



Happy Labor Day!

microTECH Times

Covered I.T. 24/7—Never Worry Again!



Address Storage Issues Before Your Systems Decide To Protest Against Your Workday

One of the most aggravating error messages to see on your computer screen when you are hard at work and cannot save anything you've just completed is "Insufficient storage available..." One common cause for this is a shortage of space.



Do you know how much storage you have? If you use a computer, tablet, or smartphone you can probably tell when your storage is filling up to fast. The first few signs to watch for are poor performance, display problems, and of course low-storage warnings.

When your server joins the picket line.

Last month a new prospect called in for technical support frantically explaining how they couldn't save or retrieve anything on their server. They started their work day without a worry in the world, but in an instant productivity came to a screeching halt. Thankfully, we were able to work with them to quickly determine the problem. Their server actually ran out of storage completely, so no one in the office could save anything on the server at all.

A storage shortage.

Tower computers and laptops are a big concern for those who use them for work daily. There is nothing worse than technical woes stalling productivity. Before it's too late, check your tower or laptop storage with these three easy steps: 1. go to "My Computer", 2. right click on your "C Drive", 3. then click "Properties"

This will give you a pie chart showing exactly how much space you've used and how much space is still available on your machine.

What about my iPad or iPhone? To check the storage available on your favorite Apple devices, simply open the "Settings" area, tap "General" and look at the "Usage". From there, you can quickly determine the apps that are eating up space. Delete unused apps and alter your storage plan if you need to increase your storage.

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A COVID Positive

If traffic remains 50% lower for a whole year, about 500 million animals will be saved. According to a report by the University of California, traffic fell 73%. Collisions with deer, elk, moose, bears and mountain lions fell 58%. Each year about 200 people die in car crashes with animals, according to the National Traffic Highway Safety Administration. I guess the stay at home orders are saving more than just human lives. What a great positive from COVID.

Dog Days Of Summer!

While new regulations have been unforgiving this summer, the "Stay at home" orders have been offering some great benefits we really didn't expect.

Another perspective on staying home...

Coronavirus lockdowns have been good for animals. Wild animals and even domestic animals have had a good couple of months with a dramatic drop in deaths on the road and more time spent with their domestic pets.

A study by the University of California

analyzed roadkill data for California, Idaho, and Maine, states that have excellent wild-life collision data. Deaths of deer and moose dropped from 40% to 50% in all three states. Deaths of California mountain lions on the road fell from two deaths a week to less than one. That could add up to saving 50 mountain lions this year.

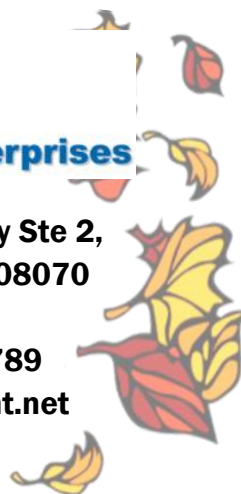
That is good news for animals and good news for people, too. Each year

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Address Storage Issues...

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Android storage check. Android devices are just as easy to verify. From the “home” screen, press the “Menu” button, then select “Settings” and then “Storage”. You may see a few items here, an SD card and/or phone storage. You will be able to review the space remaining on each.

Quick storage tip. Keep in mind, storage is often filled quickly with media files like pictures, videos, music, or large documents. If you’re looking to save a little extra storage, try transferring these files to an alternate storage device or cloud storage system.

Check annually. Remember, your devices don’t come with infinite storage. The truth is, most people don’t even know they are dangerously close to maxing out their memory or storage capacity until it is too late and they are unable to run the programs or save items needed. So, check your computer, server and devices annually to ensure you are always ready for your workday.

How can you tell if your server is low on storage? There really isn’t a quick method to determine the remain-

ing storage on your server. You must login to the server to assess the situation at hand directly. You can determine the usage of the directories in your server by viewing the root directory with the proper permissions and commands. Yeah, hahaha... that was me trying to be smarter than I actually am. So, if you’re anything like me and the word directory seems like a bad word, give us a call. Our brilliant technicians are standing by ready to geek out on your server so you can get back to what really counts, your business.

Don’t wait! If you are concerned about storage at all, just call.

Give us a call for your Network Assessment. We will review your servers and computers before your storage protests. After your Network Assessment, we will present you with a full report of our findings, possible vulnerabilities and your current standing on storage. We will even recommend our best solutions to keep your company running smoothly.

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The IRS Won’t Call You About Your Stimulus Money!

Boy, scammers are in seventh heaven with all the upheaval in the world. They are really pulling out all the stops to swindle people. Take a look at these top

Phishing scams and stay safe online.

The IRS won’t call you! They

are having enough trouble staffing their offices and processing returns. They won’t call about your stimulus

money or SBA loan. Phishing e-mails and phone calls are on the rise from

hackers trying to steal information.

Be aware of these fake scams.

The FTC reports over the past month have revealed an influx of work-at-home scams, fake e-mails about fake COVID-19 funding, Coronavirus testing or treatments, and even donation sites to support others through these difficult times.

Keep your staff informed. Share the www.consumer.ftc.gov website with your friends and family so they know what types of scams are circulating. This site has a lot of information on how to recognize the warning signs and keep your company safe.

Not sure what your looking at?

Sometimes scams do look familiar or legitimate. If you don’t know what you’re looking at, don’t click on anything. If there is a phone number, call. If it’s a contact you don’t recognize, delete the message and move on.

Tired Of Charging Cables Failing You?

How annoying is it to plug in your phone and discover that, once again, the lightning cable doesn’t work?

Constantly replacing these things can get expensive, not to

mention inconvenient. So, when you do shop for a new charging cable you have a choice between an Apple (\$29) and a non-Apple cable (\$15). Are Apple cables really that much better? Yes, and no.

Good lightning cables are MFI certified. Bad lightning cables, without certification, may really never work. In a ZDNet test, of cables priced under \$10, they found that 15% of the 27 cheap cables tested just never worked even right out of the box! Don’t waste your money. These cables were easily damaged from being bent or twisted and the connectors fell off easily. Five of those cables had USB connectors that didn’t even fit right to charge the devices they were made to aid.

Go for better quality.

Of the cables on the market, good alternatives to the more expensive Apple cables generally come from Amazon, Anker, Monoprice and Nomad, according to zdnet.com. Go for quality and save a little cash.



Dog Days...

(Continued from page 1)
about 200 people die in car crashes with animals, according to the National Traffic Highway Safety Administration.

Domestic animals.

As the world continues to evolve due to COVID, our pets are just soaking up our love. With more people working from home many have said that they truly love working along side their pets and are committing to making a few changes when they do start going out for work again.

A whole new normal.

A recent article by Banfield Pet Hospital explained the impacts best with these facts:

- ◊ 47% of pet owners are committing to spending more quality time with their pets.
- ◊ 1/3 of pet owners believe their pet has been happier and/or more playful during the quarantine.
- ◊ 21% plan to adjust their schedules to be home more often.
- ◊ 10% are even looking to adopt another pet.

Self-care & pet care.

So, while you're trying to keep your sanity with good self-care, take a closer look at your pets care as well. It may help you both be just a little happier.

What Happens When Critical Cell Networks Fail?

On June 22, with most of the nation quarantined and watching anxiously as demonstrations troubled the cities, a cellular circuit in the Southwest failed. What does this mean for you and your business?



A service outage to remember.

That one failed circuit took down a fiber provider, which overloaded T-Mobile's network, and took down voice as well as data for all its customers for 13 hours. That started a rumor of about cyberattacks. Then, as customers across the country complained on social media, sites like Downtdetector threw up scary maps of mass outages.

An alien invasion? Maybe the NSA was shutting down communication? Was it Antifa? Were the Russians coming? Or maybe China? Nope, none of those things. It was that bad circuit. T-Mobile eventually said engineers were working all night to solve the problem. The resulting false posts and crazy memes sparked something of a panic. According to the Claims Journal, the situation exposed a critical shortcoming in the nation's information grid.

There's no central site for outages. Sites like Downtdetector.com are helpful,

but they rely, in part, on data gleaned from online information. The status reports available on Downtdetector, and like sites, are from a series of sources including public submissions, websites, mobile applications, and even social media.

Could government or protestors shut down cell service? It's never been used, but the president does have the power to order a full shut down of cell service. In order for the president to shut down cell service, he or she would have to invoke the Civil Insurrection Act, which gives the power to order cell service providers to shut down. On the other hand, while it is a federal crime, organized protest groups could disrupt cell service with jamming devices as well. Such devices are easily purchased and deployed.

The Federal Communications Act could also provide an exception for police during emergencies. Technically, police could go to cell providers and say the emergency requires services to be suspended. That has never happened, but this is also a possibility. Imagine a life with no cellular service!

Turn On Multi-factor Authentication Or Risk A Breach

If you don't turn on multi-factor authentication (MFA) on your electronic devices and accounts, a crook might do it for you. Then you are in for a world of hurt.

Hijacked accounts are on the rise.

Here is what can happen with a hijacked Xbox, according to Krebs on Security. As soon as a hacker gets your password (you might have used it elsewhere?), they turn on MFA and associate a new e-mail to the account. That means without the hacker's permission, you can't change the password anymore. Recovery codes won't help at this point and you are completely locked out.

Meanwhile, the hackers may be buying stuff from your associated account while you try to figure it out.

Support may not even help. They won't turn over an account to someone who can't provide the second factor when MFA is enabled. The only person who can is the person who setup the MFA and has control, the hacker. In one case, Microsoft Level 3 support did solve the problem by helping create a new account, enabling MFA and then migrating the profiles. Please don't rely on getting a technician to work on your accounts that can pull this off... it is rare.

Our best advice? If you use the same password across multiple sites, enable MFA immediately. It could save you a ton of time and money in the future. While MFA may take a little longer when logging in, it's definitely worth the time to have a greater blanket of security for your devices and accounts.



“We make all of your computer problems go away without adding additional full-time I.T. staff!”

Ask about our fixed price service agreements — Computer support at a flat monthly fee you can budget for, just like payroll!

Inquiring Minds...

“I’ll Have A Latte And A Security Breach Please.”

You might think that morning latte at your favorite coffee shop is a leisurely perk of working at home. You can get out of the house, sip some freshly brewed espresso and get some work done. Be aware, while you are at it you could expose your company to a multi-million dollar computer fraud scheme.

Coffee shop and cafe unsecured Wi-Fi networks rank number one in the list of the most dangerous places to log on according to a 2018 survey by iPass. They found that 81% of security respondents saw security incidents during the year and 62% occurred at cafes and coffee shops. The next most dangerous places to hop online starting with the greatest risk first are airports, 60%, hotels, 52%, train stations, 30%, exhibition centers, 26% and lastly in flight Wi-Fi hotspots are at a staggering, 20%

Security experts recommend using a secure VPN. Numerous Virtual Private Network connections are available including, ExpressVPN, NordVPN, and Surfshark. If you’re worried about connecting to an unsecured network and need a VPN for your business, give us a call today. It’s better to be safe than sorry.

Working at home presents completely new experience for many workers. Despite years of companies experimenting with telecommuting, nearly 49% of workers say they are working at home now and it is an entirely new experience, according to a study by Morphisec. Here’s one of the study’s findings that should send shudders through tech departments; 56%

are using their own personal computers and 23% don’t know what security they have in place for their devices.

Accelerated trend. According to Morphisec, the covid crisis accelerated a trend already in place. One study by Flexjobs, said the number of remote workers grew 159% between 2005 and 2017. Between 2014 and 2019, the number grew 44%. One study by Owl Labs, found that 56% of global companies already allowed their employees to work from home.

Now working at home full-time. The difference is that before covid, the 51% of employees who worked remotely mainly did so occasionally. In the Morphisec study, 45% said they worked at home just one day per week pre-pandemic. Just 24% said they did so twice per week, and 31% said they worked from home more than twice per week before the crisis.

Get the tools and support you need. Regardless your schedule working in or out of the office, keep us in mind. We can help you obtain the tools you need to access your network from anywhere and maintain your network security too.



**WORK AT HOME
ONLINE MEETING**



**#STAYATHOME #STAYSAFE
#STOPCORONAVIRUS**



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Happy Labor Day! **Are You Ready For The Next Phase?**

Labor Day is just around the corner. So, we wanted to take a moment to honor all the essential and non-essential workers around the world; thank you for your time and commitment. These times are tough and have pushed us all into a new norm. Working at home, on the go, or even struggling with PPE requirements is hard. Keep your network in tip top shape so you don’t have to worry if everything is going to work when you need it.

Worried about storage, struggling with network access, or maybe you’re just concerned about infections. Give us a call today for your **Network Assessment**. We will review your entire network and offer suggestions to ensure your business is ready for the next phase; secure, accessible and running smoothly.

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