

***“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 rent!*

## Inquiring Minds...

***Your lost items text you when they've been found.***

A new craze for QR-code-based system called FinderCodes may put lost and found piles out of business this year. This new system offers tear-resistant, waterproof, stick-on labels that can be applied to anything you're worried about losing. Things like laptops, phones, or even your pets can sport these new FinderCodes to help you retrieve them when they are lost.

***Humble beginnings.*** The idea for FinderCodes came to Blake Sohn when he moved and his dog ran away. His lost pooch unfortunately had tags with the old address printed on them, so finding him was quite a feat. Eventually reunited with his dog, Sohn thought up this new use for QR codes to help owners locate items that are misplaced or lost.

***How it works.*** When someone finds an item with the Finder-Code label and scans the QR code with their smart phone, a text message or e-mail automatically notifies the owner where their lost item is located. This handy little system is even linked in with FedEx for return shipping for non-living items. The finder simply takes the lost object to a FedEx store and the owner is notified to pay a discounted shipping rate to have their item delivered right to their doorstep. This fantastic program has already reunited over a thousand people with their stuff.



Visit [www.FinderCodes.com](http://www.FinderCodes.com) to learn more about retailers who are partnering with this new company to bring your lost items home.

***Encourage negative feedback to inspire your business.***

Crazy or just plain brilliant? Many would consider advice like this a little off the mark, but there is nothing worse than surrounding yourself with a bunch of people that only say, “Yes.” Believe it or not, no one cares more about your business (except you of course) than the clients you serve and the people you work with. So, take time this year to listen. Take small groups of employees out to lunch or treat one of your customers to a dinner so you can discover what they think your company could do better.

***Everyone loves a little praise.*** Don't stop gathering those testimonials and parading them around town. Fan mail, video testimonials and press releases about how your company serves the community will undoubtedly help your business grow. However, to really dive into the heart of your organization you need to listen to the positives and negatives. Look for patterns in the things that are going wrong and rectify these issues with new products/services, procedures, or employees. Listen, learn and grow your business in 2014.

## A Backup Resolution

The New Year is here and there is no time to waste. Technology is not perfect; inevitably it will crash at some point. The key is to keep good records of your data so you can recover gracefully when disaster strikes.

Give your company the upper hand with automatic offsite backup from ***Solutions Unlimited, LLC.***

Don't count on external hard drives or flash drives that can become corrupt, damaged or lost.

Invest in the only proven method to keep your data up-to-date and secure throughout the year,

***AUTOMATIC OFFSITE BACKUP***

Monitored for you by skilled technicians 24/7/365

**Solutions Unlimited, LLC**



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Happy New Year

2014

**Tech Times**

**Solutions Unlimited, LLC**

January 2014



## Lose weight, curb stress and reduce anxiety

*Most of us made resolutions by Thanksgiving last year to change our lives in 2014. How can we take this notion into our businesses? Just carry it right in the door. Every resolution you've made for yourself can be applied to our organization too. Here are a few of the most common resolutions and some great ways to apply them to your company.*

***Lose weight.*** Losing weight is one of the most common of all New Year's resolutions. Everyone wants to find a new and improved picture of health so they can function better with less pain, fatigue, and medical complications. Your staff and network are the same. Trimming down your company to the essentials may be just what you need for a fresh start this year.

***Slim down your staff.*** You don't need a fancy personal trainer like Jullian Michaels or Jake Steinfeld to keep your company on track. Just encouraging good health can do the trick. Give your staff an outlet for exercise. This can include an onsite facility with exercise equipment or even partner with a local gym to provide free or reduced cost memberships for your employees. Regular exercise can give you and your em-

ployees more energy, help control weight, combat health conditions, and improve their overall mood, making your organization a more delightful place to work.

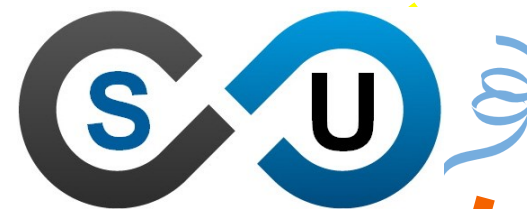
***Trim the fat off your network to increase efficiency too.*** Unfortunately, a treadmill or rowing machine cannot whip your network into shape. You need an expert to run a full network assessment to truly view the ins and outs of your technology standing. This type of assessment will give you a clear picture of your current assets, their age, and functionality. You will be able to see exactly how your network is organized and maintained as well as obtain a full list of possible tactics to help you create the most trim and efficient network for your company's needs.

***Curb stress with IT management you can count on.*** No we aren't going to keep bringing up the need for more exercise, although it is a proven way to reduce stress. Imagine this, you walk into your

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### Thoughts

“Good ideas are not adopted automatically. They must be driven into practice with courageous patience.”

~Hyman Rickover

“To solve a problem or to reach a goal, you don't need to know all the answers in advance. But you must have a clear idea of the problem or the goal you want to reach.”

~Clement Stone

### How will you use your 26 seconds

*Time management is a popular buzz term. So how did time really get started? Let's take a look.*

The entire idea of reckoning time in advance to provide an accurate, dependable, repeatable calendar year is the basis for our Gregorian Calendar. Various calendar ideas have been explored.

### Accounting for time.

Consider the following: Throughout history people have tied the calendar to natural phenomenon, like season changes, or in mild climate regions the lunar cycle may be used. If we base the calendar year upon the lunar cycle, we must account for the moon and sun cycles. There are 12 lunar cycles which are each 29 1/2 days long. This totals 354 days and 8 hours.

### A little off...

The only problem is that the solar year lasts 365 1/4 days per year.

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## Lose weight, curb stress and reduce anxiety

(Continued from page 1)

office and everyone has a wonderful smile on their face, they're working productively, and are so efficient that you think to yourself, "This must be a dream!" Well, it doesn't have to be. Turmoil like e-mail issues, viruses, and hardware failures can be a thing of the past with a devoted, knowledgeable IT department by your side.

**Effectively manage your technology for continued success.** Take preventative measures to ward off issues that may arise, like infections and hardware failures by using remote monitoring, regular updates and ongoing maintenance. Reduce stress with outsourced IT management to protect your company data and keep your technology running as it should be so that you can focus on growing your business in 2014.

**Reduce anxiety.** Do you find yourself losing sleep over all the "What ifs?" in your business. What if... that airplane liftoff noise coming from your server room means your server won't work tomorrow. What if... the data on your back-up is corrupt and you can't restore your company files. What if... you cannot open your business for a week because of technology failures. Would your organization survive?

## 4 tips to avoid the procrastination station

If the thought of going to work makes you dawdle, you may be stopped at the procrastination station. Here are a few quick tips to keep yourself on track.

**1. Create a comfortable work area free from distractions and clutter.**

Keep your desk clean and arrive ready for your workday.

**2. Set limits on interruptions.** Don't get up from your chair every 7 minutes. Plan to focus for a few hours at a time in order to reach your peak productivity.

**Security for serenity.** Most business owners are primarily concerned with security. Not just physical security, but network security, data loss and infections too. What if we told you there is one sure-fire way to curb your anxiety. Would you jump at the chance to make a change? Well there is...

**Technology management from Solutions Unlimited, LLC** Technology is a great tool, but IT must be maintained and replaced when it reaches the end of its useful life. Many businesses implement new technology and hope it continues to work as intended with no real gauge to determine its effectiveness. New software and hardware like servers, computers and peripherals can more than double your productivity. Do we have your attention?

If you are ready to relinquish your day-to-day technology management to an efficient, skilled, and reliable IT department, give us a call today. Your company can lose weight, curb your stress and reduce anxiety with this one simple change.

**Solutions Unlimited, LLC**

*We take care of your technology so you can focus on what really counts, your business!*

**864.599.8678**

**3. Break down tasks into smaller steps.** Write out your goals for a project with a task list so you can achieve them.

**4. Plan activities for your most efficient times of the day.** Identify the times of the day when your energy is at its peak and when you are just running out of gas. Then schedule tasks accordingly.

Most adults procrastinate about 2 hours each day. Just imagine how many days we've lost to this train of thought?

## The most engaging form of marketing

*As a business owner, you want to stay abreast of current trends in order to develop your company for the future. Guess what new trend is trumping e-mail blasts?*

**Video is one of the fastest growing tools for businesses.**

Every year we look at new trends in business, technology, marketing and financials to develop our business accordingly and grow. We want new clients to see what we do, how we do it better and why they should consider us instead of the competition.

**Why not say it on camera?** Since its development in the early 1900's, television has captured audiences on every front. Using moving imagery as a tool for marketing is a logical step for all businesses.

**Get in front of your audience.** Don't send another boring e-mail blast. Take time to record a meaningful message that will draw in viewers and show your intentions.

**YouTube delivered more than a trillion videos in 2013.**

Hop on board with sketch videos, animated messages, or real live interviews. Video can change the way you reach new prospects and connect with your current clients.

## Use your 26 seconds...

(Continued from page 1)

This means that after 3 years time, there would be a difference of 33 days within a strict lunar calendar! That's more than one entire lunar cycle! How would that effect your planned vacations?

**A little accuracy please!** Pope Gregory XIII developed the presently used Gregorian calendar in 1582. To initially correct the calendar, he ordered the advancement of the calendar by 10 days.

The rules say, for years divisible by 4 like upcoming 2016, a day is added and the calendar year was dubbed a "Leap Year". If the year is a century year, it must be divisible by 400. For example, 2000 was a leap year, however 2100 will not be.

**Although this is not the most elegant system,** the Gregorian calendar is accurate enough for most individuals. There is only a discrepancy of 26 seconds each year from the solar year, which computes to a one day difference every 3,323 years.

**How will you use your**

**26 seconds this year?**



## A resolution for better time management

*All of us have interruptions from phone calls, e-mails, drop-ins, and text messages when we're starting our work day. Creating plans to condense these activities into certain periods of the day can help you calm the chaos. Take a look!*

**Make plans for visitors.** Have anyone who wants to see you, call ahead or send an e-mail to schedule time. Then, cap your appointment times to specific hours during your workweek so you can plan your days accordingly. This will help you avoid lengthy, unscheduled conversations that can derail your day.

**Tie up loose ends early in the AM.**

For those who need a couple of hours of high concentration, coming in an hour or two early could be the answer. Even just once a week, an extra hour or two early in the morning before your work day gets going may give you the upper hand over your overflowing inbox and endless task list. Give it a try.

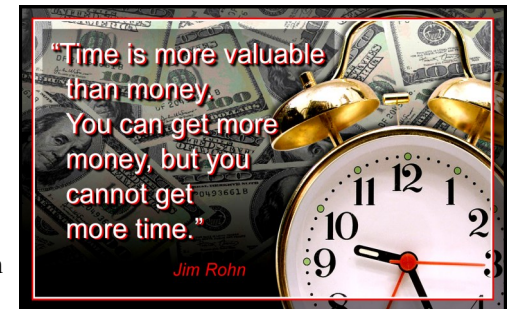
**Stop believing you don't have enough time.** You will quite literally drive yourself into a slump if you keep believing that you don't have enough time. Throw out those self-sabotaging thoughts of managing your day properly and just make your days manageable.

**Regardless of the piles of work in front of you there are really only three things you will do today.** You will think, communicate, and take action. Often, we consider ourselves superhuman and try to do all three at once. Then, reality sets in and we see that the only true way to become productive is to take a deep breath and schedule time to complete our tasks.

**Keep a schedule!**

Carry your schedule with you in your smartphone, tablet or computer, but stick to it because keeping your schedule will help you gauge your productivity and plan your workflow. Remember to give yourself a little extra time to review information before your next activity so that you're up to speed with the task at hand.

**Happy New Year!** Try to enjoy a new year of being organized. These techniques will give you the opportunity to produce a higher quality of work in a more timely fashion.



## Cool new technology!

*January is always fun with the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) unveiling new technology for the coming year.*

**The spectacular 2014 CES event** boasted some big shows with wearable technology trends, educational innovations, digital health solutions, and a plethora of mobile applications to wow us all.

**Interested in seeing what the show was all about?** Visit the official CES website at [www.CESWeb.org](http://www.CESWeb.org) to review the show, events and awards. CES is full of cool new inventions that we will all soon be using very soon.



"Just chillin'. What are you up to?"