Business Information Solutions

Getting IT Done!

The Pros And Cons Of Switching To...

Since Alexander Graham Bell made the first phone call to his assistant Watson, the phone has come a long way. And now thanks to Internet technology, it's possible to make phone calls over the Internet using VoIP technology or voice over Internet Protocol (IP).

While there are a number of advantages to a VoIP system over a standard phone system, the biggest reason companies switch is to save money. It's not uncommon for a company making a lot of long distance calls to save 50% or more on their phone bill. Of course, there's no guarantee of this since there are a lot of different VoIP systems and the amount of money that you will save really just depends on which system you buy – and in some cases, no savings will make up for poor sound quality or dropped calls. So what are the pros and cons?

The upside is that most business class VoIP systems will offer you the same features you're used to with your current phone system, including call forwarding, call waiting, conferencing, voice mail, and (depending on what your current phone system is) additional features like the ability to share data, applications and even transmit video in addition to voice so that you can see and hear the person that you are talking to.

Of course, there are some downsides you need to consider before jumping on the VoIP bandwagon. The biggest problem with VoIP systems is the sound quality. In some cases, it's a bandwidth issue that will cause problems, but it's not the only one. Since the voice data is being broken up into a series of packets and transmitted over the Internet, there could be moments of silence, broken voice patterns, echoes, delays and static sounds. Sound quality is the #1 complaint most VoIP users have about the service.

From our research, we recommend a CudaTel Voice over IP phone system with a fiber optic data connection. Call 251-923-4024 to sign up for our webinar so we can show you the benefits of Voice over IP!

"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!"
- Phillip Long, BIS

November 2014

Robertsdale, Alabama

Inside This Issue…

OUR LITTLE GUY IS BUSY WITH HOMEWORK, OR IF WE'RE LUCKY, SOME SORT OF SOCIAL NETWORK START-UP.

STAHLER. 4/30

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Get A Jump Start On Windows 8.1

Are you a Windows veteran but a rookie when it comes to Windows 8.1? The latest and greatest enhancements and tools available in 8.1 are extremely valuable, but not to someone who isn't familiar with how to use them and maximize their potential. Here is a brief breakdown on a few of the finer points to get you on the fast track to getting to know Windows 8.1.

1. **Play It Safe.** Security is an essential need for any system in today's age of hackers and viruses. Your first step in familiarizing your self with Windows 8.1 should be your security settings. Make sure you customize your settings for your internet connection, your favorite websites and any essential files you need to keep protected.

2. **Add An Account.** Take a moment and set up a Microsoft account for you and anyone else who might be using your computer. This account automatically signs you into the Microsoft store, tracks your apps, schedules updates, and quickly connects you with your email and social networks.

3. **Make Your Start Menu.** The start menu that you're used to is still there, it just has a different look. Use the new tile system to directly access your apps, photos, social media, email and more.

4. **Stand By.** Familiarize your self with new features such as the side-by-side feature that lets you operate multiple programs, documents and apps at the same time. If you're a multi-tasker, this feature is a dream come true.

5. **Go Browse.** The Windows store is packed with great apps, so take a moment to go browse through the selection. Find apps and games for the kids, for personal use, and apps that may help streamline your work.

6. **You Shall Not Pass.** New password features allow for you to protect your system and info in more ways that one. If you tend to be a little forgetful remembering what password you set, try the new photo password system. Some of us are just visual learners, and this is the answer.

For more Windows 8.1 tips, view our previously recorded Windows 8.1 Webinar. Go to www.askbis.com/archive.

Customer Care Tip From BIS Tech Expert:
Basic Power Failure Procedure
By Andrew Weber

1. Have a pre-designated person to carryout basic power failure procedure.
2. Shut down all workstations.
3. Shut down server.
4. When power is restored, turn on the server first. This should take 5 to 10 minutes.
5. Once the server is fully restarted and online, restart every computer.

Things to remember:
- The purpose of the UPS is to keep the server on long enough for it to be shut down properly so that you don't lose data.

Refer Our Services And Enjoy Dinner On Us! For Each Referral Who Signs Up , We'll Send You A $500 Check.

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 start a special rewards program for the clients we value the most. Here's the deal...

If you give us the names and contact information of three of your professional colleagues from three different companies, we will treat you to dinner with a $40 gift card from one of five chosen restaurants.

To start referring, visit www.askbis.com/referral.

Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:

Pebble Steel

Pebble Steel does more than just tell the time — this smart watch displays e-mail, text messages, caller ID and other notifications from your favorite apps, reading them straight from your iPhone or Android phone. Pebble cleverly vibrates on your wrist to alert you of incoming calls, meeting reminders or approved notifications. Leave your phone in your pocket as you go about your day-to-day activities.

The long-lasting battery life and the easy-to-use design makes this watch both stylish and necessary in this day and age, and its e-Paper screen makes it easy to see in both direct sunlight and even underwater.

Pebble Steel is available on Amazon.com for $149.99. With this gadget, whose battery can go for a week without charging, the integration of technology in your life will be smoother and much more hands-free.

Barn Movers

In 1981 Donna and Herman Ostry bought a farm in the small town of Bruno, Nebraska, about 60 miles outside of Omaha. The farm came with a big barn that had been built back in the 1920s and also had a nice little creek that flowed through their property. The creek was both a blessing and a problem for the Ostrys. It was great to have readily available water for their farm animals but it also flooded a lot during heavy rains. The barn floor seemed to always be wet and muddy, and then in 1988 they had a huge flood where the water rose about 30 inches up the side of the barn walls.

The Ostrys desperately needed to move the barn to higher ground, but the cost to contract with a company that has both the capability and equipment to move a barn of this size was prohibitive. One night, sitting around the dinner table, Herman Ostry commented that if he had enough people he could pick the barn up and move it to higher ground. Everyone laughed off the comment as silly … everyone except his son Mike.
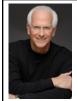
I wonder if "young" Mike knew that people scoffed at the idea of traveling 30 miles per hour on a railroad car. People actually thought that traveling that fast would stop the circulation of the blood. I wonder if "young" Mike knew that Eli Whitney was laughed at when he showed his first cotton gin, that Thomas Edison had to install his electric light free of charge in an office building before anyone would look at it or that Samuel Morse had to plead before 10 Congresses before they would even look at his telegraph *(which revolutionized communication)*. Maybe "young" Mike just thought … WHY NOT … and then he set out to figure out a way to make his Dad's statement a reality.

Young, inexperienced, doesn't-know-any-better Mike did some calculations and figured out that the barn weighed about 17,000 pounds. He then figured out that he could design a steel grid system that he could place under the barn that would weigh another 3,000 pounds. So, the total weight that would need to be lifted was 10 tons. "Young" Mike figured if he could gather up about 350 people, they would all need to only be able to lift approximately 50 pounds each.

Mike presented his calculations to his dad, and they both thought it would work. Mike and his dad got a little lucky on the timing when they presented their idea to their small town. Nebraska was getting ready to celebrate its centennial, and the town of Bruno had put together a committee of townspeople to decide on different things to do for the celebration. Mike and his dad convinced the town to make the barn moving a part of the celebration. The word got out and over 4,000 people from 11 states witnessed the event.

A little before 11 a.m. on July 30th, 1988, in front of the local television cameras, 344 people moved the barn 143 feet up a gentle slope to its new foundation. *All in all*, it took 3 minutes to move the barn. So, the next time somebody hits you with an idea that you think is silly or maybe even impossible … think again, and never discount the POWER of TEAMWORK.

Relive this idea again in your head. Someone in a meeting says, *"Let's move a 17,000-pound barn 143 feet up a slope, and do it in less than 3 minutes, using no machinery."* Now, that idea sounds pretty nuts, ridiculous, stupid, impossible and far-fetched to me. But a need, a desire, a creative mind, a well-designed plan and a giant team, **all working together**, made it happen.

Robert Stevenson is a highly sought after, internationally known speaker. He is the author of the best-selling books *How to Soar Like an Eagle in a World Full of Turkeys* and *52 Essential Habits for Success.* Robert is a graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) and is a former All-American Athlete. He started his first business at 24 and has owned several companies. Robert has international sales experience dealing in over 20 countries and his client list reads like a Who's Who in Business. He has shared the podium with such renowned names as Generals Colin Powell and Norman Schwarzkopf, former President George H.W. Bush, Anthony Robbins and Steven Covey. www.robertstevenson.org/

Calendar of Events

November
Nov. 6: Digital Marketing Lunch & Learn
Nov. 12: VoIP Webinar
Nov. 19: Digital Marketing Trends of 2015 Webinar

December
Dec. 10: Bring-Your-Own-Device Webinar
Dec. 17: Social Media Advertising Webinar

To register to attend any of these events, please call 251-923-4015.

Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Set To Expire In 2015

Microsoft has announced that as of July 14, 2015, it will discontinue support for its 11-year-old server operation system, Server 2003. This follows in the wake of its recent discontinuation of support for Windows XP this past spring. Failure to upgrade your server off of this operating system dramatically increases any company's cyber-security risks.

With server migrations taking on average 200 days from planning to completion (industry average), if you still have a server running this software active on your network, now is the time to start planning.

End of support for Windows Server 2003 means:

- **No further updates or security patches released.** 37 critical updates were released for Server 2003 in 2013 alone. No updates will be released after 7/14/15.
- **Loss of compliance.** Various industry regulations and industry standards will no longer be able to be achieved if you are using Server 2003 actively on your network.
- **Increased security risks.** Any server running this operating system will be completely exposed to serious hacker attacks aimed at taking control of your network, stealing your data or crashing your systems.

Free Server 2003 Migration Plan Gets You Started

As your preferred Microsoft Certified Partner, we are committed to helping your company by offering a Windows Server 2003 Migration Plan for FREE.

To secure your FREE Server 2003 Migration Plan, call us today at 251-923-4024!

Customer Spotlight: Baber-Strunk Enterprises

"It's Been A Joy To Work With The Business Information Solutions' Team Of IT Engineers…"

Before partnering with Business Information Solutions, Baber-Strunk Enterprises was trying to run a large operation using outdated technology like their old Panasonic phone system. David Tadlock knew it was time to upgrade to the latest and greatest phone system. But, who would he go with?

After attending Business Information Solutions' Lunch and Learn on the CudaTel Phone System, David just knew that Baber-Strunk Enterprises was in dire need of this newer technology. "I was impressed with the innovations their vendor, Barracuda, had to offer," says David "as well as BIS and their comprehensive solution stack." For Baber-Strunk Enterprises, the new phone system with sip trunk technology was high tech and able to accommodate the needs of the growing establishment.

Baber-Strunk Enterprises is a corporation that spans over five southern states and has a total of 75 outside stores.

To read more, please visit www.askbis.com/testimonials.

The Lighter Side:

How Balloons Teach Teamwork

Once, in a seminar of about 50 people, the speaker decided to change his presentation to prove a point. He decided to do a group activity. He gave each person a balloon and asked them to write their names on it with a marker.

All the balloons were gathered up and put into a small room. The attendees were all let into the balloon-filled room and were asked to find the balloon with their own name on it within 5 minutes. As expected, everyone was frantically searching for their name, colliding with each other, pushing around others and creating utter chaos.

At the end of the 5 minutes, no one had found their own balloon.

The presenter then asked the attendees to randomly pick up one balloon and give it to the person whose name was written on it.

Within minutes, everyone had their own balloon.

"This is what is happening in our lives," the presenter explained. "Everyone is looking frantically for their own happiness, not knowing where it is."

Our happiness lies in the happiness of others. Give happiness to other people, and you shall find your own.

This is the purpose of human life.