# two river

## What's New

#### Don't Make This \$10,000-An-Hour Mistake

If your network fails or you experience a power outage, your business will come to a screeching halt. You're not making sales or communicating with clients. You're basically inaccessible until everything comes back online.

Over 50% of businesses take more than one hour to get back up after a crash or power outage. And who knows how long the outage may last. Each hour down is an estimated loss of \$10,000. While power outages are a major contributor to downtime and lost money, other causes include failing or aging technology and buggy applications.

You don't want to put yourself in a position where downtime becomes an expensive risk. What can you do? Get a monitoring service! Monitoring services can keep tabs on your infrastructure and report their status 24/7. You'll know what's working and what's not, and you'll be able to respond to issues faster. That equals less downtime and less money lost.

Small Business Trends, 8/1/2019

## November 2019



This monthly publication provided courtesy of Frank M. DeBenedetto, President of TRTG.

"As a business owner, you don't have time to waste on technical and operational issues. That's where we shine! Call us and put an end to your IT problems finally and forever!"



# 4 Things You Should Absolutely Demand From Your IT Services Firm

How much do you rely on your IT services provider? It's startling to think that a lot of small businesses outsource their IT (which is a good thing), only to get little to nothing out of that relationship.

## Why is that?

Well, some businesses just aren't proactive. They only rely on their IT services company when something goes horribly wrong. If there's a network failure or their website gets hacked, they'll make the call to their IT people, but that's the extent of the relationship.

On the other side of the same coin, there are a lot of IT companies that wait around for that phone call. They don't work with their clients as closely as they should. Both of these reasons are downright irresponsible. First and foremost, business owners should work closely with their IT pros. They should have the staff and resources to not only address your IT emergencies but also to keep your business safe and secure to minimize those emergencies. Here are four things you should ask of your IT services provider.

*"Keep my business safe!"* Your IT company should make sure your network security, firewalls, malware protection, etc., are installed, operating and up-to-date. They should be working with you to do everything to keep your business's data secure and make sure it can be restored in the rare event that data loss does occur. Keeping your customer data secure should be a top priority. Don't take

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Continued from pg.1 unnecessary risks, because when you do, the consequences can be devastating.

"Help me keep costs down!" You outsourced your IT to save money. Hiring an internal IT person or staff is a massive expense (plus, many small businesses simply don't have the revenue to sustain IT personnel). However, your IT company should be working to maintain your network and associated hardware and software. They are there to help you avoid costly disasters like data loss or network downtime. If you do a lot of e-commerce, your IT company can be an invaluable asset. You literally pay them to save money.

"Help me stay proactive!" An experienced IT company can often spot an issue before it becomes an issue. They

keep your network updated and maintained, and they can help you avoid unnecessary downtime. Working closely with your IT company means you aren't skimping on security, and this alone puts you

ahead of so many other businesses that do. And make sure you have an open line of communication between your business and your IT team, even if that means scheduling regular calls. You should regularly talk about security and know about the issues that may impact your business, whether it's an equipment concern or a hacker threat. On top of that, tell your customers you care about the security of your business and their data. They will appreciate it – seriously!

"Keep my network up-to-date!" This covers a lot of ground. Your outsourced IT should be keeping your security updated, from your firewall to your malware

## protection, but they should also be keeping your network tech updated too. Hackers look for weaknesses in network tech every day – weak spots that allow them to capture data from your network. "Waiting until something breaks is a dangerous - and costly - way to do business."

Sometimes they exploit the firmware, and sometimes it's the hardware. Regardless, you should always rest assured that your IT

company is doing everything they can within the budget you set to keep your network as updated as possible.

If your IT company isn't doing any of these things, you need to get on the phone with them NOW! Don't put your business at risk because you only make the call after the worst-case scenario has occurred. Waiting until something breaks is a dangerous – and costly – way to do business. It's time to be proactive and get the most out of the relationship you have with your IT company.

# Help Us Out And We'll Give You A Brand-New **Kindle Fire For Your Trouble**



We love having you as a customer and, quite honestly, wish we had more like you! So instead of just wishing, we've decided to hold a special "refer a friend" event during the month of November.

Simply refer any company with 10 or more computers to our office to receive a FREE computer network assessment (a \$397 value). Once we've completed our initial appointment with your referral, we'll rush YOU a free Kindle Fire of your choice as a thank-you (or donate \$100 to your favorite charity ... your choice!).

Send an email to kmatelski@tworivertech.com with your referral's name and contact information today

# Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:



## Dyson Pure Hot + Cool Air Purifier

The Dyson Pure Hot + Cool Air Purifier takes air purification to the next level. It's a fan, space heater and air purifier all in one. It includes a HEPA filter that helps reduce allergens and pollutants as it quietly cycles air through your home or the room of your choice.

One of the best features of the air purifier is the ability to monitor your home's air quality in real time, and the information appears on an easy-to-read display. Through this display, you can actually see your home's air quality improve! On top of this, the air purifier is an Internet of Things device. Connect it to your WiFi and control it directly from your smartphone, or enable voice control through Amazon Alexa.



## 1. MAKE YOURSELF INTO A PRODUCT.

Position yourself as the authority in your niche. Develop products like videos or books that share your secrets of success. The beauty of a book is that, once the hard work is over – it's written, edited and published – you simply collect proceeds while you move on to your next project.

## 2. DO FEWER THINGS.

It's impossible to automate aspects of your business if you do everything personally. Train staff to handle certain aspects of your business and simplify your output. Identify strengths and streamline your offerings, focusing on the items that you can train your staff to replicate.

## **3. CREATE CONTINUITY.**

Billing for each service or product you supply is volatile. Your revenue and your client's expenses vary wildly. By selling a subscription at a flat rate, you create reliable income and provide clients with predictable expenses. Both parties are invested in maximum efficiency – maximizing quality and minimizing hassle.

#### 4. SELL YOUR SYSTEM CHEAP AND MAKE MONEY ON THE REFILLS.

We're talking here primarily about businesses that produce tangible goods. The best two examples of this model are printers and Keurig coffee makers. The devices themselves are relatively cheap. The profit is in cartridges of ink or individual coffee refills. If your machine makes a great cup of coffee or great quality copies, once consumers own the device, you're guaranteed continued business.

#### 5. BECOME THE MIDDLEMAN.

Find a way to broker business and let other folks do the work for you. Becoming an Amazon affiliate is a great example. You link to their site, they sell, and you make money. There's also a fortune to be made in consolidating and coordinating the transportation of goods.

#### 6. BECOME A TEACHER.

Find ways to teach other entrepreneurs how to acquire the skills necessary for opening their own business modeled on yours. Say you own a successful pizza shop. You could write a book or create a series of instructional videos on your family's recipes, or you could market a consumable version of your plan for opening a profitable pizza shop. You can even generate greater consumer awareness for your business.

#### 7. BECOME AN INVESTOR.

Money makes money, but it's important that you're careful about how you invest as an entrepreneur. Here's my tip: look at your clients and assess their needs. Find a company that addresses those needs and invest there. Not only will you be forging a bond between your company and others that focuses on enhancing client relationships, but you also cement your position in your customers' minds as the business that caters to their desires. Once you've done the groundwork, you're the good guy who makes money without effort.



MIKE MICHALOWICZ (pronounced mi-KAL-o-wits) started his first business at the age of 24, moving his young family to the only safe place he could afford – a retirement building. With no experience, no contacts and no savings, he systematically bootstrapped a multimillion-dollar business. Then he did it again. And again. Now he is doing it for other entrepreneurs. Mike is the CEO of Provendus Group. He is also a former small-business columnist for The Wall Street Journal; MSNBC's business makeover expert; a keynote speaker on entrepreneurship; and the author of the cult classic book The Toilet Paper Entrepreneur. His newest book, The Pumpkin Plan, has already been called "the next E-Myth!" For more information, visit www.mikemichalowicz.com.

## **Services We Offer**

Cloud Services ~Managed Networking Services Cybersecurity ~ Hosted Voice over IP



Welcome Fred!



TRTG would like to introduce you to our newest Technology Advisor, Alfredo (Freddy) Bordenabe. With over twenty years of experience we are certain he will add another layer of success to our quality efforts.

Freddy started his career in technology working as a customer support technician for Wakefern Food Corporation and then transitioned to a more lucrative role and worked as the IT manager for L3 Technologies Mobile Vision. In both roles he was responsible for providing technical support, advice and assistance to customers with technical hardware and software system problems. In his IT manager position he was responsible for implementing and maintaining organization-wide systems and information. He also defined, implemented and maintained their IT help desk policy which resulted in 40% reduction in ticket resolution times!

Freddy received his Computer Science Degree from Chubb Institute in Parsippany, New Jersey. He currently holds his Azure certification and is a Microsoft Certified Systems Administrator. While working as an IT manager he found the key to his success was keeping himself organized and following a strict schedule. It allowed him to put out any fires, efficiently manage support tickets and complete all reporting to management on time and accurately.

Please join us in welcoming Freddy to the team! We look forward to working with him and he has already proven himself to be a valuable team player.

## Say Yes Scam -Tech Tip



In a devious scheme, scammers are looking to record the sound of your voice

saying the word "yes". This recording can then be used against you to authorize changes on a phone, utility or credit card bill. Scammers are looking to record you saying the word "yes" then claim that you agreed to authorize changes on a phone, utility or credit card bill. They may ask a range of yes or no questions that include: "Are you the lady of the house?" Do you pay the household telephone bills?" "Are you a homeowner?" This isn't the easiest thing to avoid, so when answering an unknown number, or from a caller you do not recognize, hang up or respond with, "Who is calling and what is this about?" You can also let these numbers go to voicemail and call back if it is a legitimate caller. Inquire with your phone provider about robocall blocking options. And always register your numbers in the Do Not Call Registry. Should you receive any of these calls you can immediately block and report the number to the appropriate party, such as the federal trade commission.

# The YMCA of Greater Monmouth County's Annual Gala

We were proud to support our clients from the YMCA of Greater Monmouth County's annual gala on September 27th. Each year the Y's annual gala raises funds to support financial assistance, scholarships, and community initiatives that strengthen



the families they serve. This year was even more special as they celebrated coming together as one Y to increase their impact and make our communities and our neighbors stronger. The contributions made at this event were allocated towards the following:

- Provide financial assistance and scholarships to remove financial barriers so that those that need them most can access their programs and services
- Inspire and guide at-risk teens in achieving their dreams of attending college through the Y achievers' program.
- Give vulnerable children of all ages and abilities access to camp experiences that build confidence and lifelong skills.
- Provide therapeutic counseling to help children and families overcome critical issues at home and in school.

We are always happy to help our clients over at the Y and contribute towards their amazing mission. If you would like to learn more about the Y's programs visit CYMCA.org.