

Get Outdoors

Securely Surfing the Web

Surfing the web to any number of social media sites, articles, business sites, and content aggregators is pretty much a part of everybody's daily routine. A page catches our eye, the cyber-sun hits the water just right, and we paddle over to explore an uncharted piece of digital sea, trusting our browser and anti-virus to keep us protected.

Much like surfing the web, most users are generally aware to *beware* on the internet. Ads often contain malicious content, downloading a free PDF converter can often summon a storm to your sea and halt your surfing altogether, or even worse, it can lock your whole system up with a nasty virus like ransomware. What's a savvy surfer to do?

First, and most important, is to know the signs. If you were to go to the beach and troubled waters were ahead, you might expect a red flag to warn you of impending danger. The same goes for internet browsing, ads, and new websites that might be worth visiting. A couple red flags to look for are a green (or sometimes grey) lock on the top left corner of your screen, known as the SSL certificate. That means your data won't be easily intercepted and your traffic is secure. This lock is extremely important for any website you intend to spend money on or create a user account with. If that lock is missing, proceed with caution.

After you've confirmed you're on a site with a security certificate, you'll want to make sure the site seems reputable, and they're not asking you to download programs or files with a bunch of pop ups. While sometimes the content you access or download on a site may be safe, it's still a good idea to be wary of ads since these come from all over the internet and chances are no one has checked for the safety of their content. If an add pops up that catches your eye, look up the product name in a new tab first to make sure everything checks out okay.

Now that you know how to spot shark fins beneath the waves, we can consider your surf gear: A secure, up-to-date web browser and anti-virus. An up-to-date browser like Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, or Firefox (Safari is great too, if you're a Mac user) is how you'll want to access the web. These browsers receive regular updates and may even support a browser version of your anti-virus. This way, if you come across a website that's been compromised or has a bad reputation, your browser will have a greater chance of stopping you, or at least bringing it to your attention before you click a dangerous link.

Finally, be wary of unofficial browser plug ins and downloads. Often, you want a feature that's only available through a free piece of software or a browser extension; however, disreputable extensions are a staple method for smuggling malware onto your machine. Only download software from a reputable source and check the terms and conditions! You may only want something to play music on but may be agreeing to run malicious code on your device.

Cybersecurity is always changing, and good web-browsing habits will help maintain your security, performance, and keep your overall experience a positive one. Remember to check the waves, check for red flags, and make sure you're ready to surf with up-to-date software and equipment.

Have questions or want more information on internet security privacy? Let us know!



Hot Topics

Travel Advisory

Make sure network is encrypted. If you're at a hotel or café, confirm that the network is encrypted (i.e., locked and password protected). While online, stay on encrypted channels by using the website prefix *https* (rather than *http*).

September 19

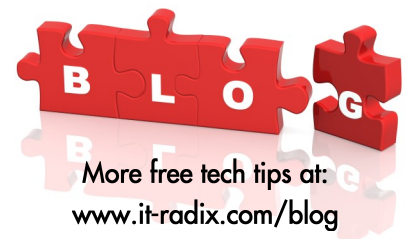
Webinar

10-Minute Tech Talk:
Help! What's my P@5sW#rd?
More details to come

Sailors Take Warning

Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008 will reach their end of life within the year. Be proactive and take advantage of our special offer on Page 3 to ensure smooth sailing ahead.

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



Introducing... Tommy Madsen

One of our newest employees, **Tommy Madsen**, enjoys some outdoor adventures of his own. His most recent excursion was a sailing trip around the British Virgin Islands. "Tom" seems to be a common name around here at IT Radix, but don't confuse Tommy with our Tom and Thomas. 😊

Tommy comes to IT Radix with a Bachelor of Science degree in Information Technology from Montclair State University and over five years of experience working in the IT field. Most recently, Tommy worked as a Senior Project Engineer for an IT managed service provider in New York City where he managed building out new businesses, upgraded servers and network infrastructures as well as implemented new email systems.

As a Senior IT Consultant at IT Radix, Tommy manages server and Office 365 migrations and networking topologies for our clients. His expertise in Windows desktop and server OS, Mac OSX, cloud computing and multiple email and anti-spam platforms are key skills he brings to our team. When overseeing projects, Tommy plans everything in a scalable way because growth doesn't have to be painful. Tommy also enjoys researching new products and technologies for our clients.

Tommy's favorite quote:

"Excess on occasion is exhilarating.
It keeps moderation from becoming a habit."
– W. Somerset Maugham

Tommy grew up in Sparta, New Jersey, but now resides in Morristown with his wife, Annelise. When not working, Tommy mainly enjoys hanging out with Annelise trying out different restaurants/cuisines, going to the movies and spoiling their 4-year-old niece. He is a huge history buff and initially planned to become a history teacher before diving into technology. While Tommy enjoys spending time outdoors running, hiking, and kayaking on the Delaware and Raritan Canal; he also enjoys a leisurely float trip down the Delaware River as well as relaxing with a sci-fi fantasy novel.

Tommy's philosophy: You never stop growing. If you don't know something, learn it!

*All those hours exploring the great outdoors
made me more resilient and confident." – David Suzuki*

No Fear of Feedback

😊 😐 😞 "As much as most of us go on and on about improving ourselves, our work and our businesses, we're usually pretty afraid of actually receiving any feedback. But with the right structure, support and mindset, feedback doesn't have to be a boogeyman—it can be an essential tool to further your success." (Forbes 12/2018)

That's certainly what we believe at IT Radix. And we've implemented a new client feedback system to help us improve ourselves—but we need some help from *you*, our client, to make it work.

Studies show that feedback needs to be easy and routine. We'd love to get consistent regular feedback from you about our work. Our approach is a simple, one-click feedback email for each of your completed service requests.

You have probably already seen our "feedback faces." Each face matches how you feel about the work our Technical Consultant did to assist you: **Delightful**, **Good** or **We Need to Talk**. Click the face that matches your feedback...and, if you have another minute...use the options available to give us more information. We love your comments, suggestions AND critiques!

We're using your feedback to improve services for you, reward our team, and ultimately, to invest in your success.

At IT Radix, *Clients First* is our #1 Core Value! We understand that feedback is what it's all about, and we are committed to listening and taking action.

OUR CLIENTS
SPEAK OUT:

THE BUZZ

"I love the quick response from IT Radix whenever we have a problem or emergency. Whenever I am on vacation, I know that I can rely on them to help my coworkers with their IT issues. The biggest benefit that I have received from IT Radix is always being able to count on them to timely respond to our problems and help us get up and running quickly. I would highly recommend IT Radix."

Jean Trudell — Weir & Plaza, LLC

Something's Phishy!



We sure do miss heading out to a lake, throwing out a line and waiting for a fish to bite. But what really upsets us is how hackers have taken a beloved pastime and turned it into something sinister. That's right, I'm talking about phishing. The hacker practice of sending out carefully crafted email as "bait" in an attempt to get you—the "fish"—to bite. In this case, however, the bite is really you unknowingly revealing some piece of personal information to the hacker.

More often than not, the goal is for you to reveal your login information for your email or some other website. The scary part of all of this is how good the "bait" is getting. Phishing emails look so authentic that even the most discriminating eye can be fooled. So, what's a "fish" to do? You really have no choice but to learn to spot these fakes. Looking for subtle clues: misspelled words, poor grammar or links that attempt to hide their true destination.

Not sure if an email is legit. Let IT Radix help you navigate these treacherous waters.

Proudly folded & stuffed by ESC School of Morris

SPECIAL OFFER



Smooth Sailing Ahead!

Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008 will reach their end of life within the year. Let's get moving early and migrate to Windows 10 to ensure smooth sailing ahead. Our goal is to provide you with the knowledge and support needed for a smooth, successful migration.

We realize that every company is different. 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 before the end of August, you'll receive a discount of up to 10% off the labor!

Paddling Into the Clouds



Did you know that there are six different types of kayaks (depending upon who you ask)? Many might say, a kayak is a kayak, but to someone who is kayaking, the type of boat can make a big difference on the pleasure and ultimately, the success of the experience. The type of kayak you select depends upon the environment in which you will be paddling (e.g., on a river, ocean or lake). Just as there is a kayak for each environment or purpose, there are cloud solutions for different industries and environments.

So, what types of businesses will benefit from the cloud? Like kayaks, it's not a one-size-fits-all model. With the advent of different cloud computing models such as multi-cloud and hybrid cloud, different models of cloud computing may better fit your organizations business needs. Let's paddle over and take a closer look at the types of businesses that may benefit from heading into the clouds.

Businesses that depend on analytics and real-time reporting

Marketing companies, sales teams and financial service organizations rely on data, now commonly referred to as big data, to develop insights into their businesses or their clients' business. Being able to aggregate multiple sources of data and create up-to-the minute reports and notifications is a huge competitive advantage. Cloud application integration and flexible computing resources enable collaboration and highly responsive resources.

Businesses with remote staff or multiple locations

Cloud solutions make it easier to support remote workers by giving access to tools and information remotely which results in productivity gains for all. Similarly, manufacturing and logistics companies can leverage cloud environments by synchronizing data from multiple sources or locations, making it easier to manage diverse supply chains and more. Cloud solutions can reduce capital expenses and slash operating costs that accompany maintaining multiple locations. Cloud solutions can also ease HR, product development and life-cycle management processes.

Heavily regulated business

Industries, such as healthcare and financial organizations, that must follow strenuous regulations have been understandably slow to move over to the cloud. These industries naturally have a fear of public cloud hosting putting their sensitive information at a higher risk of exposure and leaks. HIPAA and SOX requirements likely make compliance in the cloud seem even harder. At the same time, these organizations need to be responsive and adapt with shifting industry regulations which requires agility. Private or hybrid cloud solutions may be just the answer—allowing for more flexible administration and instant access to information such as client records. Additionally, cloud security has increased over the years in response to industry regulations.

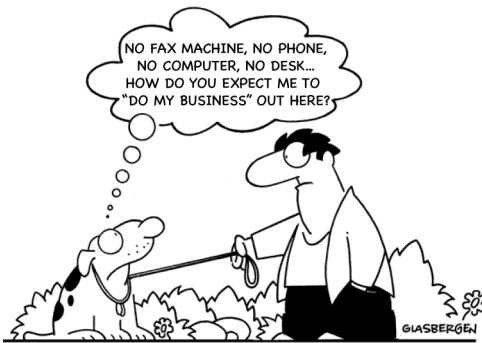
Non-profits or organizations with limited budgets

Non-profits need technology to be efficient and effective at their mission; however, they often run on limited budgets. Cloud computing solutions can level the playing field making way for greater innovation and progress in the not-for-profit arena.

Like selecting a kayak for your journey, the cloud is no longer a one-size-fits-all solution. Cloud solutions are impacting every corner of the business world, including organizations of all sizes, needs and industries. Give us a call today so we can help you identify your unique needs to select the best possible cloud solution.

“The best surfer out there is the one having the most fun.”

— Phil Edwards



From the desk of: Cathy Coloff
Subject: Stay connected with IT Radix



I was recently reminded of the days before high-speed Internet was available everywhere. This summer, on a family vacation in the Sawtooth and Bitterroot Mountain ranges of Idaho and Montana, we visited a gold mining ghost town, rafted the Salmon River, and hiked and rode ATVs in the local area. It was nice to reconnect with nature and a slower pace of life. But even with this, Internet was available—albeit via a satellite dish or perhaps DSL.

At one place, I noticed the hotel manager on the phone with tech support trying to diagnose Wi-Fi issues in the cabins. Cell phone service was intermittent; but clearly, Internet service was important to many of the area businesses. We found our whitewater rafting company on the Internet, and the couple who had recently purchased the business from its previous owner were happy to hear their Internet marketing was working. Others used the Internet to keep in touch with their families throughout the country, order things that they wanted or needed, or in some cases, to manage their businesses remotely.

As we toured a gold mining ghost town, it was hard to imagine what it would have been like to be in the middle of the mountains, away from your family and truly self-sufficient. These were tough people as far as I’m concerned. They used all their resources and ingenuity to survive and thrive. In comparison, I wonder if our ingenuity is being squashed by video games and instant access to information via the Internet.

What do you think? I’d love your thoughts—you can share them on our website blog where this is posted.

Outdoor Fun Facts!

- More than 44 million Americans enjoy fishing every year.
- The fun thing about sports fishing is that for the most part, the caught fish is thrown back into the water.
- Kayaks, the Inuit word for “hunter’s boats,” were used for hunting as they are very quiet making them ideal for sneaking up on prey.
- The fastest and most efficient swim stroke is the front crawl.
- Swim fins were invented by Benjamin Franklin.
- Surfing is one of the oldest sports on Earth. Prehistoric stone carvings in Chan Chan, Peru, dating back 5,000 years show people surfing.

Ah, The Thrill of It All!



Extreme sports are recreational activities with a high level of inherent risk. Many popular extreme sports involve dangerous heights and/or speed. Some examples are bungee jumping, skydiving, rock climbing and base jumping where individuals parachute or wingsuit off great heights...talk about living on the edge! Many assume extreme-sports athletes are irresponsible and possibly suicidal. However, in the last thirty years, adventure and extreme sports have become more and more popular. While participation in traditional team sports declines, climbing, surfing and kayaking have all seen record growth.

When it comes to technology, all extreme sports enthusiasts agree it’s important to:

Stay Connected - Staying in touch from pretty much anywhere is a lot easier these days with the help of a satellite global hotspot. This gadget connects to a smartphone or tablet and allows you to send text messages even when you’re traveling off the grid in remote places. The device provides the ability for others to track your travels online, downloadable local weather forecasts, and a built-in "SOS" button that gives you the ability to call for help should you find yourself in trouble—an indispensable lifesaving tool.

Keep Charged - No matter where you travel today, you’re sure to have a host of gadgets and mobile devices in tow. Keeping those items charged and functioning can be a major challenge, and a portable USB battery pack is a must for travelers.

Capture Memories - Whether it’s extreme sports that you’re into or travelling to exotic locations, a decent camera is a must. Adrenaline junkies would be advised to go for something sturdy but small, so it’s always at hand to capture that once-in-a-lifetime shot.

Life is an adventure...get outdoors and enjoy the moment!