

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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Solutions Unlimited, LLC



Over 600 Million BYOD Employees Worldwide: Do Your Existing Policies Keep Your Company Safe?

With the holiday season coming to an end, you may find a few new threats to your network. Everyone loves bringing their new computer, tablet or cellular device to the office to put it good use. So, how can you ensure your company stays safe?

BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) This is a massive phenomenon in business today, according to the Gartner research firm. Half of the companies they surveyed planned to move exclusively to BYOD by 2017. It makes sense to let employees use their preferred phones, computers, and tablets. Giving them additional company-owned devices only complicates the matter.

Holiday device boom. The 4th quarter of 2014 brought a variety of new toys into the market that will undoubtedly show up in offices around the world. A survey from Webroot published this year showed that 61 percent of companies had employees using personal smartphones or tablets for work-related activities.

Post-holiday BYOD problems. If your company allows mobile devices and personal computing equipment, but does little to manage them you may see a significant increase in IT costs. It is common for users bringing outside devices to the workplace to save information to their personal cloud, plug their personal devices into their computers at work to transfer files or charge their battery. While these things may seem like harmless acts, they can actually lead to very expensive security breaches or infections.

1/3 of employees don't have any security in place! Webroot, a Colorado-based Internet security company, found that one-third of employees using their devices for work don't actually have any security installed on them. Companies worry that the devices could include apps or links that make the device vulnerable to hackers and data leakage or loss of the entire device with everything on it.

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Thank You!

One of the greatest joys the holiday season brings is the chance to let all of you know how much we appreciate your friendship and business.

We measure our success on the successes we share with our clients and friends throughout the year.

Although this doesn't seem enough to express our gratitude

Thank You

Fun Holiday Facts To Share

The holidays bring a shuffle in the stores online and in person. Here are a few fun holiday facts to share.

1. Over 25% of e-mails are sent during the holidays.

According to marketingsprofs.com we all send quite a few extra e-mails with pictures, e-cards, and general messages around this time of year.

2. There are 266 million pounds of cherries produced annually, statistic-

brain.com. Did you get to indulge in a cherry pie this holiday season?

3. Teddy Ruxpin was the most sot after gift in 1986 priced at \$100.

According to statisticbrain.com, electronic gifts in the 20th century are well over this price point. The iPod placed in 2002 with a price tag of \$299, the Wii topped the charts in 2006 with a cost of \$250, and in

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600 Million BYOD Employees...

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How can we let employees use the technology they already own while keeping company data and systems secure?

A private phone or tablet used for work may contain company passwords and proprietary information. Take steps to create and enforce a BYOD policy for your organization and review it annually or more with all of your employees.

Build a good BYOD policy for your company. Start by developing a set policy explaining privacy, security and terms of use. Have an IT professional check to ensure the devices are using safe encryption and that they aren't jail-broken, but don't go overboard. We recommend a full list of recommended applications and suggested internal programs.

A company application store.

Some businesses are even creating their own app stores for employees to access on their internal websites. They are like Apple's App Store or Google Play but include only apps the company has vetted or that are designed to work appropriately with its network safely.

What Devices Should Your Company Buy?

For most companies looking to purchase workplace computers, the decision used to involve just two choices, a desktop workstation or a laptop. Today, there are a variety of additional options like tablets and smartphones. What should you buy?

The popularity of new portable devices has increased exponentially over the past decade. Smartphones have become a staple in society and tablets are a growing business productivity tool. So, what technology will inspire your employees?

We are not ginger bread people!

More companies today are mixing things up. Instead of just buying standard workstations or smartphones for everyone,

Some states are beginning to regulate. Analysts at USA Today say another situation with BYOD is the California 2012 ruling that employers must reimburse employees for work-related calls made on personal devices. It means that companies will probably have to contribute, but could also mean they have more rights to oversee security too.

Quick tips to follow... Plan well, establish a companywide policy, and train your employees. If you do not have a current BYOD policy, sit down with your leadership team and develop a plan. Establish a policy that administers guidelines that prevent confusion and keep your company data secure. Most of all, train your staff extensively so they see why the policy is so important. Keep compliance requirements in the forefront of everyone's mind because all company data housed on any device is subject to the same regulatory mandates as your other IT systems.

Questions? Give us a call today for a full review of your BYOD policy.

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they are catering to the requests of their workers. There is no standard cookie cutter piece of technology that fits every worker's needs. Offering a variety of options will allow users a more comfortable fit with their workplace tools and increase productivity.

Just ask... Is it really that easy?

Yes, it sure is. Encourage your staff to bring their ideas to a company meeting. Listen to their suggestions and work with your trusted IT advisors to develop a list of approved devices for your workplace. This approach allows you to present options that have the basic necessities for your company applications and fit your IT budget.

The Clean Desk Test

So, you have a mountain of IT security in place, surveillance cameras on-site, and a bulletproof plan for any attack. But, is your desk clean?

How vigilant are you?

When it comes to keeping your company information secure, do your employees stand up to the clean desk test?

Take a gander. Walk around your office after hours and take note of the following breaches:

1. Passwords on sticky notes.
2. Piles of paperwork on the printer or fax.
3. Sensitive documents left out for all prying eyes to see.
4. Unlocked file cabinets.
5. Scan the white boards for confidential company information.
6. Check under each keyboard. This is a common home for key cards, keys, and passwords.

Take your notes straight to the source.

Hold a company wide meeting to explain the offences you've witnessed and the importance of physical security.

Fun Holiday Facts...

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2007 the Kindle took the spot light at \$199. More recently, the iPad became the "must-have" gift priced at \$499 followed by the iPad Mini in 2012 starting at \$329. Amazing how we love our technology toys.

4. 55% of Twitter users discuss gift ideas on Twitter, 62% of shoppers Tweet about holiday purchases they've made, and 67% of consumers have even purchased a gift they saw on social media, mediabistro.com. Who knew our social media involvement influenced our holiday purchases so much?

5. 42% of holiday shoppers actively seek out free shipping, statisticbrain.com. Have you ever found yourself browsing for that special something with free shipping? We're definitely guilty of this one.

6. 2014 is set to mark the largest season of e-commerce spending over the past decade, statista.com. Our economy seems to be getting back on track as spending grows each year for the holidays.

A Service Tale: The Monday After Your Holiday Vacation

Twas the Monday after the Holiday vacation and all through the office,
Every employee was working to catch up from vacation.
Some work to return the phone messages from clients or feverously plug away at the
endless stack of e-mails,
while others snugly pack away the holiday decorations.

When out in the tech closet arose such a clatter
An employee sprang up to see what was the matter.
Away to the door, she soared in a flash!

Filled with anxiety about what may be transpiring.
There was a loud clank, a grind, no a strange noisy shutter,
the most concerning part is it came from the server.
What could this horrifying sound mean for the business in 2015?

Oh my! Oh no! Oh holiday cocoa!
Are we down? Can we work? What will we do?
The server won't respond and nothing is accessible on the workstations too.

They blew in the fans, they restarted the machines,
but no matter what grand gestures
the server's hibernation remained.

Who will save the company from losing their shirts?
Down time costs exponentially the longer they aren't at work.
Quick... Call TECHNICAL SUPPORT!

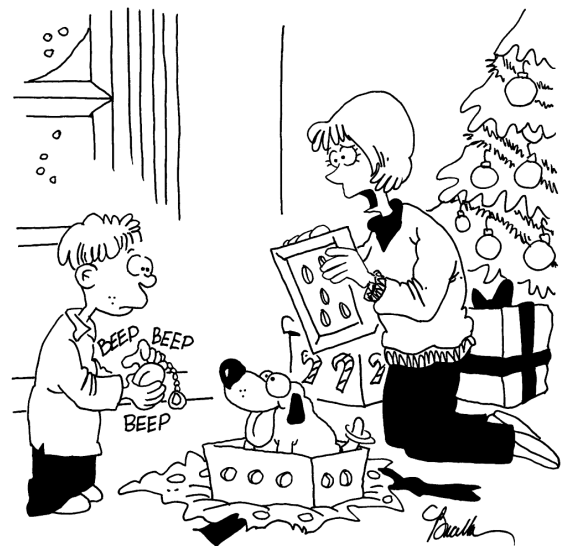
Before the employee could sigh and share the news with the company owners,
a knowledgeable equipped technician appeared to put the office back in order.
On troubleshooting, on testing, on diagnosing and repairs.
And... Poof, Bam, Wow!

Like an elf in the night sneaking down the chimney with Santa,
The technician worked intently to bring good tidings to the office manner.
As the lights came on for the temporary server, each employee was able to connect and get back to work,
the crisis was over.

The day continued without a hitch, but why?
Because of their IT Managed Services plan of course,
without it, they could never get by.

Happy Holidays to all, and to all rest assured with IT services you can count on day or night for sure.

Seasons Greetings!



"It's a real pet, Andrew. You don't press a button to play with it."



“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...

Social Engineering Is On The Rise Have you ever seen those action movies where the robbers break into an office building dressed up as an electrician? Well, unfortunately, this is becoming a possible threat these days. Social engineering is an attack carried out by people posing as a common utility worker like a fire inspector, a heating and air worker, cleaning crew, or even a construction team.

Cyber attacks can come from the inside too.

Generally, business owners only think of network firewalls, security software, and access systems to safeguard most precious possessions. But a social engineering attack could bypass all those defenses.

A \$4 Cisco shirt gave a thief everything he wanted.

Chris Nickerson, founder of a Colorado-based security consultancy company named Lares, conducts special sting operations for local business owners. In one case, he was actually able to penetrate a company on all levels because of a \$4.00 Cisco shirt he purchased at a thrift store. Unaware employees actually let him right in the front door. Once inside, he was able to drop several malware ridden USB drives and hack the company's network right in front of employees.

Test your physical security. While this may seem strange, call a local IT company and ask them to drop by your office. Run a sting operation to see if they are allowed into your work areas or server room by your employees without a second glance. More often than not, engineering workers pass right by staff without any steps to verify the validity of their status or appointment.

Keep your staff informed. Discuss your company policies for any onsite workers that are due for a visit in your office. Let employees know about the rise of these social engineering scams and discuss ways to keep your organization safe. Create a log or company shared calendar that announces an onsite visit from your regular vendors. Social engineers can be very sneaky. They may use humor, compliments, or small gifts to gain favor. The best way to safeguard your organization is to keep your employees united and aware of potential threats.



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Claim Your FREE Network Security Audit

Are you worried about security?

Concerned that your network is being mismanaged?

Stressed about business continuity?

Don't wait until you have a red hot security breach on your hands, give us a call today to schedule a

FREE 27 Point Network Security Audit.

Take a proactive approach to your safety with a comprehensive review of your company's security programs and equipment. We will work with you to identify potential cyber threats and physical vulnerabilities as well as suggest methods to protect your organization, so you can rest assured your company is safe.

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