entire organizations to stay connected and on the same page. Managers can check in on employees, and coworkers can call or message one another regarding projects they're working on together. Teams can also share documents and edit these at the same time, if needed. Additionally, they can use collaboration tools to set and track task progress so everyone's always kept in the loop.

Increased employee engagement and retention

Issues with technology, especially if these happen frequently, hamper employee productivity. They also lead to poor employee engagement and experience. Over time, minor inconveniences like computers that constantly freeze or web browsers that take ages to load can add up and create discontent among your staff.

Equipping your team with the latest hardware and software enables them to perform tasks smoothly and efficiently, without having to worry about the headaches associated with outdated technology. This also shows that you are invested in their comfort and employee experience, which increases their morale as well as their loyalty to your company.

Reduced costs

New technology pays off in the long run. The savings you will make from not having to constantly have your tech fixed or suffer productivity-draining downtime will far outweigh the costs associated with implementing new equipment and solutions.

If you invest in the cloud, you can enjoy even more savings, as doing so eliminates costs related to managing your own hardware such as maintenance and utilities. Such expenses will all be shouldered by your cloud service provider, so you no longer have to worry about budgeting for them.

Regardless of your business's size and industry, there's no doubt that new technology is critical for its growth. However, you need to ensure that any new hardware or software you decide to adopt is aligned with your company's needs and goals. You must also make sure that it's properly implemented so that you can make the most out of it. Our experts can help you do just that — drop us a line today to find out how.

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Velocity Technology is the right choice as your technology partner as we cover all areas from secure computer network design through to implementation and managed support.

As new technologies are established Velocity Technology will be able to design IT systems that will enable you to leverage technology to make your business perform better and enhance the usage of technology for all of your staff, wherever they are located.

Contact us today to find out how we can help your company to be more secure and effective.