IT Radix Resource

We make IT work for you

Out of Sight...

Keep Cybersecurity in Your Sight

In the past few years, the practice of monitoring personal property via software applications has grown dramatically. Most of us know what a "Ring" doorbell is. Many young parents check on their preschool children in daycare centers via video, right from their mobile phones. The benefits are numerous, not the least of which is the peace of mind that these applications offer. Being sure things are *not out of sight and out of mind* is a big plus for our personal family and property security.

Few have taken this personal approach to security and applied it to the protection of their organization. But there are numerous ways to keep the cybercriminals at bay. These hackers lurk in the skunkworks of the Internet (the Dark Web) and prefer to do their work without anyone knowing. That is why the best way to protect yourself is to keep the bad guys in your sights—just like you would with a Ring doorbell. This is especially important for smaller organizations because cybercriminals look to take advantage of them, assuming they have fewer IT security resources than their larger counterparts. Here are a few ways to protect your organization:

Dark Web Monitoring: This service is available to any organization with a domain. It monitors any information about the organization that is available for sale to other criminals on the Dark Web. This includes email addresses, user IDs, passwords, credentials, phone and account numbers, credit card information, etc. Businesses of all types can benefit from this because as soon as your information is available on the Dark Web, you will be notified. The next step is to change all passwords and credentials so the information that is available is now useless. Knowledge is power…and seeing what is obtainable and rendering it inert puts you in charge.

Encryption: Data encryption translates data into another form, or code, so that only those with access to a secret key can access it. Important data of any kind on your server, in your cloud applications, in your emails, etc. should be encrypted. This ensures your data is *out of sight* to the bad guys. Putting encryption policies in place reduces security risks and facilitates your organization in being compliant to legal and trade mandates and guidelines.

Staff Security Awareness and Training: There is nothing more important than keeping your eyes on the prize and focusing on keeping your data secure! This is why we emphasize that your staff is the real key to your information and data security. Employees who have security top of mind know what to look for and are aware of what to do when presented with malicious emails, ads or contacts (even via phone and in person). They provide the business manager with an extra level of security

What's New

October 21
WEBINAR SERIES
10-Minute Tech Talk:
Teams Revisited:
Rev Up Your Teams Experience
www.it-radix.com/webinar
Join us for Part 4 of our webinar series.
Starts @ 12:10pm sharp

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month
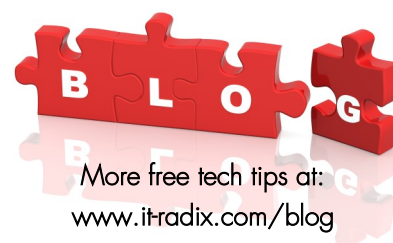Ask us about our Security Awareness training in honor of National Cyber Security Awareness Month.

October 13
Office 2010 EOL
Office 2010 will reach its end of life on October 13. It's time to get serious about migrating to Office 365!

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

Keep Cybersecurity in Your Sight

that is invaluable. Security training and testing programs are the way to make this happen. They help each organization to heighten awareness, protect assets, reduce risks, and stay compliant. The ongoing training/testing schedule ensures staff are up to date with the latest risks (hackers have moved far beyond ransomware and into social media, direct phone, and physical attacks) and helps identify those employees that need reinforcement from time to time. Making your staff real-time monitors of your security perimeter pays huge dividends in the end.

Our advice is not to put your head in the sand and pretend that your business and its data are not being targeted by cyber-criminals…because you are. Now's the time to get "visual" and "see" security as your #1 mission.

Need help getting started? Give IT Radix a call…we're here to help keep cybercriminals in your sight!

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Proudly folded & stuffed by Central Park School
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To Shut Down or Not Shut Down?

That is the question! A lot of people wonder whether it is best to shut down your computer when not in use, and most articles you read will go into extended detail one way or the other. However, IT Radix likes to get to the point: you decide!

The great thing with computers nowadays is that not only can they withstand a tremendous amount of use, they also attempt to help its own lifespan by using the hibernate function. The hibernate function works as a method of reducing power consumption. It essentially takes all running apps and puts them into standby mode, and then the RAM and storage devices are powered off until you return. This works in your favor because it means even if you leave your computer turned on 24/7, unless you turn hibernate mode off, your computer will attempt to conserve as much power and longevity as possible.

However, there are optimal environments for your computer. In the computer's infancy, turning it off when it is not in use will not harm the computer—in fact it makes it stronger. The consensus is that when a computer is brand new and still in the "under warranty" phase, the components of the computer are less likely to be affected by powering it on and off and are far more capable of detecting failures quicker and fixing them much faster.

This makes its "teenage to adult" years generally unproblematic—you can leave it on or shut it off with no problem. The problem with turning a computer off and on daily mostly occurs later in life when the components are reaching their limit. At this point, when a computer is getting older it is best to leave it on 24/7 so there are no failures upon start-up that may be more difficult for the computer to combat like it would have in its infancy.

So, should you turn it off or leave it on? Well, it is up to you. If it is a new computer, shut it off when it is not in use; if it is older, keep it on. IT Radix also recommends that regardless of age, you should keep your machine logged off but turned on once a week (Thursday or Friday nights are best) so that patching can occur.

Do you have any questions about taking care of your technology? Give IT Radix a call…we're here to make IT work for you!

The Buzz — Our Clients Speak Out!

*"The IT Radix team has been top notch through this whole pandemic.
They have been extremely responsive and timely. Thanks for all the support!"*

Mike Smith, Principal/CEO — Axis Insurance Services, LLC

Located in Franklin Lakes, Axis Insurance Services has a reputation in building highly customized insurance solutions for all types of professional service companies and their employees. What sets them apart is their deep understanding of the market and their ability to tailor coverage options to their clients' objectives.

Technology to the Rescue!

If you have ever wondered when the world would finally begin looking like the futuristic movie *Back to the Future 2*, then you are in for a treat! Researchers at the Italian Institute of Technology have completed testing on their new humanoid robot named "WALK-MAN." This robot has been engineered to be lightweight, sturdy, and have hands that are like human hands (it can move its fingers).

Why would it need to have these traits? Because this robot will be going where humans cannot…into disasters! WALK-MAN was tested in a simulated industrial plant that had been damaged by an earthquake. This simulation was designed with gas leaks and fires that would be too dangerous for humans. However, WALK-MAN passed with flying colors! He opened doors, navigated around the damaged simulation, and located the source of the gas leak and closed the valve. He even removed debris, found the fire extinguisher, and put out the fire.

This robot has cameras for eyes and ears and has a sensor-equipped suit that helps it act as an avatar for the person controlling it. While the person at the helm controls the robot, WALK-MAN can balance on his own and has a battery life of two hours—long enough to move inside a dangerous building and get out.

So, what is next for the world's new favorite robot? The next steps are to add chemical sensors so it can detect toxic gases and make the robot faster so it can execute life-saving duties as quickly as possible in those two hours. We cannot wait to see what happens next with WALK-MAN.

We think these technology advancements are out of sight! Don't you agree?

Time to Change

After the kids have finished trick-or-treating on Halloween, it will be time to walk around the house before going to bed and reset the clocks on all your appliances and alarms. Or will it? With so many "smart" devices, manually adjusting your clocks is quickly becoming a thing of the past.

Smart devices run on Network Time Protocol which uses Coordinated Universal Time to synchronize computer clock times. By default, smartphones are set to automatically update the time as it changes by "checking in" with the cell towers in your immediate area—adjusting not only the time on your phone, but also your calendar appointments and alarms. Computers have a real-time clock—a special hardware device containing a quartz crystal on the motherboard that maintains the time—and when connected to the internet query a time server for the current time. Today's household smart appliances automatically reset too!

Life sure is easier thanks to technology. Enjoy your extra hour of sleep Nov 1.

DEAR, I THINK YOU'RE SPENDING WAAAAAY TOO MUCH TIME ON THE INTERNET.

I.COM
AM.COM
NOT.COM

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National Book Month

October is not only National Book Month it's also National Cyber Security Awareness Month—the perfect month to focus on the importance of reading as well as set our sights on cybersecurity.

Looking for something to add to your reading list? Contact us for a free copy of Cathy's latest book:

YOU Are the #1 Target

Learn why your business is likely to be the victim of cybercrime NOW more than ever before and what you can do to stop it.

From the desk of Cathy Coloff

Cathy

I started my technology career at Exxon back in the late 1980s. While Exxon was not on the bleeding edge of most computer technologies, it turns out they were on the bleeding edge of something—cybersecurity. In general, they were a conservative and cautious bunch which naturally resulted in a high cybersecurity awareness level. We had many a meeting or technical review to ensure things were as secure as possible. Separation of duties was almost impossible in the early days of servers, but they used their clout with IBM and Microsoft to make it happen. As it turns out, this was a great experience that I've been able to pass along to our clients.

While sometimes I tire of worrying about security and controls, I know it is critical to a successful business. October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month; however, it is something that everyone should be thinking about and practicing all year long.

With the shift to working remotely, sadly, we've seen a few clients fall prey to phishing emails, causing loss of time, money and confidential information. I encourage you to reach out to us to review your current work practices to ensure cybersecurity.

While I expect that COVID-19 will put a damper on Halloween this year, you can be sure the cybercriminals are still having a heyday. Be well.

SPECIAL OFFER

Have a call with us to outline your 2021 IT Action Plan during the months of **October**, **November** and **December** and receive a free Work-From-Home Starter Kit—from cookies to webcam covers. Book your virtual session today!

"Even if you are on the right track, You'll get run over if you just sit there."

— Will Rogers

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 WFH Starter Kit.

Q: What 1998 movie is the first movie to feature two actors who previously played Batman?

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July Trivia Challenge

Q: Which of the five senses is the first to develop in humans? (Answer: Touch)

Congratulations to Massimo Mancini of National Microwave Contractors, recipient of a WFH Starter Kit.

What Else Can Be Hacked?

With the explosion of Internet of Things (IoT) devices, the list of things to hack has also exploded. If one takes a moment to consider the potential risks, it can be eye opening and downright scary—just in time for Halloween. Peruse the Internet a bit and you will find real hacking examples that include pacemakers, children's teddy bears, baby monitors, vehicles, security cameras, and more. In some cases, the devices are being used to execute lateral attacks by using the first IoT as a doorway or gateway to other devices or systems. Here's just one example, back in 2014, a couple woke up in the middle of the night to discover their baby monitor and security camera system had been hacked and someone was using the devices to scream obscenities in the baby room and watch via the robotic camera. Frightening for sure!

IoT devices can make your personal life and business better, more convenient, more efficient and save money. While these devices are often out of sight and mind, we remind you to do everything in your power to keep your family, your business and yourself safe by securing your IoT devices. Good first steps include changing default passwords, disable Universal Plug and Play, and regularly patching and updating your IoT devices as updates become available.

IoT devices are here to stay. Contact IT Radix today and let us help you use these products safely and securely.