Can You Be Cybersecure AND Green?

A push to be "greener" is all around us; however, cybersecurity is being neglected as technologies, especially green technologies, advance. Green technology is an umbrella term that focuses on products and services that reduce waste, energy consumption, and negative effects on the environment. The goal of green technology is to protect the environment, repair past damage, and conserve the earth's natural resources.

Our climate transformation encourages us all to adopt, implement, and use new green technologies at record speed. Most new green technologies are tied to the Internet in some way or another. While they are more efficient, they are also more vulnerable to attacks because of their connection to the Internet and rapid development that did not always take security into consideration. In addition, COVID-19 distorted and decentralized the threat landscape adding even more fuel to the fire. In a recent survey by a major insurance company, 79% of respondents have experienced a significant increase in cyberthreats during the past two years.

Cybersecurity is not just "an IT Department problem," but a problem for the whole company and everyone doing business with the company.

Are you ready? Organizations must ask themselves the following two questions: <u>When</u> will an incident happen? How do we <u>prevent</u> an incident? Within your organization, it's important that you assess the risk that each technology—hardware and software in use at your organization as well as that of your key suppliers— brings to the table and have a plan to manage that risk. These days, many organizations are dependent on the Internet and supply chain availability in order to conduct business.

Companies also need to recognize that cybersecurity is not just "an IT Department problem," but a problem for the whole company and everyone doing business with the company. Sadly, we find mixed commitment from top management in organizations when it comes to cybersecurity, but it is the responsibility of management to ensure that an effective cybersecurity strategy is in place. An attitude of "it can't happen to us" can be

Take Note

February 1
Change Your Password Day
Change your password and make it a strong one! A weak password makes you vulnerable and an easy target for cybercrime.

February 13
Clean Out Your Computer Day
Get your New Year's resolution off to a good start by doings some basic housekeeping on your computer. See Page 3 for suggestions.

Talk Nerdy to Me
Sign up to receive regularly shared technology tips that help you use software better to increase security and become more productive.
www.it-radix.com/tech-tip-signup

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

Cybersecure AND Green?

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disastrous to a company, its employees, and stakeholders.

There is no cookbook or "off-the-shelf" prevention template with blanks to be filled in, but here's soup starter for what your organization's cybersecurity program should include:

- Risk assessment
- Physical protection of assets and personnel
- Security assessment
- Awareness training/procedures training/notification training
- Asset management
- Configuration management
- Firewalls
- Content filtering
- Intrusion prevention systems
- Patch management systems
- Penetration testing and security auditing
- Quick response team
- Contingency planning

IT Radix is here to help you develop a cybersecurity program tailored to deter and manage exposures.

Introducing… Matt Hodges

Matt came to IT Radix with his bachelor's degree from Pennsylvania State University and eight years of professional experience as an IT specialist. At IT Radix, Matt is affectionately called "Mr. Microsoft," an expert on all things Microsoft related. Additionally, he handles security parameters, the onboarding process, and other technical issues for our clients.

Outside of work, Matt enjoys playing video games and going to the dog park with his sidekick, Scooby! Matt is an avid Oktoberfest attendee, soaking up all the seasons' festivities. Matt enjoys carpentry, working on his car and watching rocket launches online. Quite the Renaissance man! Matt built his first custom computer at the age of 11 and perfected his skills at the age of16, building his first gaming computer.

Matt's favorite quote:
"The unexamined life is not worth living."
– Socrates

Matt loves the NY Giants and the NJ Devils. His favorite foods are Italian and Japanese, sushi being at the top of the menu! Although Matt lived in Pennsylvania for a while after college, he is a Jersey boy at heart, born and raised. Matt is an awesome uncle to two amazing nephews and lives with his girlfriend, Chelsea, in Bergen County.

Matt's personal philosophy: Move forward to make a better life for yourself and those around you. Always travel as much as possible and encourage yourself to experience new things. Life is short. It is better to laugh than be upset over the little things.

Worried Your Personal Info is on the Dark Web?

With the propensity for online shopping, it's a good time to review if any of your credentials are found on the Dark Web.

Why? Because you are a hacker's #1 target. They know you have access to financials, employee records, company data and all that juicy customer information—social security numbers, credit card numbers, birth dates, home addresses, emails, etc.

Cybercriminals will stop at NOTHING to steal your credentials. And once they have your password(s), it's only a matter of time before they destroy your business and scare away your customers.

Our 100% FREE and 100% confidential Dark Web Scan is your first line of defense! Hopefully it will be ALL CLEAR and you can breathe easy. Sign up today for a free Dark Web Scan: **www.it-radix.com/dark-web-scan**

The Creature Comforts of the Home Office Environment

Security and Sustainability in the Home Office

As a result of recent events in our world, many have turned their home into their office as well. Working from home or "hybrid" home office schedules have become the norm. Fortunately, there are ways to have a secure working environment and promote sustainability at home, while still being productive.

Ah, the creature comforts of home! Most homes today have Amazon Alexa, Ring doorbells, security cameras, thermostats, and smart lights/outlets. While these items make our lives easier and convenient, they are also possible attack points for hackers. While working from home, if you

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While smart home devices are convenient and make our lives easier, they are also possible attack points, opening the front door to hackers.

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connect your work laptop on the same network as your home Wi-Fi, your hacked thermostat could be an entry point into your office network. Scary thought! Ideally, just like at your office, we recommend a separate Wi-Fi network for your IoT devices or personal PCs and the network that you connect to with your work device. In this scenario, your work PC should be on the "guest" network and thereby isolated from all your devices on your primary home network. This is not always possible because it limits access to devices such as family printer from your work device. An alternative would be to ensure that you have strong endpoint security software along with a zero-trust solution on your work device.

As for sustainability at home, if you have a home office setup, an eco-surge protector outlet strip is a must. It not only protects expensive equipment, but it will also turn off the other outlets that have monitors, speakers and printers plugged in when the laptop and/or docking station isn't pulling power. Another helpful and easy tip is to always shut your laptop or computer off (put it to sleep) when you are done working for the day! You may be surprised how much energy this can save!

If everyone does their part, we can all make our home office environment safe and environmentally friendly. That's a win-win in our book!

Clean Out Your Computer

All computers need regular organizing and cleanup. This includes the removal of old files and clutter. We tend to save emails, documents, and photos on our hard drives and too often keep unnecessary duplicates. Using old versions of programs and operating systems wreak havoc on your network potentially causing damage, disruption, or destruction.

Over time, files and programs that are unused on your PC clog the memory and cause confusion during retrieval and use of other data. They may also slow down your computer.

Review your files and programs on your computer and do the following:

- Organize your files and folders by year
- Review your emails and delete any that are no longer needed
- Delete duplicate files
- Delete old files and programs not being used
- Update the programs you use

If your computer still runs very slowly after cleaning it out, make sure your operating system is up to date and scan your computer for viruses. Give your computer a little love and it will love you back!

Need help with any of this? Give IT Radix a call… we're here to make IT work for you!

Inside This Issue

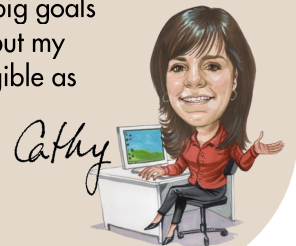IT Radix Family and Friends
321 Delighted Clients Drive
Geekville, NJ USA

"Look after the land and the land will look after you, destroy the land and it will destroy you."
— Aboriginal Proverb

off the mark.com   by Mark Parisi

offthemark.com

If I see my shadow THERE WILL BE 6 MORE WEEKS OF WINTER! UNACCEPTABLE! WE MUST RISE UP AGAINST THE SUN! WHO'S WITH ME?!!

THE GROUNDHOG GETS BANNED FROM TWITTER

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From the desk of Cathy Coloff

If you're like many, you made some new year's resolutions or goals. How are you doing with those? Those who know me know that I always strive to improve, both personally and at work. It's natural for me to set a goal or intend to do something but often, unless it makes its way onto my schedule, other things will take precedence. Quick tip… schedule your goals on your calendar now if you haven't already. As a techno-nerd, of course, I love that my calendar, scribbles in OneNote, documents, and email that I start but don't always complete are accessible across all my devices from anywhere. We're launching "Talk Nerdy to Me" as quick tips to help you be even more proficient with your technology.

But sometimes it pays to put technology aside. It may surprise some that I write out in my quasi-cursive handwriting script my affirmations and goals. Why? For me, it forces me to create a picture in my mind of what I want. Having it on a piece of paper makes it very easy to access and review at any time (e.g., on the refrigerator, on the wall in your office, or in a notebook). Finally, writing it down makes it easier to remember… and remembering your big goals are important! If I don't have a pen and paper handy but my iPhone or iPad are, I'll write it out on them. Not as tangible as paper but still effective.

If you haven't made progress with your goals,
 it's not too late. Get out your pen and paper and
 your calendar and schedule your goals today!

Cathy