No Need to Fear…IT Radix is Here!

Yabba Dabba Don't

Is your business living in the Stone Age like the Flintstones of Bedrock? While it's humorous to watch Fred and Barney get into minor scrapes and conflicts, we doubt you want your business to go through similar incidents when it comes to your business technology. The risks of living in the technological "Stone Age" with outdated or legacy systems may be costing you more than you realize, and that's no joke.

Most businesses these days need technology to run smoothly and efficiently and be competitive. However, with this technology comes the need for ongoing investment of both time and money to maintain your competitive edge and avoid business disruptions. So, what's the big deal about keeping outdated technology?

Maintaining legacy systems can become both a financial burden and support risk. As time goes on, finding technical support or replacement hardware for older legacy infrastructure can become essentially impossible. There will come a point where you're spending more money to maintain your legacy systems than you would have had you upgraded them initially.

Upgrades can become more difficult. The longer you wait to upgrade makes moving your data or business critical information from one platform to another more difficult and, in some cases, impossible to transfer. Sometimes, user training requirements are greater too.

Security becomes a huge concern with legacy systems. When a system goes off support, the developer of the system stops creating security patches leaving your business vulnerable. Often things like backup and disaster recovery become huge challenges when legacy systems remain in place. For example, Microsoft has announced the end-of-life for Windows 7 on user desktops and Windows Server 2008 on servers. This mean that security patches will no longer be available for both operating systems. Additionally, backup vendors will stop supporting these older operating systems making it impossible to back up your data.

If your business has any compliance requirements, using outdated technology can have serious repercussions. Compliance standards, like HIPAA, PCI, SOX and more, require that your technology be supported. By continuing to use unsupported technology, you could be subject to fees and penalties if you experience a data breach (which are more likely due to security holes in your legacy system).

When you have older systems, the failure rates tend to increase resulting in downtime. As a reminder, downtime means the following costs:

- Expenses for IT recovery and data restoration (if even possible!)
- Dissatisfied customers (who may leave for the competition)
- Lost sales
- Brand/loyalty damage
- Lost employee productivity
- Potential employee overtime costs to meet deadlines after the failure
- Low employee morale and turnover due to stress

Noteworthy

10 Months of Giving Back
As part of our 10 year anniversary celebration, our gift to ourselves in 2018 was to "Give Back" to the community. Each month we contributed to numerous organizations assisting adults, children, animals and the environment. Giving back to the community has always been part of our IT Radix *Core Values* and will continue in the years ahead.

RED Month E-Waste Results
IT Radix collected and properly recycled 1054 pounds of e-waste during our November RED Month.

Future Event
Executive Technology Round Table
Be on the lookout for your invitation.

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

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B L O G

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

Introducing… Matthew Chung

Our newest staff member, **Matthew Chung**, has fond memories of waking up early to watch Saturday morning cartoons as a youngster in the late 90s. The list is long, but some of his favorite cartoons growing up were: *Super Robot Monkey Team Hyperforce Go!*, *Gundam*, *Dragon Ball Z*, *Xiaolin Showdown*, and many more!

Matthew served our country for five years as a Sergeant E5 Light Wheel Mechanic in the U.S. Army. So, if you're having car troubles, Matthew is the man to see. 😉 Matthew comes to IT Radix with several years of job experience in the IT field. While attending Rutgers as a Computer Science major, Matthew worked on Rutgers University's Helpdesk as well as in their IT Department (two separate departments) where he provided a variety of IT support to students, professors, and high-level administrators.

As an IT Consultant at IT Radix, Matthew brings his hard-working attitude to the office as he monitors client servers and uninterruptible power supplies (UPS), configures work-stations, and supports clients with day-to-day issues (both onsite and offsite). Matthew thrives under pressure and enjoys working in fast-paced environments. He enjoys helping our clients and supporting them with their IT needs.

Matthew's favorite quote:
"Success isn't always about greatness. It's about consistency.
Consistent hard work leads to success. Greatness will come."
– Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson

Born in Seattle, Matthew grew up in the northeast (Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts). However, he has strong family ties to NJ and now resides in Edgewater with his girlfriend, Sarah, and 1-year old Yorkie, Sophie. While not working, Matthew likes to stretch his creative side with some drawing, both by hand as well as digital computer art. He also enjoys action-adventure video gaming (PC, PlayStation 4). Ever since Matthew was a child, he has had a passion for cars, probably since his father was a mechanic. He grew up around a lot of iconic Japanese cars such as the Toyota Supra, Nissan GTR (R32, R33, R34), Mazda Rx7, Nissan 240SX, and many more. I guess you can say he has an addiction to speed! On the weekend, Matthew and Sarah love to go on "unplanned adventures" where they just hop in the car and see where the day takes them.

Matthew's personal philosophy: There is more than one path to success.

Welcome!

A warm welcome to our newest **Management and Support** clients:

AA Electric Southeast Inc.
Boffa & Company
Preferred Home Health Care
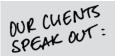Prime Pensions, Inc.
Tronex Company

Remember, IT Radix is here to service all of your technology needs!

Yabba Dabba Don't

(Continued from page 1)

Another problem with outdated technology is that "old" and "new" technology often don't work together. By using older technology, you cannot take advantage of new or advanced capabilities. This potentially limits your business' mobility, scalability and growth. Even if you're not staying current with technology, it's likely that your competitors are—this puts your clients and revenue at risk.

So, while Fred Flintstone's "foot-powered" car is great for driving around Bedrock, we encourage you to review and plan your technology upgrades today. If you need help getting out of the Stone Age, give us a call. We'll help you stay competitive with peak-performing technology solutions for your business success.

THE BUZZ

OUR CLIENTS SPEAK OUT:

"IT Radix has been a partner in our business for almost eight years. Their attention to client service when it comes to addressing our immediate needs is second to none. Our team is confident and happy with the solutions, both immediate and long term, that IT Radix has provided to us."

Sarah Krom, CPA, Managing Partner — SKC & Co. CPAs, LLC

About SKC & Co. CPAs: Located in Boonton Township, SKC's focus is on being an entrepreneurs' accounting firm. For over 30 years, they have been helping clients from a broad range of industries grow their businesses and succeed. Their expertise and passion is evident in everything they do—from their core tax services to their highly specialized offerings.

IT Radix Resource
We make IT Work for You

'Nuff Said!

As Stan Lee would say, "Face front, true believers!"

Cybersecurity can be hard to digest, which is why we're turning to lessons from cartoons to make very technical topics more accessible to everyone. Verizon estimates that up to 90% of data breaches trace back to social engineering related attacks, such as phishing emails and carefully crafted scams.

Cartoons often take a serious message and translate it into a much more digestible format. Spiderman, for example, weaves a web to catch bad guys, much like a firewall or antivirus system would. Superman's x-ray vision would reveal hidden gremlins within your network or malicious links disguised in a phony email.

By cultivating a mindfulness and awareness of the dangers that surround businesses in today's online day and age, we can begin to see potential dangers and address them before data loss or a cyber security attack is executed. Think the next time you're in doubt about an email. Give it an extra glance with your "x-ray" vision. You may be glad you did. Excelsior!

Proudly folded & stuffed by ESC School of Morris

SPECIAL OFFER

¡Arriba, Arriba!
¡Andale, Andale!

Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008 will reach their end of life within the year. Speedy Gonzales urges you to get a head start on the new year by migrating to Windows 10. Our goal is to provide you with the knowledge and support needed for a successful migration.

We realize that every company is unique. Therefore, we are offering a free, no-obligation assessment of your unique environment. Plus, if you let IT Radix help you migrate to Windows 10 in the first quarter of 2019, you'll receive a discount of up to 10% off the labor!

The Jetsons Predict the Future

The Jetsons was an animated, futuristic situation comedy produced by Hanna-Barbera which premiered in September 1962 on ABC and ran for one year. The Jetsons lived in Orbit City, high above the ground in Sky Pad apartments. Besides the family, Rosie the Robot and Astro the dog may be the most well remembered characters. George Jetson's work week was one hour a day, two days a week at Spacely Space Sprockets. Did you know that the show's creators were better than Popular Science magazine at predicting the future?

Here are some of the things that a 1962 edition of Popular Science predicted for life in the year 2000:

- Rocket airliners that transport people all over the world that can take off vertically
- Airborne scooters for transporting individuals to and fro
- Gyrocopters that transport people, running silently and floating overhead
- Rocket-like speed subway travel roaring through plastic tube
- Buildings that would be put together with chemical fasteners instead of nails
- Housecleaning done effortlessly via high frequency sound waves
- Kitchens with solar ovens for use on clear, sunny days…microwaves for the rest
- Jet propelled monorails
- Plastic walled houses, powered by petroleum powered fuel cells the size of desks
- Disposable clothing and durable plastic shoes
- Frozen food that would taste fabulous! (should we stop at that one?)

Alternatively, the creative geniuses of Hanna-Barbera whose job it was simply to create cartoons for fun and enjoyment predicted so many things that have actually come to be. Here is just a short sampling of some of those predictions built into *The Jetsons* cartoon:

- **Large, Flat Screen TV** - In the very first episode of the Jetson, a flat screen TV was displayed…so unlike the big, bulky boxes with tiny screens prevalent at the time.
- **Video Chatting** - Lots of futurists predicted video chatting in one way or another and the Jetsons were not alone.
- **Smart Watches** - One of Elroy's classmates enjoyed a Smart watch way back then!
- **Talking Alarm Clocks** - The Jetsons beds came equipped with alarm clocks built right into the bedposts. A stately English butler voice lovingly invited the Jetsons family members out of their slumber.
- **Roomba Vacuums** - While George and Jane Jetson worked far less than a forty-hour week, they did not enjoy housecleaning. Among the many pushbutton devices available to them was a Roomba-Like device that vacuumed their orbiting abode.
- **Dog Treadmills** - Astro takes a walk in the show's end credits on a treadmill.
- **Digital Newspapers** - George can be seen numerous times reading news articles displayed on his TV screen.
- **Pill Cameras** - Once George is tasked by his boss to have a full physical done and part of that includes him swallowing a tiny robotic pill called the Peekaboo Prober that is quite similar to medical technologies introduced within the last ten years.

So, we applaud the creative geniuses who developed this show with so many predictions about life in the future that came true. They did much better than those scientists! We only wish that the prediction of the Jetsons work week—one hour a day, two days a week—would be true for all of us.

While that is a long way off, we at IT Radix are always here to help you find ways to be more productive and shorten your work week!

> "Your identity is your most valuable possession. Protect it."
>
> — Elastigirl, *The Incredibles*

Saturday morning cartoons and a big bowl of cereal was kid life at its finest.

Check out Jim Hunt at facebook.com/huntcartoons

From the desk of: Cathy Coloff
Subject: There's no need to fear, Underdog is here!

How many of you remember Underdog, the lovable alter ego of Shoeshine Boy, that first appeared on TV in 1964? I didn't know it had been around that long! Underdog would always appear whenever his love interest, Sweet Polly Purebred's, safety was at risk. Rather than waiting for something bad to happen, I'm proud to say that IT Radix takes a more proactive approach to our client's safety.

Many years ago, I listened to *The Checklist Manifesto*; and we apply the lessons learned from this book to all the things we do for our clients. If we do something more than once, we usually create a checklist for it. I believe this practice results in greater efficiency, consistency and ultimately, safety for our clients. For example, we monitor managed client backups daily for potential problems. We respond to alerts for low disk space, failing hardware, software errors and more on a regular basis. Often, this allows us to keep our clients out of trouble altogether. Of course, when trouble does arise, like Underdog, you can hear one of our amazing technical consultants shout out with glee, "When help is needed, I am not slow, it's hip-hip-hip and AWAY I GO!!!"

As we go into a new year, I encourage you to really look around your organization and ensure that you have a checklist or a system in place for all your major business processes. We're constantly doing this from actual technical service delivery to our marketing, sales and accounting processes. I find myself doing the same at home. I have a checklist for stuff that Doug and Alex need when they head out skiing or off to baseball and more. Of course, I've had help from our great team at IT Radix and a professional organizer like Deborah Gussoff...so, unlike Underdog who nearly always caused collateral damage during his exploits, I can happily rest easy knowing that, at IT Radix, we've got the details under control.

Enter and Win Trivia Contest

The first person to send an email to resource@it-radix.com with the correct answer to our trivia question will win a Cartoon Fun Pack.

Q: What year did the Jetsons live in?

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October Trivia Challenge

Q: Which of the following songs was written by the Canadian rock band, Rush?
(Witch Hunt, Pet Sematary or Voodoo Child)

(Answer: Witch Hunt)

Congratulations to Stuart Greenberg of Greenberg & Company recipient of a Trick-or-Treat Candy Basket!

Life Lessons from Cartoons

While Saturday morning cartoons and a bowl of kid-approved cereal go hand in hand, as adults we realize that a bowl of sugary cereal is not actually "part of a balanced breakfast." However, there is some merit to some of the valuable life lessons gleaned from some of our beloved Saturday morning cartoons. Take a walk with us down Memory Lane as we share a couple life lessons reinforced by our favorite cartoon characters…

Teamwork is Critical to Success (*Super Friends***)**
Superman may be faster than a speeding bullet and more powerful than a locomotive, but he still needs his Justice League pals, especially when kryptonite is involved. Superman taught us that fighting injustice in the world was easier with help from his super friends and their unique abilities. The same is true no matter where we are, whether it be at home or the office. Each of us has unique talents and a varied skill set that we bring to the table. We accomplish more when we all work together—we're better together!

Good Morals are Key to a Good Life (*Fat Albert and the Cosby Kids***)**
Hay-hay-hay! There was a time when Saturday morning TV was seen as a values-free wasteland. That is until the mid-1970s when *Fat Albert and the Cosby Kids* made the scene. The show ran for 12 seasons, exploring everything from skipping school and cheating to violence and racism—all good lessons to be had for both young and old.

Contrary to popular belief, cartoons are not necessarily mindless wastelands. Many teach valuable life lessons. We've learned more from cartoons than some commercials like the once popular commercial featuring Mr. Owl who never could tell us how many licks it takes to get to the Tootsie Roll center of a Tootsie Pop…the world may never know.