



Technology Times

"Insider Tips to Make Your Business Run Faster, Easier and More Profitably"

What's New

Stronghold I.T. is the premier Managed Services support Provider in London, Ontario; we are presently working with numerous organizations across South Western Ontario from many industry verticals.

Business IT Support plans include:

- Network Infrastructure monitoring
- Server and Workstation maintenance
- Next Gen Managed Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR)
- Backup Disaster Recovery Solutions
- Managed Security Appliance
- Cyber Threat Protection
- Service Desk

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Our Mission:

To create and build professional, valuable and exceptional relationships with our clients; to develop and implement the most appropriate and effective technology solutions and processes.



Get Ready To Maximize Efficiency With Help From Co-Managed IT Services

IT services are necessary for every business in the country – IT companies help businesses protect their data, ensure day-to-day operations run smoothly, increase productivity across the board and keep up-to-date with the latest technology trends and updates. Without IT services, your business can fall prey to hackers and cybercriminals bent on stealing your company's and clients' personal information. But if you don't have IT services, where do you even start looking?

Many businesses choose to keep their IT services in-house with a dedicated team of IT professionals who are able to offer quick support in most situations. Others decide to outsource and hire a managed IT services provider to handle all of their technology needs. Yet there's another option many are unfamiliar with that could help fill their needs.

It's a hybrid of in-house IT services and managed IT services called co-managed IT, and it truly provides business owners with the best of both worlds.

With co-managed IT services, you can outsource many of the IT tasks and responsibilities that prevent your in-house team from doing their best work. The outsourced team will watch over your network and address any issues before they become more significant problems. They'll also install the necessary protections to ensure your business is protected against hackers and cybercriminals. If more hands need to get on deck, your in-house IT team can step in and work to fix any issues that arise.

When you set up co-managed IT services in your business, you'll likely have a game plan to ensure every need is met. You can partner

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with a third-party organization and analyze your existing IT department to evaluate its skills, needs, resources and tools. This will tell you where you need the extra help. From there, you can determine which services you need to reach your company goals, regardless of whether they're related to IT or not. Then you can build a package to cover every base while staying within budget.

Co-managed IT services are truly a win-win for business owners. They can utilize the third party for specific tasks while allowing the in-house IT team to tackle other projects. In most cases, your in-house IT team will retain control of administrative access while gaining the ability to use tools and resources provided by the third-party team. Utilizing a co-managed IT service takes tasks and responsibilities off your shoulders, as you won't have to check in on every single task the third-party team is managing. This means you can focus on other essential projects that directly impact your business. A co-managed IT service will also allow you to keep up with the latest technology and cyber security trends as they release, and you'll be able to determine what you want to implement in your business. You get around-the-clock

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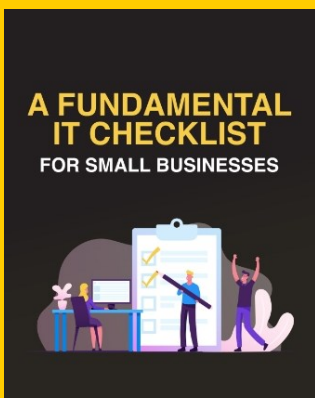
support, so even if your in-house team has people on vacation, you can keep up with your daily responsibilities without worrying everything will come crashing down.

Another great feature of co-managed IT services is the sense of relief you and your team will feel about everything related to technology and cyber security. You don't have to worry about sensitive information getting leaked or passwords becoming compromised since you'll have two layers of defence. And all of your technology needs will be satisfied, so operations will rarely run into issues that put them at a standstill.

Now that you've read through the benefits of co-managed IT services and understand how beneficial they can be for your business, you're probably wondering what the catch is. The first obstacle is finding the right co-managed IT service partner for your business. Luckily, we can help you out with that! There's also the cost associated with these services. You have to pay for an in-house and a third-party team, which can be expensive, depending on your needs. If you can manage the cost and partner with the right IT company, you'll reap the benefits almost immediately.

Getting IT services for your business is one of the best things you can do to ensure you stay protected. Contact us today to figure out the best options available for your business!

Want To Adopt IT But Don't Know Where To Start?



- What type of equipment do I need to purchase for my business?
- Which laws should my business be compliant with?
- What are some of the cybersecurity policies my company must implement?
- How should I handle disasters if I experience one?

Once you understand how IT can boost your business's productivity and efficiency, then you can start planning on implementing the right technology for your organization.

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<https://www.stronghold.ca/it-checklist-for-smbs/>

The IT Services Model Where Everyone Wins

If you're a business owner, there's probably a good chance you spent time figuring out the IT needs of your business. It's not as easy as searching online and picking the cheapest option or the company with the best reviews. The cheap option may not provide the services you need to keep your business at the top of its game, and the best-reviewed business may be too expensive or offer services that are completely unnecessary for your business.

To put it simply, if you want to get the most out of your IT support services, you must do some research. If you haven't spent a lot of time in the world of IT, it can be difficult to figure out where to even begin with your research. If you've found yourself in this situation previously or are preparing to open a new business and are interested in your IT support, consider Managed IT.

Managed IT Services

With this option, the IT services company takes over the role of your in-house IT department for a fixed and agreed-upon monthly rate. They'll install, support and maintain all the users, devices and PCs connected to your network on a routine basis. They will even take care of your hardware and software needs for an extra cost. If you're trying to plan for a monthly budget or want routine maintenance and IT support, this option will work wonders for your business.

It's our sincere belief that the managed IT approach is the most cost-effective and smartest option for most businesses. With managed IT services, your business will be protected from IT-related problems, and they will keep your systems up and running. They can prevent common "disasters" such as lost devices, hardware failures, fires, natural disasters and a host of other issues that can interrupt or outright destroy your IT infrastructure and the data it holds.

However, you elect to move forward, ensure you take your time and do your research to find the best option to fit your business needs.

Are You A Great Remote Leader? Find Out By Answering 5 Questions



Business books from the 1980s encouraged managers to wander around the office, chat with colleagues and learn valuable information at the water cooler. Today, leaders of various organizations find themselves managing people remotely, which means it's time to say goodbye to water coolers and hello to Zoom.

My company, ghSMART, has been fully remote for over 25 years, and in that time, I have found a few essential qualities that great remote leaders often possess. Here are five questions you should ask to determine whether you're a great remote leader.

1. **Are you great at setting goals?**
2. **Are you great at hiring?**
3. **Are you great at delegating?**
4. **Does your compensation system reward high performance?**
5. **Do you always do what you say you will do?**

You're most likely a great remote leader if you answered "yes" to all five questions. In a remote setting, the importance of these leadership skills is amplified. Let me explain why.

If you set unclear goals, it's easier to clarify them for those working in the same office. But if you are working remotely with a team, it's vital that everyone understands your expectations and what they must accomplish. If you're not great at hiring, you immediately notice the ill effects

of a hiring mistake in a traditional office environment. But when you work remotely, it's harder to detect if you have made a hiring mistake, which can cost you time and money.

If you are not great at delegating, you might find that you can physically see if somebody is getting their work done and can pitch in to help them if you work in the same office. But you can't really operate that way in a remote setting. Delegating effectively — and following up clearly and regularly — is critical in a remote environment.

Compensation is just one way to influence human behaviour. In a traditional office context, peer pressure also affects human behaviour, but that is less impactful in a remote context. Therefore, it's extra important to ensure the compensation system rewards the right behaviours.

I believe building and maintaining trust is easier when you work in the same office as the team you lead. But if your teammates are spread around many locations, it's imperative to build two-way trust with them to give them the confidence to make decisions and to ensure they stay rather than quit. Therefore, to amplify the trust with your team and empower them to operate remotely, do what you say you will do.



Dr. Geoff Smart is chairman & founder of ghSMART, a leadership consulting firm that exists to help leaders amplify their positive impact on the world. Dr. Smart and his firm have published multiple New York Times bestsellers. He stays active in his community and has advised many government officials.

■ Google Has A Renewed Competitor. Have You Tried The New Bing?

Google has dominated the search engine market for over two decades. According to web analytics service StatCounter, Google makes up 93% of the global search engine market. Most of us hop on Google whenever we have a question, and we have no problem finding an answer, which has left the other search engine developers wondering how they can compete with the industry titan. Bing, the search engine with the second-highest percentage in the search engine market at 2.8%, has unveiled a handful of new features its developers believe will help it gain a greater foothold in the search engine market.

One of the most unique features of the new Bing is its expanded search box. It allows users to

type up to 1,000 characters into the search box, which enables them to be more specific than on other search engines.

Additionally, some users will have access to detailed AI-powered answers that help them refine their search and locate the information they need. Bing will even produce additional questions related to the search to provide users with even more information.

Bing also allows users to change the personality and tone of the AI chatbot that assists them. They can choose between three different options: creative, balanced and precise. Creative allows the chatbot to provide more original or imaginative responses, while the other two lean more toward providing factual and accurate information.

While Bing still has a long way to go until it can truly compete with

Google for the lion's share of the search engine market, the developers are taking steps in the right direction to create a more intuitive search engine for Bing users.

■ The Secret To Successfully Recruiting Gen Z Employees

Young employees join the workforce for the very first time every day. Now that Zoomers are graduating from college, business owners need to prepare so they can successfully recruit them and provide a workplace where they want to work. If you research different ways to attract these individuals to your business, you'll see conflicting ideas, but one strategy will immediately draw in Zoomers and other applicants: clear communication.

People want to know about day-to-day responsibilities, company culture, industry specifics and, of course, compensation before they accept a job offer. Be sure to include these when posting a job opening and don't shy away from any questions an applicant might have during their interview. The applicant will quickly learn whether you were dishonest or unclear with your answers after they start working and may even resign if the issue is problematic enough. You can avoid this stress by being as clear as possible in all communication with employees and potential new hires.

