

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

June 2015



# Tech Times

*Solutions Unlimited, LLC*



## 7 Warning Signs Of Ailing Hardware: Who Ever Said IT Would Be Easy?

*When your network fails it can disrupt your workday or sometimes bring your entire business to a screeching halt. So, if you're worried about your technology, check for these 7 warning signs before your equipment fails completely.*



your business. With larger software programs and more files to save, your entire network may be bogged down. Replacing your old server or moving to a cloud based solution can boost productivity for your entire organization.

**Technology is an investment.** Most business owners spend a pretty penny on the technology they use everyday. This investment requires an ongoing commitment to maintain just like your car. Sure, you use a computer every day at work but is it up-to-date? Have you had any troubles lately? Here are a few common warning signs you can't ignore.

**1. Overall slowness.** While this can be caused from a variety of issues, the primary struggle we see is overload. Face it, your business is using a lot more technology today than it did 5 or 10 years ago. How often do your employees complain about slowdowns?

**2. Frequent freezing or the blue screen of death!** Everyone cringes at the thought of a blue screen. Yep, we all know that can't be good, right? If your equipment freezes up frequently or you have seen a blue screen, make sure to backup your data fast! These warning signs generally indicate bad hardware or a failing hard drive. When the equipment does give out, everything on it will be lost forever.

**3. Error Message: The following file is missing or corrupted...** Have you seen this message? Or can't find files you know you saved? This is typically a sign that your hard drive is on its last leg.

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If you feel like you're constantly troubleshooting, it may be time to reassess the foundation of



**401 E Kennedy Street, B6  
Spartanburg, SC 29302**

**(864) 599-8678**

**[suisc.com](http://suisc.com)**

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### Forgotten

Did you lose the password for a piece of office equipment?

If the device has been running for some time and the password has been forgotten, it may be a good sign that it's time to replace your ancient hardware.

Don't rely on a factory reset to resurrect your equipment. A reset may only cause more problems and cripple your business.

Need help?  
*Give us a call.*

## What About Father's Day?

*Father's Day, the 3rd Sunday in June, began in 1910 at the YMCA in Spokane, Washington.*

**How Mother's Day inspired Father's Day.**

Sonora Dodd heard a message in church about Jarvis' Mother's Day in 1909. Her father was a hard working civil war veteran and single parent who raised six children. Putting the pieces together, Sonora decided to organize a day just for dads.

**The first celebration for Father Day** was held at the YMCA by Sonora June 19th, 1910 to celebrate the hard work fathers endure for others.

**Supporters.** By 1916, President Woodrow Wilson visited Spokane to speak at a Father's Day event and wanted to make it official but Congress resisted thinking that it would become commercialized.

**Controversy.** While there is still great debate about the final institution of this holiday, today we celebrate Father's.

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## 7 Warning Signs Of Ailing Hardware...

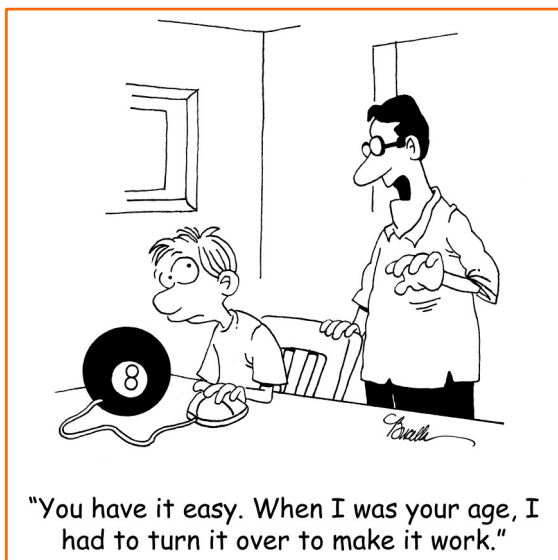
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Regardless of where you save your files, missing or corrupt files can indicate hardware failure on a laptop, desktop computer, printer, or server.

**4. The click of death.** Do you continually hear a clicking noise coming from inside your equipment? Strange noises like this generally come from a machine that is failing. Hard drives and cooling units will click like a second hand on a clock. It's almost fitting since it's a sure sign that your time is running out. Noises like this are from parts running out of sync. They are rubbing or hitting something they shouldn't. Don't delay, backup your data and have your equipment checked right away.

**5. File system issues.** If your file system is constantly switching things to read-only, it may be slowly deteriorating. Even after extensive repairs, an ailing server may continue to give you frequent file system errors like corruption or the read-only status changes. This is a warning sign that they entire server may be on it's way out. Backup your data completely and frequently until you have a new solution in place.

**6. Random shut downs.** Most equipment will shut down when they overheat.



Assuming you have taken proper precautions to ensure ventilation for your machines, random shut downs generally mean hardware failure. Something in the equipment is not able to function properly and it queues the system to turn off. This is often a defense mechanism for the hardware to minimize data loss, prevent further damage, and demand attention.

**7. Errors upon startup.** If you receive error messages when you start up your equipment, it needs a full assessment. This is a sure sign of infection or hardware failure. Don't ignore these errors. They will have useful information to help your IT team assess the situation.

**Never underestimate the benefits of a support contract.** Software and hardware companies offer support agreements to assist you when things fail. Keeping these contracts in place gives you manufacturer support during your time of need. Even if you have an IT guy, they will often have to contact the manufacturer when things go wrong with your software or computers. In some cases, agreements for support allow you to receive replacements for known failures. These agreements can save you valuable time and money when disaster strikes.

**Computers fail. It's not if, it's when.** You shouldn't have to be nervous about your technology. Verify your backups are working, check with each of your employees to see if they have seen any of these signs, and ask for help. Find a reliable IT resource to review all your equipment from top to bottom.

**No one ever said IT would be easy.** Businesses are hard enough to run and grow without ongoing IT chaos getting in the way. So, give us a call today for your

### FREE 27 Point Network Assessment

To ensure your equipment remains running like a well oiled machine.

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## Make The Most Of Your Work Day

*Is your to-do list piled high? Do you try to track your tasks by writing them down? Try these quick tips to make the most out of your work day.*

**Clean up.** Keeping a clean workspace free of clutter can help you stay on track. Things like lighting, smell, and the colors around you impact your productivity. So, take a few moments to refresh your workspace so you can feel more at ease.

**Track yourself.** Tracking your time is a great way to see how you are structure your work day. Set deadlines for yourself and give yourself a specific amount of time to complete your duties. Create a chart of what you do daily, weekly and monthly. Then spell out the time it takes you for each task so you can manage them more efficiently.

**Setup notifications.** After you have a handle on your duties, set notifications to remind you when it is time to work on them. Put notifications on your calendar that pop-up on your monitor to prompt you.

**Stop the distractions.** When you are working on something, make sure others around you know you need time to focus. Turn off your cell phone, even if it is just for an hour or two. You will find reducing the interruptions will help you focus and get more done.



## What About Father's Day?

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**Too commercialized?** I say not. Most fathers strive to fill the position of provider, protector, teacher, exemplar, disciplinarian, and friend in their homes. Why not spoil them once a year with something special?

**Only mom wants a bunch of roses.** No, your father probably won't enjoy a bouquet of flowers nearly as much as your mother. Dads have their own set of treasures and they are much more costly. Americans spend over \$10 billion dollars annually on Father's Day gifts. Retail groups predict the average person will spend just over \$100 on gifts for Dad.

**Gift ideas for your dad.** Take a look at these neat Sharper Image gift ideas that will really "wow" your father:

- ◆ The Worlds Largest Gyro Helicopter  
Item #: 201720
- ◆ Wireless Color Weather Forecast Station  
Item # 203685
- ◆ Bose QuietComfort Headphones  
Item # 203449

Visit: [SharperImage.com](http://SharperImage.com) for more great ideas just for Dad.

**Happy Father's Day!**

## Phishing Scam Compromises Over 39,000 People

*Phishing has become a larger threat than originally anticipated and spear phishing scams can be even more luring. Take a look at these tips to avoid a security breach.*

**What is Phishing?** Phishing is an e-mail fraud method that crafty thieves use to gather personal or company financial information from recipients. These messages look legitimate often masked with well known and trustworthy websites or company spoofs. Recent attachments include messages from organizations posing as large companies like PayPal, Yahoo, MSN, Best-Buy or even eBay.

**What's really inside?** Phishing attack messages generally are named and branded very carefully to fool the recipient. The phisher may put a lure hoping to trick you into clicking on a link in the e-mail. These message may look like product downloads you could have purchased, billing questions from a vendor, order confirmation messages, or even tracking verification e-mails. The links in these e-mails may also look official, so it could be difficult to tell whether a message is bad.

**Learn what to look for and share it with your entire company.** Knowing what to look for is your first defense. Here are a few signs to keep an eye out for when screening questionable messages in your inbox:

- 1) Is there anything out of place or missing in the message? This could be a sign that the message is suspicious.
- 2) Did you order anything from the web-

site recently. Do a search of your inbox for the reference number in the e-mail before you click on anything.

- 3) If the message is from a major institution like a bank or investment company, call your representative to inquire instead of clicking on the message. They may know about the attack messages and be able to advise you.
- 4) If you are unsure about the message at all, delete it. Don't risk the security of your personal or company information.
- 5) Clicked something already? Give us a call today. We can help you clean up your computer and setup ongoing protection for everyone in your company.

**It only takes one message to threaten the security of 39,000 people.**

A healthcare employee recently opened a phishing e-mail in Texas. This one phishing scam message allowed attackers access to 39,000 accounts within their network. Just one breach like this can become very costly to rectify.

**Report Phishing scams.** The Federal Trade Commission is hot on the trail of Phishing scammers. Visit their website to learn more about these nasty attacks or report suspicious messages:

[www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov](http://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov)

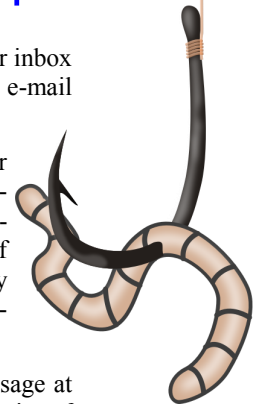
## The Stories Your Grandfather Told Had Some Truth

The Internet is filled with some really useful information, but equally filled with gossip and fabricated stories. Below is proof that you can't believe everything you read online:

Buy Dehydrated Water Online  
<http://www.buydehydratedwater.com/>  
Franchising opportunities are still available!

The Bureau of Sasquatch Affairs  
<http://zapatopi.net/bsa/>  
They're spreading the word about Sasquatch culture.

1993 Report on the velcro crop failures in California:  
<http://www.umbachconsulting.com/miscellany/velcro.html>  
Perhaps the earliest known effects of global warming?





***“We make all of your computer problems go away without adding additional full-time I.T. staff!”***

**Ask about our fixed price service agreements — Computer support**

## Inquiring Minds...

**Is Internet Explorer Doomed?** Microsoft will soon drop Internet Explorer, the first Web browser that tried to make the Internet more fun and easy to use. It has been around since 1995, but according to DailyDot.com, its popularity has dwindled to around 22% of the market share. Many new browsers are said to be faster and safer. Observers say a replacement is certain.

**Microsoft Edge is in the works.** Microsoft reports on their excitement about “Project Spartan,” in which they are developing a new web browser built just for Windows 10. Not only are they excited about the speed and compatibility, but they are building this just for the more modern devices like tablets and smartphones. This feature filled browser is designed to make reading, exploration, sharing and getting things done a bit easier online.

**Raising the bar for browsers.** Microsoft’s released a quick snapshot of the new browser which includes things like a personal assistant to help you browse, linking and sharing tools so you can write or type directly into a page, and a view specifically for reading so you’re not overloaded with distractions.

**Edge and Windows 10 coming soon.** This new browser isn’t quite ready yet but should be available for internal use at Microsoft and Windows Insiders soon to test and give feedback. Many sources are speculating that this new browser will release with Windows 10. We’ll be watching for dates later this year.

**Technology Etiquette At Work.** Tired of cell phone distractions at work. Here are a few tips for proper tech etiquette.

**The modern scourge:** People who check their phones constantly during a meeting or conversation. Usually it works like this: They put their phone down on the table as they speak. When you respond, they pick it up and ignore you. The truth is, checking your device in the company of colleagues or in meetings is disrespectful. Nothing disrupts a meeting like the jarring sound of a ringtone or constant vibrations every few moments. Turn off your phone's ringer before meetings and don't carry on texting. It's safest to let calls go straight to voice-mail and answer them after your work is done. If a critical call comes in, kindly excuse yourself and leave the room before you begin talking.

**Meeting poacher:** People who snap a selfie in the middle of a meeting. Usually it works like this: They put their phone just under the line of the table and make an out of context face. Then send the image to a friend. While, cell-phone cameras do make it easy to take pictures, save your image-capturing for scenic weekend strolls or social gatherings. Taking pictures while others are speaking is rude and you may lose rapport with others for interrupting or disregarding your work environment.

## Don't <sup>Lose</sup> Your Cool

We all get frustrated when things don't work, but who do you call? Do you have a phone number to dial when your computer won't turn on? When your e-mail stops running? When you cannot seem to make your software update? Do you know the last time your company information was backed-up?

*Don't lose your cool, call for help.*

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

And receive a **FREE 27 Point Network Assessment.**

We will run a full assessment of your network and present you with our findings as well as our recommendations to help your business flourish in the future. No more uncertainty.

Our managed service agreements offer 24/7/365 monitoring, updates and preventative care. Giving you peace of mind so you can invest your time wisely, in your business.



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