



Nature and Technology

Growing Adaptable Technology

Technology is a moving target, and in a competitive marketplace, having the right tools available can give your company a major edge. Not having that edge, however, can result in your business missing out on potential for new growth—ultimately hurting your bottom line.

The tricky part is that new technology requires a flexibility that isn't always comfortable. It can require extra time for training, involve curbing old habits and reliance on familiar programs, and change how your team's "day to day" runs. Is it worth it for your company to adapt in the long run?

In climates such as New Jersey, where temperature changes greatly in between the seasons, nature changes with it. From a hibernating chipmunk to a squirrel that diligently prepared food for winter, nature has all sorts of tricks for dealing with a shifting environment. Technology goes through seasons of change as well, with the most recent trend being cloud-based platforms. While the "cloud" may sound like yet another winter storm, it has a variety of adaptations to launch your company to the next level.

Like nature, technology is constantly growing and changing to meet the needs of the environment it's faced with. Last year your software, and various applications, may have provided all the tools you needed to tackle your company's goals. Since your business needs and technology are constantly on the move, this year your ideal solution is going to shift too.

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Cloud platforms such as Microsoft Office 365 offer a variety of productivity tools to help you meet your goals. In a fast-paced work environment with a need for collaboration, Microsoft One Drive and SharePoint, for example, provide a way for your team to share resources quickly and access the files they need if they're outside of the office. That way your team is never caught in the cold without their coat on.

Transitioning from the traditional server-based platforms to Office 365 and similar cloud-based tools can be a daunting task—especially when your team is used to accessing the S: drive as opposed to signing into their customized SharePoint. The benefit? It's not nearly as difficult as it seems; and once your team has gone through a bit of training, the additional information, extra features, and high availability of critical resources will keep your company more productive, more secure, and more relevant to your clients.

While it may be harder for some more than others to change gears and learn new technology skills, leveraging tools like Skype for Business and VoIP phone systems (instead of

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What's New

Way to Go Team!

IT Radix has been named to CRN's 2018 Managed Service Provider (MSP) 500 list in the Pioneer 250 category. This annual list recognizes North American solution providers with cutting-edge approaches to delivering managed services.

May 17

Webinar

10-Minute Tech Talk:

How to Avoid a Day of Downtime

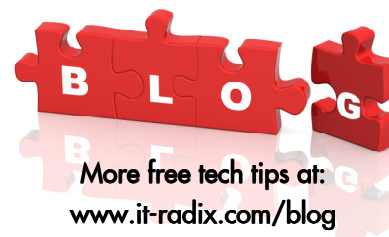
Register: www.it-radix.com/webinar

Starts @12:10 sharp

10 Months of Giving Back - Planting Garden Beds -

IT Radix is celebrating our 10th Anniversary with **10 Months of Giving Back**. This month, we are planting vegetable gardens for the organization Advancing Opportunities.

If you would rather receive our newsletter via email, sign up on our website or send an email to resource@it-radix.com



More free tech tips at:
www.it-radix.com/blog

Is it Time to Migrate?



What exactly is a migration anyway? In the animal kingdom, migration is the large-scale movement of animals from one area or region to another. Most animals, that migrate, do this to survive. Birds migrate south to escape the bitter cold of the north. Monarch butterflies travel so far during their migration that it takes multiple generations to complete the journey.

But what does all this mean for you and your computer infrastructure? In general terms, a computer migration is moving your data or IT processes from one system to another. Moving to a new server, a new accounting application, or even an entirely new system in the cloud are all forms of migrations. And much like our animal friends, migrating is usually necessary for your business to survive. Businesses that don't continue to move their technology forward will often find themselves in a very difficult position in the future—stuck on older technology that is no longer able to keep up. Now in a similar position as the butterfly, a business may need to migrate so far that it cannot be completed in a single step. They may find it necessary to move to some interim solution prior to migrating to the final solution.

So, if migrating is so important for a business, why don't all businesses migrate when they know it's time? We suppose it's because migrations aren't easy. It takes a lot of work and careful planning to get your critical business data moved from one solution to another without completely crippling your business during the process. How long will the migration take? How will employees get up to speed on the new system? Does the old system need to be kept around for a while after the migration? These are all questions that need to be answered when planning your migration...NOT when implementing it.

A mistake we see companies make over and over is treating a migration like a simple upgrade. Upgrades are very different. Upgrades generally do not involve moving data at all and are just installing a new version of a program that has more features, functionality or security. Upgrades are typically lower-risk endeavors with a clear path to revert to the prior state if things go awry. We will admit, the line between upgrade and migration can be a bit blurred at times. Some product upgrades requiring new servers, for example, might be considered migrations.

Make no mistake, if your business uses computers (and what business doesn't), there will be a migration in your future. There must be. Migration is an essential part of your business' growth and survival. When the time to migrate does come, whether it be a new server, new application or an entirely new infrastructure in the cloud, IT Radix will be ready to help with the planning and implementation. After all, your business' survival depends on it.

Growing Adaptable Technology

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needing to maintain an old school PBX) opens the door for unified communication, streamlined task management, and an organization that's much better equipped to handle the uncertain landscape of business with confidence and finesse.

Don't worry, though...we don't expect you to make the jump alone. As your technology partner and advocate, we do consulting best. Give us a call to set up some time for team training or learning about how adopting new technologies can give you that extra edge you need.

*"Sharing is good,
and with digital technology,
sharing is easy."*

- Richard Stallman



OUR CLIENTS SPEAK OUT:

THE BUZZ

"A-L Services and IT Radix go together like Peanut Butter & Jelly, Bread & Butter, and Pencil & Paper. A-L Services only wants the best for our clients. The same goes for IT Radix—they strive for the best for their clients, and we're happy to be one of them!"

Lou Alberio, Controller — A-L Services Inc.

About A-L Services Inc.: Since 1963, A-L Services has had deep roots in New Jersey's landscaping community. They are a leader in landscape design, construction, and maintenance for corporate, industrial, and residential environments specializing in: tree services, turf management, organic waste management, snow removal, planting, recycling, pond and lake maintenance/construction, and pesticide applications.

Go "Green" this Spring Data Breach...A Technology Wildfire



Our community partner, **Green Vision Inc.**, specializes in Electronics Recycling. They are a nationally recognized

501 (c)(3) not-for-profit operation dedicated to providing a supported work environment to students and adults with developmental disabilities. As a full-service electronics dismantler, they offer data destruction and hazardous waste disposal services.

Green Vision teaches their staff how to properly dismantle and recycle unwanted electronics. They challenge their staff with tasks that allow them to use problem solving skills while providing them an opportunity to earn money, learn transferable skills and gain pride in their accomplishments.

Each year over 400 million units of e-waste are discarded. Less than 12% of that are being recycled. With Green Vision and your support, hopefully that recycling number will become much greater.

Green Vision is not only helping members of our community, but they are also helping our planet by providing an environmentally sound, "green" solution to the ever-growing problem of e-waste.

Proudly folded & stuffed by Park Lake School



SPECIAL OFFER

Twice as Nice!

Sign up for a year of Two Factor Authentication during the months of **April, May and June**, and get a **Baker's Dozen**—that's 13 months for the price of 12.

Visit **IT Radix** at www.it-radix.com to learn more about our services

Wildfires are uncontrolled and can spread rapidly—wiping out extensive areas of forest or vegetation land within minutes. According to the U.S. Fire Service, more than 700 wildfires occur every year; and over \$5 billion is spent to fight fires each year. Similarly, a data breach can wreak havoc in a business or organization quickly—often they are undetected initially until the damage is done.



Over 90% of all wildfires are caused by humans. This includes acts of carelessness or negligence as well as deliberate acts of arson. The remaining 10% of wildfires are the result of natural causes. It is the same with data breaches. The majority of data breaches are caused by humans. Causes of data breaches include:

- **Careless security practices** — Allowing users to have more access than is required is like leaving a campfire unattended.
- **Negligence** — Simply not paying attention to identified security issues and addressing them such as replacing end-of-life technology or installing security patches is negligent. Just like you need to put a campfire totally out, you also need to stamp out known security issues.
- **Lack of awareness** — Lack of training and knowledge can lead to inadvertently causing a breach by an employee clicking on phishing emails or opening unfamiliar attachments. Humans use fireworks for celebrations such as birthdays, Christmas, New Year and, of course, the 4th of July without recognizing their potential to cause a fire. Only one stray spark can start a huge wildfire; and because of fireworks' slow burn rate, the remaining pieces can land in unintended places and start fires there. Likewise, it just takes one click to encrypt an organization's data or more. There are cases where a data breach has been undetected for months before coming to light.
- **Deliberate cyber threats** — Hackers attempt to obtain both money and information for malicious gains. About 30% of wildfire events are caused by arsonists. The numbers for malicious data breaches are much higher. Most think of external hackers as the source of these breaches; but quite often, a disgruntled or former employee causes intentional breach or data loss from within.

What of the effects of wildfires? Sadly, the effects are far reaching—the loss of ecosystems and biodiversity, forest and soil degradation, air pollution, destruction of watersheds, impacts to human well-being and health and, of course, economic losses.

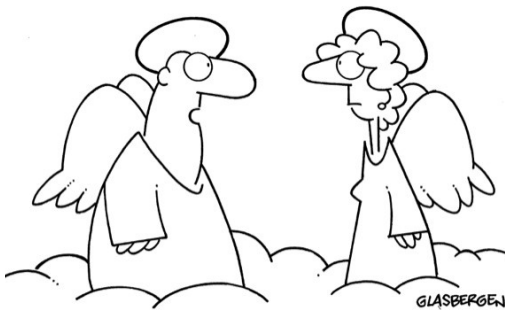
The effects of data breaches are similar to wildfires. After a data breach, many businesses have gone out of business, suffered reputational damage, experienced diminished employee morale, increased stress and, of course, economic loss. The expenses associated with data breaches add up quickly and without proper insurance and protection can be devastating to a business.

The destructive effects of wildfires can be mitigated by responsible behavior to avoid triggering fires. Similarly, you can avoid a data breach by proactively reviewing and reacting to potential cyber risks across the board.

Need help in assessing your cyber risks? Give us a call today.

"Wherever you go, no matter what the weather, always bring your own sunshine."

— Anthony J. D'Angelo



"Wind powered wings for transportation, solar powered halos for light... why aren't they using this technology back on Earth?"

From the desk of: Cathy Coloff
Subject: Nature and Technology—Balance is Key!



I recently took my son to see the movie *Ready Player One* which takes place in the year 2045. It tells of a world where people prefer to spend their time in the "Oasis"—a virtual world where their imagination was their only limit. As I watched, I thought to myself, "Wow, what if this really comes to pass?" There was little to no interaction with nature, no signs of life other than people, no streams or parks. As with most movies, there were villains, heroes, and the like. I won't reveal the story but what was most satisfying to me was that in the end, the heroes intentionally turned off the "Oasis" two days a week to ensure that people connected with each other and the world around them.

Back in the present day, I've tested a few virtual reality rigs. While they were fun, they were nothing close to the "Oasis" and certainly cannot replace the real world. As we've tried to share in this month's newsletter, I believe it's about balance and using technology to improve the world we live in which includes our businesses or organizations. So, I ask: How are you using technology in your personal life to make your home or perhaps the neighborhood you live in a better place? And what about your business? Are you using technology to be more efficient, effective? Perhaps it's as simple as generating less paper waste within your company. I'd love to hear what you're doing.

I, for one, enjoy getting outside with my dog and walking. I often listen to music I enjoy or take pictures of the local red-tailed hawk. I wouldn't be able to do this without my mobile tech on my arm or in my hand—not quite the same as *Ready Player One* but a small step in that direction perhaps.



Environmental Fun Facts!

- Lake Superior is the largest fresh water lake in the world.
- Only about 3% of total earth water is drinkable (the other 97% is salt water).
- An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
- 85% of plant life is found in the ocean.
- The only continent with no active volcanoes is Australia.
- 750,000 gallons of water flows through the Niagara Falls every second.
- Most of the water in households goes down the toilet.

Can Technology Replace Nature?



Since the early 1980s, environmental psychologists have studied the health effects of contact with nature and concluded that humans depend on nature for emotional, psychological and spiritual needs. Communing with nature promotes relaxation and lowers anxiety, stress and depression.

Thanks to the power of technology, nature's relaxing influence can be transferred through sound and video. Technological nature has its benefits, and engaging with it makes us feel good. Sound machines with realistic sounds of nature help many people sleep at night. Many hospitals across the nation are utilizing nature videos to lower patient anxiety and stress while undergoing scans and other stressful medical procedures. Nature videos played in prisons have proven to drastically reduce violence amongst inmates. Studies have also found that watching *Planet Earth* markedly lowers anxiety and that workers in offices with plasma-screen "windows" that play livestreams of the outdoors are happier and more productive than their counterparts working in rooms without any windows at all.

Technology, however, has limitations. Virtual Reality (VR) nature is confined, dumbed-down nature. In the future, those using VR may be able to move around more and even choose their own route through an open VR space. That will allow more degrees of freedom, but still not replace our need to experience nature first hand.

People need to interact with *real* nature. Technological nature should be looked at as a bonus on actual nature—not as its substitute. While impressive, there is a limit to the extent technological representations of nature can provide the soothing, restorative, creativity-enhancing benefits of a walk in the real woods. After all, it's not nice to fool mother nature!