



# Tech Times

## Solutions Unlimited, LLC

WITH THE RIGHT BLEND OF PEOPLE AND TECHNOLOGY

We make your IT systems run. Better.



## 3 Fears Stopping Business Owners From The Best Gift This Holiday Season

*We understand that change is difficult. Our asking you to toss out your old server could even be laughable. However, there are some hidden advantages for businesses that use cloud computing. Take a look at the three greatest fears stopping business owners from a cloud solution that could be the best gift for their business.*

**What is the cloud?** The term "cloud computing" is everywhere these days. Many companies boast about the extensive services they offer, but it all boils down to keeping storage and access to your data and programs over the Internet instead of through the physical hardware in your office. However, many business owners worry about security and control over their files in the cloud, and the complexity of migration.

**1. I'm worried about security. My server is safe with me.** IT professionals will tell you



that a lack of security is one of the biggest misconceptions about the cloud. Unfortunately, it is also one of the largest concerns holding back businesses today from migrating. The truth is, your in-house server is not nearly as secure as cloud services. I'm sorry, but it's true. Cloud service providers invest hundreds of thousands of dollars each year in securing the data they hold. Their backups are guaranteed and they have redundancy to avoid hardware failures, natural disasters, and other service interruptions.

**2. I don't have control over my files when they're not in my office.** Think about your credit card. It houses a line of funds for you to use anywhere in the world. Your Visa is accepted by

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### Well Wishes

Keep safe in your travels near and far.

Protect yourself online and in person.

Prepare for a new year of happiness and joy.

From all of us to all of you... Thank you for your patronage.

*Enjoy the Holidays and have a safe and Happy New Year!*

### Tech Gifts You'll Love!

*A Fitbit, a Kindle or an Apple Watch are all great gifts, but take a look at these fun ideas for 2015.*

**DJL Phantom 3 Quadcopter** Do you have a drone lover in your family? The DJL Phantom 3 is a top of the line quadcopter that comes with a 4k UHD video camera too. Priced just under \$1,300, this chopper is sure to please. Looking for something more reasonable?

**Blade BLH7600 Nano** This miniature quadcopter is sure to please. While weighing in at only about 1/2 ounce, this little guy is built for durability and speed. Priced under \$60 it is sure to bring a load of fun for anyone on your list.

**Olympus Tough TG-3** This camera is a fantastic gift for the adventurers in your life. This

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## 3 Fears Stopping Business Owners...

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billions of retailers from the North Pole to New York and beyond. This is very similar to a cloud environment. You are able to use the Internet to access everything you need from your office applications and file storage wherever you are when you need them most. This is quite an advantage for any business given the variety of methods we use to access the Internet (laptop, tablet, phone, etc.)

### **3. The transition to the cloud is too disruptive. There is no reason to change because what we have works.**

Sure. That is true. Especially if you've recently spent a bunch of money on a new server. There probably isn't much use in changing over at this moment. Unless... you have concerns about the physical security of your server (flood, fire, etc.), the age of your equipment (any server over 3 years old should be evaluated), your backup solution (try restoring something), remote accessibility, or capacity issues. Yes, the list goes on. There are a ton of reasons why people move to the cloud. The

best questions to ask yourself are:

Is my server costing me too much money?

Is my business limited by our server's capabilities?

Are we looking at growth in the coming year?

As for the actual migration project, moving your company to a cloud solution will be short and sweet. We actually perform the first half of the work without any disruptions to your business. Everything is prepared specifically for your cloud experience, and then we transfer your data over.

**The cloud advantage.** Moving to the cloud will lower your overall IT costs. Let's stop for a moment and add up all the time and money you've spent over the past year on repairs for your server, ongoing maintenance, and backups. A cloud solution will roll all of these costs into one manageable expense. The cloud also opens up your options for mobility and growth.

Technology is evolving all around us. While the idea of overhauling your current infrastructure may make you cringe, know that many businesses have already taken the plunge and are enjoying great cost savings, agility, adaptability, mobility, and business continuity.

### **Why is a cloud solution the best gift for my business?**

Imagine a world where you don't have to pay for repairs on your server. Imagine, no more equipment investments aside from the computers you use daily. Sounds like a dream, right? Nope. It's just the cloud. Most clients are seeing a savings of over \$30,000 between hardware replacement costs, maintenance and ongoing services for their servers. This estimate does not include the added value of increased productivity.

**Curious? Want your questions an-**

## Scamming The Scammed?

*Have you fallen victim to a scam? Some crafty thieves may try to prey on your pain.*

### **You're On Record.**

Did you know that when you fall for a scam, your name is added to a "sucker list"? Your info is documented and sold among thieves so they can hit you up again. Malicious attackers target people who want to recover lost money. They may sound credible, claim to represent a large company or government agency, try to guarantee the recovery of your investment, claim they have your money already, or that they can put you at the top of the list for victim reimbursement. Generally, these scammers just want a small fee or donation for a charity.

### **The FTC says claims like this are false.**

The FTC does help recover lost money for folks, but they don't ever guarantee anything, they never recover money ahead of time, they never charge a fee and they never give preferential treat-



## Tech Gifts You'll Love...

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device can go underwater up to 50 feet and it's shockproof for drops from up to 7 feet. You can't lose with the 16 MP camera and 1080 HD video for just \$350 from most retailers.

### Sony W800 Camera

This fantastic alternative gives you 20 MP-pictures, 5x optical zoom, and image stabilization. Its 4.5 ounce weight and trim design makes this a prime choice for people on the go. Priced at just over \$100, this is a great fit for anyone who loves snapping pictures.

### Silicon Power 2TB

**Rugged Armor** This rugged little storage device is small and sleek, but ready for any challenge. It's water-resistant and shock-proof. Compatible with Windows or Mac, this device can store around 400,000 images. Imagine the possibilities. Priced around \$70 at major retailers.

**Mixbook** For something more personal, take a look at [www.mixbook.com](http://www.mixbook.com). They offer a variety of printing services and

## How To Implement A Password Policy

*Health magazine reported that 71% of people surveyed in a British study were willing to trade their office-computer password for a candy bar! What can you do to keep your company safe?*

### Implement a password policy today.

Protect your business with a written password policy. Write up a simple policy with the following rules to ensure everyone in your organization is on the same page with regard to password security.

**1. Explain the criteria:** Passwords should be reasonably complex with at least 8 characters, one upper case letter and one lower case, a number, as well as a special character. Caution users about using common passwords like "Password1", dictionary words, and common phrases like "letmein" as these are easily compromised.

Also, advise your employees how to create strong passwords using mnemonic devices. It's so easy! First, create a sentence and

then take the first character of each word and use it in a password like this:

Sentence: "I love Christmas because I see my 4 brothers!"

Unique Password: *ILCbIsm4b!*

**2. Frequency:** All passwords must be changed regularly. You may want to use Microsoft's Group Policy or a similar software to enforce these rules. Let us know if you would like more information about software that can help you ensure that everyone in your company updates their passwords in a timely fashion.

**3. Password protection beyond the programs:** Advise your employees never to share their passwords with others in the company. Anyone who needs access to a system should have their own unique login. Tell your employees about the dangers of writing passwords down and keeping them at their workstations. Janitors, maintenance employees, and office visitors over the holi-

### 47% Of People Use Passwords That Are At Least 5 Years Old!

Here's a list of the five most popular passwords last year according to Entrepreneur.com.

If you see something familiar, you need a new password and should implement a password policy in your business for everyone to follow.

- ◆ 123456
- ◆ Password
- ◆ 12345
- ◆ 12345678
- ◆ qwerty

## Holiday Checklist: 4 Fire Safety Rules

Each year, we hear of businesses experiencing a holiday fire. Use these quick tips to ensure you're not in danger.

1. Make sure your smoke detector is in working order (test it and change the batteries if necessary).
2. Place a fire extinguisher near the server room and near other high utility areas of your office. Make sure your staff knows where they are located and how to use them. Always check to see if they're up-to-date too.
3. If anyone in your offices uses an electric heater, make sure it is unplugged when they are done for the day.
4. Watch your power. Don't overload circuits with holiday decorations. Turn off all decorations each night and make sure all your essential systems have an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) just in case.

Stay safe this holiday season with these four fire safety tips from:

**Solutions Unlimited**





## ***WITH THE RIGHT BLEND OF PEOPLE AND TECHNOLOGY*** ***We make your IT systems run. Better.***

Ask about our fixed price service agreements.

Computer support at a flat monthly fee you can budget for, just like payroll!

### **Inquiring Minds...**

#### **Security Alert: Business E-Mail Compromise (BEC) Scam.**

The BEC scam is running hot right now. In this scam, wires are being generated with fraudulent instructions from one employee to another within a company's network. The main target in these scams has been e-mail from the business's CEO and CFO. Many banks are urging all customers who generate wires or initiate any payments via e-mailed instructions to call the sender of the e-mail and confirm the request before completing the wire or requested transaction.

**How can we stay safe?** Raise awareness in your company. Make sure your technology is kept updated, your antispam filtering system is in place, and notify your staff of the possible threats. There are a few known versions of the BEC scam. One involves contact from a scammer claiming to work for a law firm and to have time-sensitive matters you need to address. Other versions of the scam are handled through phishing emails in which the victim only needs to click on a link in the email to open up your network to attack.

**Always confirm requests for transfers.** Don't ever assume the

transfer has been authorized by someone in your company, double-check. If you don't know anything about the transaction, ask a coworker or manager. If you receive a request via email, call the sender to validate the request. However, don't use the phone number in the email; call using a previously known number. Make sure you know who they are and review all the details for the payment before you authorize a transfer.

**Want to learn more?** Visit the FBI's IC3 website to read the full



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### ***Happy Holidays***

When the Holidays come  
 Our cards are sent  
 Cheers are exchanged  
 And too much money spent

Family is visiting  
 And merry is made  
 As IT attacks in hundreds  
 Go out on parade

Into computers  
 In all different places  
 With a Ho! Ho! Ho!  
 And a smile on their faces

Businesses close  
 As the long vacations commence  
 The thieves, relieved  
 Can attack without consequence

Unless, unluckily...  
 They stumble upon  
 A business that has drafted  
 Solutions Unlimited to watch over their  
 network from dusk to dawn.

Don't worry, we've got your IT covered.

**Solutions Unlimited ~ (864) 599-8678**

