IT Radix Resource

We make IT Work for You

How Does Your Technology Grow?

Good Fences Make Good Neighbors

We all have heard the expression "Good Fences Make Good Neighbors," but what the heck could that possibly have to do with computers? Well, by definition a fence is "a barrier enclosing or bordering a piece of property, used to prevent entrance." In the context of your network a "fence" sounds an awful lot like a firewall.

We don't think enough people worry about or even understand their network firewall—that lonely device, diligently standing guard at the perimeter of your network, keeping out the bad eggs of the cyber landscape. As a matter of fact, not all companies are even using a proper firewall. This always concerns us. That Internet router you received for free with your cable Internet or that you picked up at the local electronics chain store likely is falling short of being a proper fence for your well maintained network garden.

A proper firewall takes my garden fence analogy to quite an extreme. In reality the Internet router you bought at the local office supply does function as a fence and does keep the baddies out…to an extent. So, if a regular old router functions as a fence, what does a firewall do for you? Imagine for a moment if your simple little garden fence was monitored by airport TSA agents. Now we're talking! Everyone that tries to get into your garden is stopped, searched, questioned and identified before they are allowed in. That is exactly what a firewall is doing…inspecting every single packet that comes through it.

Firewalls often provide additional functionality as well. Most can scan for viruses in downloads and email. Some will provide content filtering and monitoring to help you take control of the web browsing happening on your network. Or even provide virtual private network (VPN) access for your remote workforce. So, now we have a little garden fence, manned by TSA agents, with keycard access, video monitors, voice recognition and lasers. That's some fence!

We can't forget about mending our fence either. All firewalls are regularly updated. New firmware is an essential part of maintaining your firewall. As new threats are discovered firewall makers release updates for their products to protect you from those threats. Think of it as ongoing training for those TSA agents you have working on that fence.

When it comes to protecting your garden, why settle for just a simple garden fence. Don't your vegetables deserve to be protected by super cool lasers?

Are you still on the fence? Like a good neighbor, IT Radix is here to help you build and maintain good, secure fences!

In This Issue

If you would rather receive our newsletter via email, sign up on our website or send an email to resource@it-radix.com
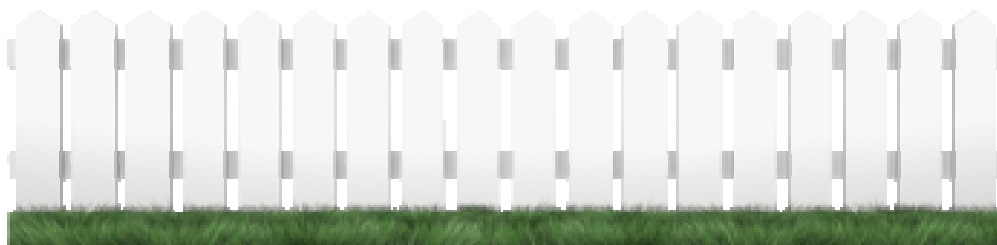
Proudly folded & stuffed by Park Lake School

SPECIAL OFFER

Sowing Seeds of Security

Sign up for a year of Data Loss Prevention software during the months of **April, May** and **June**, and get 2 months free. That's 12 months for the price of 10!

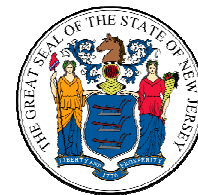Call IT Radix today to learn more about protecting your data.

Look What's on the Horizon at IT Radix!

IT Radix has lots in store for our clients in the coming months. Make plans today to set aside time to participate in one (or all) of the following events:

June 11 - Lunch'n'Learn
Power Up PowerPoint

June 26 - TAB/Sandler Trade Show
Opportunity Knocks

Aug 13 - Client Appreciation BBQ
Howdy Partners

Oct 2   - Lunch'n'Learn
*Up Your Communication Quotient
with Tommy Hilcken*

For more information and to register, visit us at www.it-radix.com/events.

Our Beloved Garden State

New Jersey is known for its nutrient-rich soil, thus the nickname, the *Garden State*, fits it like a glove! Gardening glove, that is! As a matter of fact, agriculture is New Jersey's third largest industry; and New Jersey ranks second in the country in production of both culinary herbs and blueberries. Seventeen percent of the state comprises farmland—nurseries, vineyards, orchards, and produce/livestock farms. It's not surprising that the center of New Jersey's coat of arms includes three plows that symbolize agriculture.

There's a bit of controversy over how New Jersey got its nickname. Abraham Browning of Camden is commonly given credit for coining the term in 1876, when he compared New Jersey (which was then 2/3 farmland) to a big barrel, open on both ends, from which Pennsylvanians and New Yorkers gobbled up the state's agricultural bounty. However, Benjamin Franklin is also credited with a similar comparison of New Jersey to a barrel tapped at both ends. Either way, New Jersey has its roots in gardening!

Today, although highly urbanized, New Jersey still provides a diversity of natural regions—sandy coastal zone, wooded Allegheny zone, and the Pine Barrens in the south. New Jersey's state flower and tree are the violet and red oak, respectively.

We may be a bit biased, but we sure do love our Jersey tomatoes and sweet corn! IT Radix agrees—*New Jersey and You…Perfect Together*!

Our Clients Say:

"As a garden needs the rain to grow and gardeners to tend to it to flourish, so too do companies need qualified IT professionals to tend to and maintain their software and computer infrastructure to keep it flourishing, operational and bug free. The superior support we get at A-L Services from IT-Radix does just that and more. Thank you for many years of support and help keeping our infrastructure running like a fine-tuned, mowing machine."

Louis Albero — A-L Services

"Farming is a profession of hope."
— Brian Brett

"If I buy a glass, do you promise to use the money to grow the economy, create new jobs, and support green initiatives?"

Cathy's Corner…

Things are looking greener out my home office window—my azaleas are blooming and the wild raspberries are taking over one of the planting beds in the front. Similar things happen in the technology world. New technologies are blooming and pests (aka, viruses, malware, bloatware) are constantly invading our turf and overtaking our computers. We recently posted a video about bloatware and what you can do to help control it on your PC. You can check it out on our YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/user/itradix

As we head into summer, I'm looking forward to enjoying the warm (or maybe hot is a better description) days here in New Jersey as well as other parts of the country. One of my favorites is Vermont where we enjoy time outside, near or in the river. My cell phone still doesn't work too well up there, but they finally got DSL for Internet access. So, I'm able to unplug somewhat while we're there. I actually find the different venue helps clear my mind and recharges me to tackle the challenges of work and home. I hope you have a go-to place that allows you to recharge…if not, find one, even if it's your own backyard! Just like your cell phone, tablet or laptop, everyone needs to recharge their batteries and summer is a great time to do it. Happy summer!