

## Traditions and Technology

### Let's Talk Turkey About End of Life

We are well aware of the late November tradition when the nation's Chief Executive pardons a turkey presented by the National Turkey Federation. The turkey's life is spared allowing him to happily live out his days on a nearby farm. The ceremony traces its origins to 1863 when Lincoln's son, Tad, apparently pleaded with his father to spare the life of a turkey brought to the White House for Christmas dinner. The modern tradition of presenting a live bird began in the Truman Presidency in 1947. It was an effort to conserve grain by encouraging Americans to eat more poultry. Thirty years ago, the official "pardons" began when President George H.W. Bush issued a mock pardon to a turkey presented to him.

As Geoffrey Chaucer penned centuries ago, "time and tide wait for no man." That applies to all living things—mankind and turkeys included. It also applies to information technology operating software as well. Each is faced one day with its "end of life" (EOL). And two major Microsoft operating systems used by countless organizations worldwide are going EOL on January 14, 2020, when Windows ends support for both. They are Windows 7 for user computers and Windows Server 2008 for servers. Every Windows product has a lifecycle. It begins when a product is released and ends when it is no longer supported. In effect, January 14<sup>th</sup> is the expiration date for these two operating systems.

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Users who continue to use unsupported, end-of-life operating systems will find themselves out of compliance with PII, PCI, HIPPA and FINRA requirements.

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What does "End of Life" mean? It does not mean that these operating systems will stop working. However, it's important to note that it does mean that after that date, Microsoft will no longer issue security updates for them. So, when substantial security holes are found after January 2020—and they will be found—Microsoft will neither create nor deliver any updates or patches. Users are on their own and working at a very high risk. Beyond that, users who continue to use these operating systems will find themselves out of compliance with PII, PCI, HIPPA and FINRA requirements. Additionally, these EOL dates often coincide with the time that other software and hardware providers stop supporting users who continue to use these expired operating systems.

So, how does a manager take control of this situation? For Windows 7 computers, the most obvious choice is to move to Windows 10. That can be done either by upgrading the existing PC by purchasing a Windows 10 operating system upgrade and installing it on the machine or by purchasing an entirely new machine. Typically, it makes sense to upgrade rather than replace if the PC is under two years old and is well-equipped with lots of RAM and data storage capacity. If not, purchasing a new PC is the way to go. For servers running Windows Server 2008 operating system, in most cases it makes sense to purchase a new server to replace the current server. But in other cases, organizations might move their

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### What's New

#### RED Month Donations

This year's matching donations will benefit Green Vision Inc.

Check the insert and our website ([www.it-radix.com/red](http://www.it-radix.com/red)) to learn how we can work together to help others in need.

#### We're Just a Phone Call Away

In observance of Thanksgiving, our office will be closed Thursday and Friday (Nov 28 & 29). If you need assistance during this time, please call 973-298-6908 and one of our on-call staff will be happy to assist.



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

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## Introducing... Rachel Pesce

Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, evokes fond family memories growing up for our newest staff member, Rachel Pesce. Every year around Thanksgiving, Rachel and her husband have the tradition of visiting Rehoboth Beach to reflect on past experiences and make new memories together. They especially enjoy being there when the summer rush has faded, and the beach is quiet and peaceful.

Rachel came to IT Radix with an associate degree in English Literature from Raritan Valley Community College and nine years of work experience in customer service and administration. In her most recent role, she worked as an editor and enjoyed editing, proof-reading and SEO content writing. Rachel excels at anything that involves problem solving and editing.

As a Tech Admin at IT Radix, Rachel handles administrative IT tasks for our clients. She works closely with our IT Consultants and organizes and maintains the behind-the-scenes scheduled reboots for servers, firewalls, backups and other regularly scheduled networking equipment maintenance. Rachel prides herself at being a skilled problem solver and enjoys bringing out her inner Sherlock Holmes and working her way through mysteries. Rachel reflects how "the IT industry has some of the most interesting mysteries of all!" Rachel also works with our Marketing Team, assisting with client communications and website optimization. Rachel puts customer service above all else at IT Radix—a client's happiness is incredibly important to her and she always makes sure she upholds WOW Service.

### Rachel's favorite quote:

"You're on the right path." – Rich Dietz (Rachel's Dad)

Growing up in Bernardsville, Rachel moved to Long Valley after high school. She recently bought her dream townhouse in Wayne where she resides with her best friend and husband, Anthony, and Italian Greyhound, Iggy. Rachel has quite a few interests. By far, her favorite hobby is cross-stitching, along with knitting and crocheting! She also loves history and spends a lot of time in museums or reading about historical events and how they all have shaped the world we know today. She loves everything English and literature based and is proud of her collection of over 400 books. Since meeting Anthony, she now has a new-found love of video games (*Stardew Valley* is among her favorites).

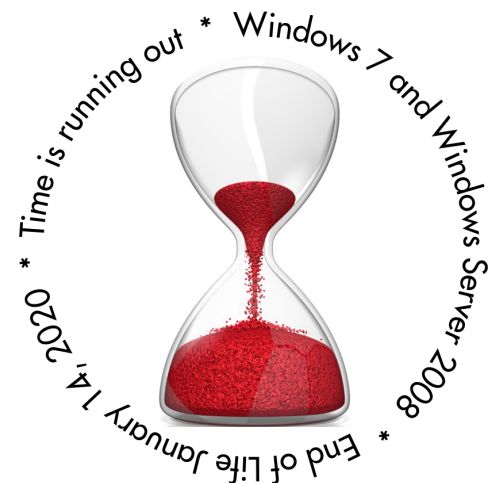
**Rachel's personal philosophy:** Be kind to others, always lend an ear, and never give up on something you believe in.

## Let's Talk Turkey

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server to the cloud either with Amazon (AWS) or Microsoft (Azure) offerings. For the more mobile workforces, they might not need a full server anymore and they can leverage existing Microsoft Office 365 licenses and cloud offerings including SharePoint and One Drive for Business.

There is a lot to consider and do between now and mid-January. IT Radix is happy to help any time before your goose (or turkey) is cooked.



## OUR CLIENTS SPEAK OUT:

## THE BUZZ

*"IT Radix has provided superior help desk and network services to RENEW International for over five years. Their quick response to everyday issues and proactive, long-term planning skills are second to none. As a non-profit organization, RENEW needs to make the most of its technology dollars; and IT Radix has consistently found quality solutions within our budget. The RENEW team could not be happier with the value of the services we receive."*

Susan Capurso, Executive Assistant — RENEW International

**About RENEW International:** Located in Plainfield, RENEW fosters spiritual renewal in the Catholic tradition by empowering individuals and communities to encounter God in everyday life, deepen and share faith, and connect faith with action.

## Avoid Holiday Shopping Scams



Stay safe while shopping online this season! Here are a few tips:

### Shop Securely

When shopping online, confirm that your browser's padlock icon is active and that the website is secure by looking for an "s" after the "http" at the beginning of the website's URL address.

### Be Wary of Public Wi-Fi

Public Wi-Fi is not very secure. Avoid online shopping and bank transactions while on public networks.

### Beware of Mobile Phishing

Criminals may create fake emails or texts for deals that are too good to be true. Do not open links and attachments in emails and texts from senders you don't know.

### Monitor Your Financial Accounts

Use online and mobile banking to monitor your financial accounts regularly for fraudulent transactions. Sign up for text alerts for certain types of transactions, and always notify your bank immediately of any suspicious activity.

Happy shopping!

## Everybody Loves a Parade!

Did you know that the tradition of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade started as a Christmas parade? It started in 1924, ran 6 miles from 145<sup>th</sup> street all the way down to the Macy's store at 34<sup>th</sup> and Broadway.



The entire parade consisted of three horse-drawn floats including Mother Goose, Little Miss Muffet, four bands, a variety of animals from the Central Park Zoo and, of course, Santa Claus was the last one in the lineup. Apparently, the animals themselves were unnerved by all the noise, crowds, music and commotion that they roared and growled the entire route—not a fanciful way to enjoy them for many. Believe it or not, the gigantic helium balloons that appeared in 1927 were to replace the camels, donkeys, elephants and goats that scared small children. At the conclusion of the parade, the balloons were released into the air and Macy's offered rewards for their proper return. That ended in 1932 after an aircraft pilot attempted to capture a balloon and unceremoniously crashed! As the 30s rolled on, celebrities were added, and the parade grew and grew into the spectacular tradition that we know and love today. These days, over 50 million viewers tune in on Thanksgiving morning to see the parade on TV, while another almost 4 million revelers bundle up and enjoy the extravaganza in person.

It would be almost impossible to see each one of those individual parade-goers in the midst of this huge scene. And it would be even harder still to figure out how each one got to the parade, understanding their choice of transportation, viewing the route they took, cataloguing the food they ate, noting where they may have parked a car, etc.

But in the world of the Internet today...where over 4 billion people "travel" every day, it is possible for search engines and other entities to know exactly what each of those individuals did as they surfed the web. If you are not careful, everything you do may be tracked! So, how can an Internet user stay "lost in the crowd" like those on the street watching the Thanksgiving Day Parade?

Here are some suggestions to enjoy the venue of the world wide web more anonymously:

**Set up a Virtual Private Network (VPN) connection:** ExpressVPN and NordVPN are two alternatives. This disables the ability for you to be tracked.

**Use Incognito/Private Mode:** This prevents your browser from saving any data from websites you visit including cookies, history and any data you enter in a web form.

**Use Guest Mode:** Use this option if you are on someone else's computer. It allows you to visit sites without them storing cookies or browser history.

**Avoid Major Search Engines:** Google and others collect the most data about you in order to serve you with relevant ads. Try alternatives like DuckDuckGo or Tor which do not deliver personalized search results.

**Hide Your IP Address:** Try to use a proxy server which routes your connection through a different server so your IP address cannot be tracked.

**Use an Alias Email Address:** When you do not want your email address to be known, use an alias (which forwards your email from an alias account). The recipient will not see your real address.

Need help remaining anonymous on the Internet? IT Radix is here to help you keep in step with technology and stay incognito on the Internet.

Proudly folded & stuffed by Central Park School



## SPECIAL OFFER

### Password Management

Keep track of your online shopping accounts more easily this holiday season. Sign up for a year of *IT Radix Passport* during the months of October, November and December, and get a *Baker's Dozen*. That's 13 months for the price of 12!

Visit **IT Radix** at [www.it-radix.com](http://www.it-radix.com) to learn more about our services.



"It's good to be progressive,  
but don't shun the good  
things about tradition."

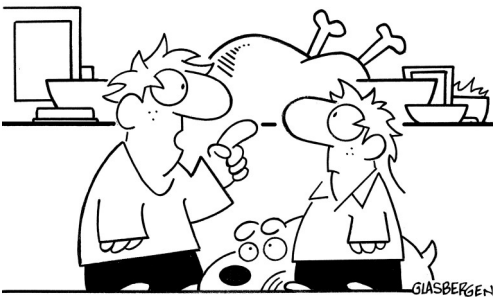
— Sangram Singh, Actor

From the desk of: Cathy Coloff

Subject: Thankful for Our Friends and Clients!



What does tradition mean to you? For many, traditions are something to look forward to, a way to become closer to family or friends, a way to bridge generational gaps or even create a sense of identity. At IT Radix, we have a few traditions that we've developed over the years that I believe support all of these. November brings our office Thanksgiving meal where we thank our colleagues and share some downtime together. In March, we always enjoy our annual Client Appreciation Pancake Breakfast. Both are a chance for us to come together and get to know each other more.



"On Thanksgiving the Four Basic Food Groups are 'more,' 'a little more,' 'a lot more' and 'too much.'"

As I've gotten older, I've come to appreciate traditions both at home and work. Every year, we have a Christmas hunt for gifts that are either too large or simply too special to wrap. The hunt is always the last part of our Christmas morning gift giving and has become one of Alex's favorite traditions. We follow corny, poorly written clues around our house in search of the elusive gift. Laughter and groans abound as we try to decipher the cryptic clues from room to room.

A more personal tradition is my gratitude journal. While I'm not the most consistent at it, I do enjoy writing down something each night before bed that I'm grateful for. Sometimes, I review my list to remind me how fortunate I am when things get tough. What are some of your traditions? Let us know on our Facebook page. In the meantime, a huge thank you to my family, friends and colleagues for all your support and care throughout the past year.



### Festive Fun Facts!

- Abraham Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a public holiday in 1863.
- Approximately 46 million turkeys are eaten on Thanksgiving every year.
- Pilgrim means foreigner or traveler from afar.
- The state of California consumes the most turkey.
- More alcohol is consumed on Thanksgiving than any other holiday of the year.
- Cranberries are bounced to see if they are ripe for harvest. They should bounce about 4 inches high.
- Turkey has more protein than chicken or beef.

### Thankful for Technology



Sometimes technology gets a bad rap for disconnecting people—evidenced when you observe a table of teens staring at their laps engrossed in their mobile devices and not engaging with each other. However, technology can be a force for good. In fact, there is a lot of technology out there that takes care of us, keeps us safe and makes our lives much easier. Here are five reasons why we should be thankful for technology:

1. **IT is earth friendly**—Thanks to email and the Internet, we can all communicate with each other without wasting paper and killing trees!
2. **IT provides instant access to Information**—Information is at our fingertips! Remember the days when researching a topic required a trip to the library to peruse the card catalog to find pertinent material? Google has quickly become our best friend.
3. **IT helps us stay in touch**—We are more connected than ever these days—cell phones, Facetime, Facebook, Instagram—keeping up with past and current friends has never been easier.
4. **IT saves us time and money**—Nothing has helped the consumer more than the Internet. Comparison shopping has never been easier—no more wasting gas and precious time driving from store to store to compare various products and services. You can research just about anything online and have it shipped right to your door.
5. **IT keeps us organized**—No more post-it notes cluttering your home and office! Electronic and online calendars keep your schedules organized and synced with all your mobile devices so you and others have an account of your daily activities.

What are WE most grateful for? Those of you that trust us to make IT work for you!