



The

Tech chronicle

Creative Consultants Group, Inc.

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KRACK Hacks: What You Need To Know

One hacking technique you may not have heard of is the KRACK exploit, which takes advantage of a vulnerability in the WiFi network.

Read details here:

www.getccg.com/krack/



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This monthly publication provided courtesy of Bill Hinson, CEO of Creative Consultants Group, Inc.

Our Mission

To build a community of successful minded entrepreneurs that inspires excellence, encourages collaboration and expands the capacity of all members to achieve great things.



How The Cloud Could Have Averted Disaster For Hundreds Of Companies Affected By These Catastrophes

Two months after hurricanes Harvey and Irma wreaked havoc on coastal cities, large swaths of the United States are still reeling from their impact. In their wake, the nation has been moved as we witness numerous communities unite to rebuild, finding their bearings among the millions of dollars of flooding damage and rampant destruction. Though the wonderful people of these cities will persevere, these wounds will leave indelible scars on the affected areas.

Even with the concerted efforts of thousands of volunteers and community members alike, Russel Honore — the former Joint Task Force Katrina commander — told the FOX Business Network that an estimated “40% of small businesses don’t survive” widespread natural disasters like hurricanes. Part of this is due to raw damage, lack of proper

insurance or business infrastructure simply being washed away in the flood. Other businesses can’t afford to hemorrhage money as they wait for the electricity grid to come back online, and are forced to shutter operations for good.

However, what is even more commonly fatal to companies both big and small is the loss of vital data. Many businesses can handle cleaning up flood damage, and they regain their footing quickly after a natural disaster. Still, if on-site servers, computers or network infrastructure soaks up the brunt of the water, then it’s going to be difficult, if not impossible, to get the company back to a pre-disaster point. If a company’s main server fails, it can mean thousands of hours of hard work down the drain, the loss of most clientele and hundreds of hours of downtime spent

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desperately trying to recover key data, which usually remains lost forever. But if, prior to catastrophe, a business has migrated their precious data to the cloud, they're going to have a much easier time getting back on their feet and going straight to work. Even if an entire business is leveled, with cloud computing, employees can easily access the data central to the company's operation and keep it afloat in the interim.

Most cloud services back up your data with several levels of redundancy, making it almost impossible to lose it all, regardless of what may come. Whether it's earthquakes, hurricanes or solar flares, you can rest easy knowing that your data is safe and sound and ready for you to access it. It's a much safer, more secure way to go than having a server lurking in your back office, where it's far more exposed than you might think.

This principle applies not only to environmental disasters, but to numerous other ways companies lose data each and every day. Whether it's a disgruntled employee damaging or stealing precious data, or a hacker snaking their way deep into your systems and holding them for ransom, it's all too easy to lose localized data. Some business owners feel uncomfortable holding their data off-site, citing

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security concerns, but it's quite the opposite: the cloud sidesteps these concerns almost entirely, guarding your data behind highly secure cloud-based computing solutions and providing you with numerous backup options. Not to mention, according to a 2012 Alert Logic report, “on-premises environment users actually suffer more incidents” than those that use the cloud, and also suffer “significantly more brute force attacks compared to their counterparts.”

While it's true that not every business is right for the cloud, it's certainly something business owners should look into if they want to ensure the longevity of their company. If you're interested, sign up to get our free cloud computing report here:

www.getccg.com/5-critical/

Free Report Download: If You Are Considering Cloud Computing For Your Company, DON'T, Until You Read This ...



If you are considering cloud computing or Office 365 to save money and simplify IT, it is extremely important that you get and read this special report, “5 Critical Facts Every Business Owner Must Know Before Moving Their Network To The Cloud.”

This report discusses in simple, nontechnical terms the pros and cons of cloud computing, data security and how to choose a cloud provider, as well as three little-known facts that most IT consultants don't know or won't tell you about cloud computing that could end up causing you MORE problems and costing you more money than you anticipated. Even if you aren't ready to move to the cloud yet, this report will give you the right information and questions to ask when the time comes.

Visit www.getccg.com/5-critical/ to download this FREE guide now!

Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:



Security Cameras Just Got Cheaper

The average American household is packed to the gills with expensive electronic equipment and a startling amalgamation of pricey knickknacks, so investing in home security is an attractive investment. And these days, you don't have to shell out a sum equal to the stuff you're protecting to get peace of mind.

Take the Kodak 180-degree Panoramic HD WiFi Security Camera, for example, a high-end security camera you can pick up right now for just under 70 bucks (regularly priced at \$149.99). Place the camera anywhere in your house, and it'll automatically record motion-triggered video clips straight to the cloud with its 180-degree lens, accessible on any Internet-enabled device. The camera uses wide dynamic range to automatically adapt to changes in lighting, ensuring that it doesn't miss a thing. Perhaps best of all, you can check in on the camera's feed at any time, streaming its HD video straight to your phone or computer.



Disrupt Yourself: Being The Game Changer



Change is a constant. Ho-hum, right? Everybody knows that. But, if you really do expect change, what are you actually going to do about it?

If you're committed to making your best even better, you won't just react to change. You'll create it.

In my book *The Potential Principle*, I encourage readers who want to reach their best to focus on four areas of the Potential Matrix: the performing quadrant, the learning quadrant, the thinking quadrant, and the reflecting quadrant. But there's one tool that you can use in all of these areas at once to create breakthrough improvement and move closer toward realizing your full potential. The first tool is **to disrupt yourself before someone or something else does it for you.**

If change hits you from some outside source — say, a disruptive technology, company or nation — you'll find yourself scrambling to adapt. You'll struggle to catch up rather than strive to stay ahead.

But what if you're the one bringing the change? What if you're the one driving innovation? That makes you the game changer!

Think about the habits, practices and routines in your life that need to be shaken up a bit. It's human nature to become complacent and keep doing things the way you've always done them. But people who are dedicated to self-improvement unsettle complacency, combat mediocrity and challenge the status quo, both in

themselves and in those around them. They keep growing, and they keep the people in their families and companies growing as well.

Are you doing things that used to succeed but no longer work as well, if at all? Are you spending valuable time on unproductive activities when that time could be better invested elsewhere?

What is the ratio between your "daydreaming" and your "daily doing?" You can plan and prepare too much if it prevents you from taking action. And sometimes, it's good to recognize that a daydream is really just a fantasy, and you'd be better off focusing your energy on more important goals.

Maybe you're spinning your wheels in unhealthy relationships. This can be the hardest area of your life to disrupt. But if someone is influencing you negatively, you might need to change, limit or end your relationship with them.

Disrupting yourself will make you stronger. The path to progress and success isn't a leisurely walk through the countryside. It's a rocky, steep path of resistance — and resistance develops muscle. Breaking up patterns and unsettling stable but humdrum practices can result in new enthusiasm, energy and opportunities.

If you want to be the best you can be, don't let someone or something else change your game. Be proactive and disrupt the things that need to change in your life yourself.



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WHO ELSE WANTS TO WIN A \$250 GIFT CARD

The Grand Prize Winner of last month's Trivia Challenge Quiz is Julie Rajotte from Conway Medical Center! Julie's name was randomly chosen among those that correctly answered my quiz question from last month: **When was the first "Peanuts" comic strip written by Charles Schulz published?**

The answer was **b) October 2, 1950**. Now, for November's trivia question:

Which 1952 musical comedy tells the story of three performers making the transition from silent movies to "talkies"? a) Road To Bali b) April In Paris c) Lovely To Look At d) Singin' In The Rain



Email bhinson@creativeconsultants.net with your answer!



Re-secure Your Passwords Now



In 2003, a manager at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) authored a document on password best practices for businesses, federal agencies, and academic institutions. Now retired, the author admits that his document was misguided. Find out why and what great passwords are made of.

The problem: The issue isn't necessarily that NIST advised people to create passwords that are easy to crack, but it did steer people into creating lazy passwords, using capitalization, special characters, and numbers that are easy to predict, like "P@ssW0rd1."

This may seem secure, but in reality, these strings of characters and numbers could easily be compromised by hackers using common algorithms.

To make matters worse, NIST also recommended that people change their passwords regularly, but did not define what it actually means to "change" them. Since people thought their passwords were already secure with special characters, most only added one number or symbol.

NIST essentially forced everyone, including you and your colleagues, to use passwords that are hard for humans to remember but easy for computers to guess.

The solution: One cartoonist pointed out just how ridiculous NIST's best practices were when he revealed that a password like "Tr0ub4dor&3" could be cracked in only three days while a password like "correcthorsebatterystaple" would take about 550 years.

Simply put, passwords should be longer and include nonsensical phrases and English words that make it almost impossible for an automated system to make sense of.



"As soon as I text, IM, tweet, and update my status to 'getting right down to it,' I'll get right down to it."

Even better, you should enforce the following security solutions within your company:

Multi-factor Authentication - which only grants access after you have successfully presented several pieces of evidence

Single Sign-On - which allows users to securely access multiple accounts with one set of credentials

Account Monitoring Tools - which recognize suspicious activity and lock out hackers

When it comes to security, ignorance is the biggest threat. If you'd like to learn about what else you can do to fortify security, just give us a call at (843)234-9980.

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