October 2023

IT Radix Resource

15TH ANNIVERSARY

We make IT work for you

IT Security Commandment #8:
Thou Shalt Test Yourself

There is a famous Peter Drucker quote that is used frequently in business circles: "That which gets measured, gets managed."

Drucker would appreciate our 8th Commandment of IT Security because this commandment is all about testing yourself and testing your organization regularly to better understand your current IT security posture and identify potential weaknesses or vulnerabilities. Thou shalt test yourself, lest you open your network up to potential exploitation.

Managing and testing your IT security protocols and postures drastically reduces the potential devastation that can occur from a real disaster.

Ongoing IT Security Testing Protocols Are Highly Recommended

Here are several recommended ongoing IT security testing protocols we highly recommend:

Vulnerability Scans. This is the process of finding, reviewing and recording/reporting on any potential security vulnerabilities that may be in place. These typically are conducted both inside and outside a network. Vulnerability scans review firewalls, applications, and network devices of all sorts, comparing what is found against a list of known gaps or weaknesses. So, for example, a firewall may be in place, but its security features may be disabled for some reason. Once things like this are identified, then preventative action is taken.

Penetration Testing. This is a step beyond vulnerability scans. This test is more "real world" in that the testing organization poses as an attacker initiating an active threat while attempting to gain access to a network. This is a highly beneficial measurement tool because it provides an organization with ways to identify, mitigate, and respond to cyberattacks. There are three types/levels of penetration testing: *Black Box* where the tester has

(Continued on page 2)

Take Note

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month
Combat cybercrime!
Ask us about our Security Awareness Training and advanced security solutions.

Nov 2
WEBINAR
10-Minute Tech Talk:
Embracing Windows 11
www.it-radix.com/webinar
Starts @ 12:10pm sharp

We Give Back
We continued to team up with **Habitat for Humanity** last month. Adorned with hardhats and toolbelts, our staff joined forces to make home ownership a possibility for local families.

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

Test Yourself

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zero knowledge of the tested organization, *Grey Box* where the tester has partial knowledge, and finally *White Box* where the tester has complete knowledge. In many organizations, this type of testing is required annually. Each type can test everything from a social engineering threat to a brute force network attack.

Disaster Recovery Testing. This is an important element in an organization's Business Continuity Plan. At its core, it is about doing consistent testing of key parts of the continuity plan and, at times, actually role playing a real disaster (natural or breach) and challenging whether the plan's tactical details make sense and actually work.

Our recommendation is to keep all the commandments of IT Security including this one: Thou Shalt Test Yourself. Managing and testing your IT security protocols and postures drastically reduces the potential devastation that can occur from a real disaster.

Proudly folded & stuffed by Central Park School

Why You Need Cyber Insurance

Industry professionals are saying that your business WILL be the victim of a cyberattack. It's just a question of when. Servers, computers, phones, smart devices and more are all susceptible to nefarious incursions. No security program is 100% cyber proof. Extortion demands, stolen identities, legal fees, clients leaving, and other losses can happen if you are breached. We recommend acknowledging the risk and putting security programs and an adequate cybersecurity insurance policy in place. Most small businesses carry around $1 million in cybersecurity coverage limits. Here is a summary of some of the coverages recommended.

Cyberattack – for expenses associated with virus removal, machine reprogramming, etc.
Cyber extortion – to recover from a ransomware attack
Data breach – compensates for services to the clients, staff, vendors etc. whose information was breached
Online fraud – for direct financial losses from identity theft, unauthorized financial transactions, phishing schemes, etc.

Talk with an insurance professional about the coverage you may need. Coverage is halfway to protection; the rest is ensuring you have proper security programs in place and that each year you correctly answer the questions your cyber carrier asks you about those programs. For both of those items, you need to speak with your IT Professional. If you answer incorrectly, and an attack is successful, you might be left high and dry. That is very important. For example, a survey question may ask whether you have MFA (Multi-Factor Authentication) in place for all access to your networks and data. If you say yes but only have MFA in place for access to your email and a hacker attacks your network via a VPN connection, you may not be entitled to any compensation.

As cyberattacks grow in sophistication, insurance companies are constantly drafting newer policies that impose greater burdens and conditions upon corporate policyholders. **IT Radix is here to help!**

Service Spotlight: Arm Your Staff With Security Knowledge!

The role of your staff in preventing a cybersecurity event cannot be overstated. Over 85% of breaches involve a human element facilitating a hack, often related to stolen credentials. You can prevent this by helping your employees understand how to avoid the risks of spam, spear phishing, malware, and social engineering. The solution? Provide Security Awareness Training and Testing to minimize your risk.

Special Offer: Sign up for Security Awareness Training in the month of October and get a Baker's Dozen—That's 13 months for the price of 12! **new managed service clients only**

No Need to Fear Windows 11

Windows 11 comes with many new features improving performance, security, user-friendliness, device compatibility (runs Android apps), multi-tasking, and even gaming. This version brings some changes to how you interact with your system.

Here are just a few of our favorites:

Snap Layouts are great for organizing multiple apps. They allow you to arrange your apps easier on your screen in ways that used to require custom and sometimes expensive software.

New desktop experience allows you to create multiple virtual desktops. You can arrange your programs and open windows onto separate desktops. This gives you the ability to isolate projects and tasks without losing your place.

The default apps in Windows 11 have had some major improvements. Paint, Photos, Notepad, and Media player all have a brand-new look. Notepad now has the ability to have multiple tabs in the same window and there is even a 3D version of Paint!

The new tablet mode is a time saver. When you dock or plug your laptop into a monitor, it remembers the last app layout you were using which is very convenient.

The simplicity Windows 11 brought to the Control Center is user friendly. Everything is easier to access, and audio controls are great, especially when you have multiple speakers/headsets connected to the same computer!

The long-awaited Widgets feature provides quick access to useful information. It will let you quickly get up-to-date items like news, weather, traffic, sports, stocks, and even your calendar in a single click.

An issue we see with Windows 11 upgrades is that PCs over three years old may not meet the minimum technical/hardware requirements. In these cases we recommend replacing with a new machine that ships with Windows 11. We recommend that large scale deployments be withheld until all your software applications are tested with Windows 11.

Although Halloween is right around the corner, there's no need to fear Windows 11. Learn more about these cool new features and more at our webinar on November 2.

Back to School with Backpacks

This is the second year that IT Radix joined forces with Project Readiness to supply backpacks and school supplies to local children in need.

It is a labor of love for our staff to compile the contents and put the backpacks together. Our newest team member, Alexandra, was especially excited to load the backpacks with the contents knowing how happy the students will be when they open them. "This is such a great thing that we're doing! I'm happy to be a part of it." We know these supplies will be put to good use.

Jen from Project Readiness was overjoyed when she came to pick up the backpacks! She said they are grateful for IT Radix's generosity and the time dedicated towards doing this project. IT Radix is always happy to give back and support our community...it's one of our Core Values!

Don't Go Public

Looking ahead to holiday shopping…

TIP

Free hotspots are convenient when you're out and about, but not all public networks are secure. Avoid online shopping while connected to a public Wi-Fi network, as this may make it easier for cybercriminals to access your device. Stick to a private, protected network.

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IT Radix
15TH ANNIVERSARY
We make IT work for you
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Inside This Issue

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

"He that plants trees loves others besides himself."
— Thomas Fuller

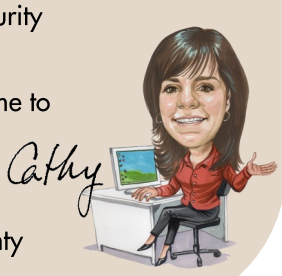
off the mark.com by Mark Parisi

From the desk of Cathy Coloff

15TH ANNIVERSARY 2008-2023

This year marks the 15th anniversary of IT Radix and I simply cannot believe how quickly the time flew. When we started IT Radix, Doug and I were in the middle of adopting our son, Alex. There was so much economic uncertainty and quite frankly, at times, it was quite intimidating. Thankfully, we had an amazing support system around us in friends and family and I am eternally grateful to them.

As I look ahead to the future, both at work and personally, I see once again economic, political, and environmental uncertainty. Fortunately, my support network has grown more over time. When I read the tech news about various cyber incidents and more, I often wonder what type of support organizations have to guide them through the maze of technology, potential risks, and pitfalls. We take great pride in educating our clients about technology—cyber risks as well as productivity enhancements and the like. While October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, we believe cybersecurity awareness is important year round!



October 22nd is World Planting Day and it's a perfect time to plant a tree, an indoor house plant, or perennials for next spring, and I will be celebrating it. In doing so, I hope that my actions will inspire change in others and in a small way ease some of the environmental uncertainty in the days to come.

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