

IT Radix Resource

We make IT work for you



Fitting the Pieces Together

There is a market for everything—2020 taught us that. One of the hobbies that rose again in popularity last year was building jigsaw puzzles. Social media was ablaze with folks proudly posting images of their completed creations. Some dove into them out of boredom because the challenge allowed them to use their brain and body interactively over time. Many young people with experience playing games solely on a screen, for the first time enjoyed the feeling of creating order out of chaos in actual 3D! And one of the beauties of a jigsaw puzzle is that there really is only one correct way to complete it.

Similarly, based on an organization's budgets, goals, and level of embracing technology, there really is only one best way to put all the pieces of a network together—whether that is an entirely new network or just an upgrade or modification. If you have an existing network, it might be time to better align it with your latest goals if any of the following are true:

- You do not already have in place at least five layers of security. Whether installing anti-virus software or implementing multi-factor authentication, the key to security is having multiple layers.
- Your core hardware infrastructure is over five years old. This means you are on the outer edge of the typical lifespan.
- Most of your key applications are stored and run locally on a server. You are not taking advantage of the cloud and the regular security and productivity updates provided by most cloud applications.
- Staff is complaining about speed, about wireless access and about the ability to store, share and collaborate on large amounts of data.
- Your competitors just seem to outpace you in the key areas of sales, marketing, and product/service innovation.

With technological change as a constant, even those who attach a high priority to it realize that keeping up with the pace of change is a real and daily challenge. New applications, hardware, and software are introduced daily, and each promise to facilitate business growth and enhance productivity.

Too often, not doing anything is the chosen avenue which leads to outdated systems and more of the problems described above. The organization that does not upgrade consistently and chooses to “get by with what we have” loses competitiveness, flexibility and ultimately sees disenchanting staff walk out the front door.

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Take Note

January 27
WEBINAR

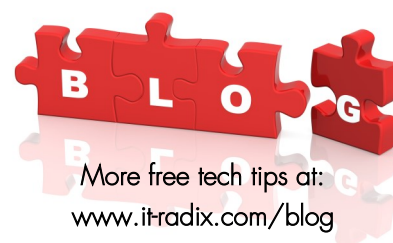
10-Minute Tech Talk:
SharePoint Tips & Tricks
www.itradix.com/webinar
Starts @ 12:10pm sharp

New Year, New Password
Kick off the new year with
good IT security practices!

One of the best things you can do to safeguard your privacy is to periodically change all of your passwords—a sometimes daunting task, we know.

Need help managing your passwords? Call us for more information today.

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.itradix.com/blog



Fitting the Pieces Together

(Continued from page 1)

Firms that do not want that outcome need help from experts like the team at IT Radix to simplify their network architecture for the next five-year period. The emphasis on putting the pieces together today is on leveraging the cloud for the mobile/remote workforce and on finding ways to maximize efficiency and minimize downtime. Asking the right questions are part of the process of putting the puzzle together. Then the boundaries or outline of the network are designed and ultimately the interior pieces are planned for and included. Then a new informational technology masterpiece is created to allow the organization to fulfill its goals.

Strategically modernizing while aligning user needs with key security concerns is the optimal approach to moving forward with this IT puzzle. Doing IT right, one might say, is "pieceful."



Proudly folded & stuffed by Central Park School

Introducing... Marina Makowski

At IT Radix, we pride ourselves on our excellent customer service! One of the ways we ensure this is by having real people on the front lines answering our phone so that you seldom need to leave a recorded message during normal business hours. One of our newest employees, Marina, is the smiling face behind the phones every morning.

Marina came to IT Radix with a B.S. in Psychology and a minor in Sociology from William Patterson College along with a P-3 teaching certificate. Her background and experience are quite diverse. Upon graduation, Marina taught Kindergarten in Roseland for a few years prior to moving on to more administrative and marketing roles in the corporate world. She soon discovered that her passion was in design, and she operated her own stationery and event design studio in Chester for seven years.

As an Office Assistant at IT Radix, Marina's primary responsibility is to answer the phones and provide frontline support to our clients. She also assists with additional administrative tasks as needed. And, our Marketing Team is happy to tap into her design talents and her knowledge of Photoshop and the entire Adobe design suite. Marina enjoys interacting with our clients and being instrumental in helping them resolve the day-to-day issues that arise. She thrives on helping others and is impressed with the importance that IT Radix places on each and every client.

Marina's favorite quote:

"You cannot go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending." – C. S. Lewis

Born in Croatia, Marina moved to the U.S. with her family when she was five years old. Growing up in Cliffside Park, she now resides in Whippany with her husband, Ed, and daughters Izabella and Francesca. When not working, Marina enjoys spending quality time with her children playing outside, swimming and doing a variety of fun kid activities. Paper invitation design is her #1 hobby, and she enjoys creating items for family and friends. She also loves looking at real estate and dreams of being able to own multiple properties one day.

Marina's personal philosophy: Be kind, respectful and helpful—not because you will get something in return, but because that is what makes this world a better place. In helping others, you are helping yourself whether you realize it or not.

The Buzz

Our Clients Speak Out!

"IT Radix is always standing in our corner. Whether for small IT issues or big ones, I know I can count on them for a speedy resolution so that I can focus on my business."

Emily Grand, President — GHS Philanthropy Management

With offices in NYC and Montclair, GHS Philanthropy Management offers a complete array of services to foundations, philanthropic individuals, and American "Friends of" organizations that facilitate all aspects of grant making and donations.

Keep IT Safe

If you like to read, you may have a home library. All good librarians have one thing in common...an organized index. Confession time! How many of you manage your computer and online passwords in any of the following ways:

- Use the same/similar password for everything
- Keep all your passwords written on a slip of paper
- Change your password by incrementing the number by 1
- Keep a spreadsheet with all your passwords on your desktop

We see it all the time and have heard every reason you can think of as to why it's "fine." The most common of which is, "I don't have any data a hacker would want." Nothing could be further from the truth! Have you ever thought about what a hacker could do with just your email password? With just access to your email, a hacker only needs to click the "I forgot my password" button for any of your accounts and will instantly have the keys to the kingdom.

The truth is... you really need to up your password game. The password for each and every system you log into needs to be unique and complex. And, most importantly, your passwords need to be out of view from prying eyes.

This is where a good password manager comes in. It gives you the ability to securely store all those complex passwords in an easy-to-manage vault, eliminating the need for you to remember them. Of course, you will secure the vault with a complex password of its own and then layer Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) on top of that—keeping your passwords safe and secure.

Increase your online security by getting a subscription to a reputable password manager. Not sure how to start? Contact IT Radix...we are happy to assist.

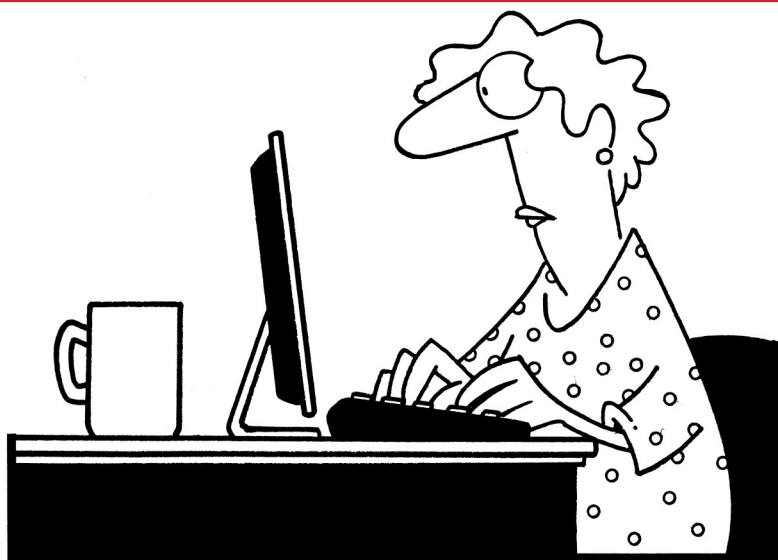
Hobbies on the Rise

With people "sheltering in place" these days, many are turning towards hobbies to pass the time until order is restored to the world. Based on a recent survey, the top three go-to pastimes during the COVID-19 outbreak are:

- 1st – Watching TV shows/movies
- 2nd – Reading
- 3rd – Working Out

Hobbies provide a host of benefits! Just to name a few... Hobbies help you structure your time and make you more efficient. They help you to be more innovative. Hobbies are also great for your mental health. Not only do they develop and nurture social connections, they also help you manage and alleviate stress and recover from tough days.

So, the next time you're tempted to say "it's just a hobby"... think again! Hobbies that we are passionate about are just what we need to stay positive and productive during these crazy days of social isolation.



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**“Welcome to the Weight Loss Forum.
To lose one pound, double-click
your mouse six million times.”**

January is National Hobby Month

What do you like to do in your spare time? During National Hobby Month, we encourage you to celebrate your favorite hobbies and try out new ones—from outdoor activities like swimming or hiking, to artsy projects like painting or knitting.

At IT Radix, we'll be celebrating our hobbies all year long. Not only are we incorporating hobbies into our newsletter theme, but we will also be showcasing our staff and sharing about their go-to pursuits as well.



From the desk of Cathy Coloff

Cathy

Did you know that January is National Hobby Month? I've had my fair share of hobbies over the years. With COVID-19 and the need to social distance, many are turning to their hobbies to spend time in a positive manner. Let's face it—all too often, we've let the busyness of life allow our personal hobbies to fall by the wayside.

One of my hobbies includes photography—I have thousands of photos. By far, my favorites are photos of family and friends; and in this time of social distancing, I've been enjoyed "seeing" folks through photos as I've been organizing my digital photo library. I have a fair share of landscapes and close up still-life photos. I recently enjoyed perusing Reuters' "Pictures of the Year: Landscapes" online and realized I have much to learn and improve upon. There are amazing wildlife photographs and so much more to allow us to go to and see places virtually online. Additionally, the plethora of online photography classes, websites, and communities give me so many opportunities to improve my own photography. I'm looking forward to picking up my camera again.

What is one of your hobbies? When was the last time you actually spent time on it? Perhaps one of the blessings of COVID-19 is the time to reflect and pick up activities like one of your hobbies again. I plan to share a couple of my favorite photos on our Facebook page. I hope you will share your hobby with us there too.

SPECIAL OFFER

Sign up for a Capstone IT Management and Support Plan during the months of **January, February** and **March** and receive free Bluetooth earbuds. This offer is for all new Capstone clients.

Call IT Radix today to learn more!

"Hobbies are great distractions from the worries and troubles that plague daily living."

— Bill Malone

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 Michael's gift card.

Q: What is the hobby of using vintage hardware and software?

— — —

October Trivia Challenge

Q: What 1998 movie is the first movie to feature two actors who previously played Batman?
(Answer: *Out of Sight*
George Clooney & Michael Keaton)

Congratulations to Susan Fuchs of Christie Engineering, P.C., recipient of a WFH Starter Kit.

Are You on the Same Frequency?

Have you ever heard a shortwave radio transmission? While shortwave listening as a "hobby" is declining, when you look at it, shortwave is just short of a miracle. When the signal is beamed at an angle, it hits the ionosphere which acts as a mirror around the Earth. The signal then falls like a ball at great distances, beyond the horizon. Thus, shortwave transmissions can reach listeners over large areas, continents and beyond. There is an art as well as a science to successful shortwave listening.

Just as in shortwave listening, often IT and business leaders are not tuned in to the same channels or frequencies. Successful organizations ensure that business and technology plans are aligned to achieve their goals. When the IT is closely tuned in to the organization, it is incorporated into strategic plans, well-coordinated with strong communication, and takes the human factor into account. IT can allow businesses to respond faster to change, increase employee productivity, identify opportunities to decrease operational costs and ensure business integrity and security. With technology and business goals so inextricably interwoven, there is heightened urgency today around getting digital transformation right and it is important to pick a strong IT partner that helps propel your organization forward and tune in to your organizational goals.

Together, IT Radix and you can tune in to success. Contact us today to get on the same frequency!