

“We make all of your computer problems go away without the cost of a full-time I.T. staff!”

Ask about our fixed price service agreements

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

Inquiring Minds...

Deadbolt your belongings before extended time away.

The good ol' days of simply leaving your home or office unlocked have almost completely vanished. Security is on everyone's mind these days! What options are available for a reasonably priced security system?

One of the latest innovative locks is the Kwikset Kevo Bluetooth Enabled Deadbolt. At \$219, and a reported approximately twenty minute installation like a traditional deadbolt, it provides keyless entry capabilities in connection with your iPhone 4S, 5, 5C or 5S. That's right, you can unlock your deadbolt just by waving your phone within 10 or less inches of the door. No more fumbling for your keys!

New airplane electronic device regulations coming soon.

After careful review of reports from airline companies, the FAA has deemed it safe for passengers to use their electronic devices all the way through their flights. That's right, no more annoying stretches during take-off and landing filled with the sounds of gum chewing, food wrappers, babies crying, and chatter from every direction. Now you can sidestep the techno void with music from your iPhone, games from your iPad, or stay submerged in your favorite novel on your e-reader.

Approved electronics only. Unfortunately, cellular signals from phone calls and texts can still interrupt the instruments. So, you still cannot talk on the phone or text after departure.

However, approved devices will be allowed to operate for the duration of the flight from departure to arrival and with inflight Wifi quickly becoming the norm for airline companies, flying can be more productive and enjoyable than ever.

It's about time... After 50 years of silence on flights, it is about time the FAA reevaluated this technology rule. Did you know the original ruling was set in place 50 years ago and no one fought to change it since? With the advancement of device technology and the most recent commercial airliners, the need for this regulation is now outdated. As a frequent traveler, lifting this ban will give me the flexibility to work or take a little relaxation time with entertainment on my device making flights truly more enjoyable.

Keep your eyes peeled in the coming year for a list of airlines changing their regulations to include approved device use during flights next time you travel.



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Happy Holidays!

One of the joys of this holiday season is the opportunity to say thank you to all of you, the heart of our business.

*From all of us here at **Solutions Unlimited, LLC** we would like to say we appreciate your business and support. We look forward to years of continued success and partnership.*

Sending best wishes for a joyful season and a prosperous New Year.

Dedicated to your success,

Kevin Smith



Happy Holidays!

Technology Times

Solutions Unlimited, LLC



3 tips to help your company's elves collaborate more efficiently

Collaboration. This has been a huge buzz word for businesses over the past few decades but, what does it really mean? And, how can you encourage your worker elves to successfully collaborate and grow your business.

What does collaborate mean? Collaboration is working with another person or multiple people on a joint project. By default, businesses are run through a series of collaborations. Whether you work in a law firm, dental office or a construction company, businesses are successful because of the way people within those companies work together to make the organization successful.

3 tips to encourage collaboration. I know this may seem a little out there but, simple things like incentives, set processes, and a collaboration-friendly atmosphere can change the way your elves interact. Let me explain...

1. Incentives that inspire collaboration.

Have you ever worked with someone who steals

your work? I'm sure you can think of a time when a coworker drove you bonkers hording tasks just to feel like they are an asset to the company or to make more money for themselves.

Watch out! Greedy elves can drag down the whole team. Assess how your incentives are designed to give your employees bonuses or benefits based on their performance as a team. In order to accomplish this, you will need a way to measure the success of each department in your company.

Measure successes and praise progress. Each team of elves in your organization should have a set of goals to achieve. Look at things like overall sales, appointments set, successful meetings or orders. Then, put a mechanism in place to measure their successes in volume or percentages so you can share their progress in regular follow-up meetings to keep

Holiday Cheer

Christmas is forever, not for just one day.

For loving, sharing, giving, are not to be put away like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf. The good you do for others is good you do for yourself.

~ Norman W. Brooks
Never worry about the size of your Christmas tree. In the eyes of children, they are all 30 feet tall.

~ Larry Wilde

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Happy Holidays

Was Christmas really outlawed? Sure was.

Christmas was legally banned for 22 years from 1659-1681 in Boston. Even after the ban was lifted, it took many years for celebrating Christmas to become fashionable in Boston. Law makers thought of the ban as a way to regulate society.

"For preventing disorders, arising in several places within this jurisdiction.whosoever shall be found observing any such day as Christmas or the like, either by forbearing of labor, feasting, or any other way.... shall pay for every such offence five shilling as a fine to the county."

~General Court Records, MA Bay Colony, 5-1659

Why ban Christmas?

As stated in the first sentence of the law, there had been disorderly disturbances. However, the deeper reasoning for the ban was related to an overall desire to escape the Church of England customs. Having recently fled Eng-

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5 tips to help your company's elves...

(Continued from page 1)

them accountable for their collaborative efforts.

2. Set processes for your company...

When you first started your organization, I'm sure you didn't sit down with a pen and note pad to hash out just how every process would run. Often businesses are built on an idea and constructed under pressure on an as needed basis. Well, if you've had your doors open more than a week, it's time to put some set processes in place so your worker elves know just how to operate things for your business.

3. A collaboration friendly environment.

What is that?

Well, it's creating a work environment that doesn't inhibit interaction. For example, consider an open office space or locating the water cooler in a central location where all the elves are more likely to acknowledge each other. Give your teams time to meet, discuss and create plans for action.

Collaborate to succeed. Business is an engine for success, but it is often like a run away train. You can't just apply the breaks and try to fix things. You are con-



Smitten on new software

Software offerings have changed dramatically over the years. Changing over to newer programs may be more cost efficient for your business.

"Frosty has a mom, right?" "Sure he does honey." A mother in line to see Santa at the mall explained to her inquiring daughter. "Can we make a momma snowman at home?" This made me think, we don't see Frosty's mom on holiday cards or in store windows. Maybe it's because we are too comfortable with what we know to change.

Software taken for granted. Just like Frosty's family, we often take everyday things for granted. We are very reactive, only addressing issues in our businesses when they become a fire we can't avoid.

Streamlining your business processes. If you have been avoiding an upgrade to your software or changing to a new program, it's time to take the plunge. Technology has come a long way, even just this year.

Have questions about software for your business? Give us a call. We will provide a list of solutions to fit your company needs, help with purchasing, and even installation to get you off to a great start in 2014.

Happy Holidays...

(Continued from page 1)

land to settle in America, the Puritans wanted no reminders of old the customs that had previously governed their lives. They wanted to break free in the new land.

Holiday traditions.

Things we think of as age old traditions like decorating Christmas trees, feasts with family and even giving gifts came much later.

Christmas trees were actually a 17th-century German invention. This addition to the holidays mimicked the age old pagan practice of decorating greenery in your home during the winter months to bring cheer.

Feasts are just a natural part of winter. Who wouldn't want to have a feast when they are gathering with family and friends. Historians say, the winter is a natural time for gathering and feasting since the years work is finished and the season is too cold and short for many activities.

Gift giving came naturally after decorating and gathering for a feast. This uplifting tradition began in the Victorian era of the 1800's with small tokens to show appreciation and love.

Decorate, feast and share the holidays with your loved ones and friends.

Wishing you a happy Holiday Season!

The greatest gift for any business: Fast, Reliable, Automatic Off-site Back-ups!

I know it's like buying a present for yourself but, honestly, this is the greatest gift your business can give or receive. If you aren't sure if you company data is backed up or if you've never checked the files in your back-up, now is the time. Before you step out of the office or shop online, be sure to save a good back-up of your data just in case there are unforeseen disasters or infections.



Call today to setup your FREE Backup Assessment or refer a friend that could use our services and receive a \$50 Visa gift card to spend any way your heart desires. Happy holidays from all of us to all of you.

Don't relax your e-mail habits this holiday season, there's a new virus in town.

The Crypto Locker virus is a new strand of virus going around this season. No, you won't have flu like symptoms, but you may find yourself locked out of your own computer.

Wake up computer users! If you've seen too many warnings about attachments in e-mails to pay attention anymore, don't let your eyes wonder for this important message. We all need a little reminder of the most basic safe e-mail handling techniques sometimes.

It's not a gift, it's an infection. The Crypto Locker e-mails come in a variety of forms. Some are disguised as UPS or FedEx messages and others are just random e-mails with a note and a JPEG, PDF, or Microsoft Office file attachment. **Remember, if you receive an e-mail from someone you don't know and you see attachments, don't open it at all!** The safest course of action is to delete the e-mail or notify a qualified technician to review the message and double check your computer for invasions.

Crypto Locker can hold your files ransom. This nasty virus comes with a side order of trouble, a ransomware hostage situation. Ransomware is a tiny software program created to block your access to a computer system or specific targets until a set action is completed. In this case, attackers are asking for a ransom fee to be paid. Yep! Hackers not only holding

your own files captive but, they want you to pay to get them back! The only problem, if you do pay electronically with an online account, then your account is vulnerable too.

Back-up for a happy holiday. At work and at home, be sure to back-up your files daily to buffer the impacts of an infection. The Crypto Locker virus, and many other malicious programs, are hot on the Internet though the holiday season. But, infections don't have to be devastating. Keep current back-ups of your information handy at all times so you can restore your work even if you are hit with an infection.

Back to basics. This may seem like a message for beginning computer users, but it's really a good reminder for everyone. You would be surprised at the number of companies that don't run backups more than a few times a week and have not checked their validity since last December. The frequency and quality of your backup truly determine their usefulness in an emergency.

Need HELP with back-ups or viruses? Give us a call so you can rest at ease this holiday season knowing you're safe.



Has the URL seen its last holiday?

The Internet of the future may not use the standard URL (Uniform Resource Locator) if Cambridge University Scientists continue to perfect the URI (Uniform Resource Identifier) concept.

"Pursuit" is the name of the project in which Cambridge Scientists are studying

the new URI concept. It strives to achieve a faster, safer and more user friendly Internet through the use of an entirely new design. This new architecture will do away with the need to connect directly to servers. Instead, your computer will be able to access data or pieces of data from a variety of locations at the same time.

Peer-to-peer sharing is the basis of this new Internet structure. The only major difference is the magnitude of its projection. This sharing would be a global event with everyone online sharing together.

I don't want to share with everyone! Don't worry, peer-to-peer sharing doesn't mean everyone will see your information online. It just means that you will access information a little differently.

Reliability, speed and efficiency... are the brave goals of this new Internet experience. Developers hope to create a more cohesive online experience for all with no overloaded servers stopping you from browsing. It will be interesting to see how this study unfolds.



"We melt you and then, in the future, freeze you, pop in the coal and carrot and voila!"