

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

March 2015

# Tech Times

## Solutions Unlimited, LLC



### 3 Ways To Turn Hard Luck Into Profitable Harmony

Big companies generally have large IT departments to assist them with technology installations, integrations, and maintenance keeping their systems running 24/7/365. Don't rely on luck when it comes to your technology needs. Partner with a managed service provider that can care for your technology like a corporate giant.

#### **Don't Blame luck for your misfortune.**

For many business owners, hiring a full-time IT manager in-house is out of the question. So, they often buy computers or servers based on the needs of their company and advise of friends or family who are self dubbed computer wizzes. Then one day, they fall on hard luck. The server crashes or computers become infected and their technology seems to hold their business hostage.

**Businesses don't succeed because they are lucky.** Luck really has nothing to do with success. Hard work and dedication are the roots of progress. Be proactive when assessing your company's needs. Develop a set of goals for your organization to achieve and create an actionable plan for your success. Here are three ways to turn your hard luck into profitable harmony.

**1. Build a winning team.** Your company's greatest assets are the people that fuel your operations and the tools they use to keep your organization running each day. If you want to retain the best employees provide them with encouragement, efficient tools, learning opportunities, clear roles, and your company's goals or vision. Develop an "open door policy" that encourages your employees to offer suggestions or ideas and give feedback. This will foster an environment of respect, high performance and collaboration.

#### **2. Give your company a competitive advantage with the right tools.**

Regardless of the type of business you run, your company needs technology to thrive. However, tools like computers, printers, e-mail services, and specialty software require an investment and ongoing maintenance to run

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### March Dates

- Daylight Saving Time Begins March 8th
- International Women's Day March 8th
- World Kidney Day March 12th
- St. Patrick's Day March 17th.
- The First Day Of Spring March 20th
- National Doctors' Day March 30th

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### Q & A: St. Patty's Day

*It's the season for green all around. St. Patrick's day brings luck, Irish and celebrations abound. So, where did the legends begin? Check out our St. Patrick's Day question and answers to learn more.*

#### **Q: Where did the gold come from?**

**A: Vikings.** Yep, Vikings inhabited Ireland many moons ago and stored hordes of treasure all over the land. Legend states, they left or forgot to take several stashes of gold. Later, the gold was found by leprechauns and divided among themselves.

They knew the Viking treasures were acquired through wicked deeds and didn't want humans to get ahold of it for fear of what the greed would do to them. So, they stored the gold in pots underground for safe keeping.

#### **Q: Why are rainbows**

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## 3 Ways To Turn Hard Luck...

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efficiently. Work with a trusted advisor to develop a plan for your technology purchases to ensure that your investments will give you the foundation you need to succeed.

**3. Partner with a local resource for your IT management.** Managed services will help you control and reduce the overall operating costs for your technology. Other benefits include increased operational efficiency, cost-effective solutions and support, minimized downtime, and peace of mind knowing your network is safe. Move away from paying for repairs and

waiting for them to be done when things are horribly broken. Take a proactive approach and manage your IT before it manages your business.

**Success shouldn't be about luck.** Your company wasn't developed on luck, why operate on it? Embrace technology as a pathway to achieve your goals not a necessary risk. Give us a call today if you would like to explore a Managed Services solution for your business.

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## 5 Tips To Keep A Good Charge On Your Laptop

*Sure, we all try to plug in when we're on the go, but you can do more. Here are some great tips to help you conserve your laptop battery life.*

**1. Activate battery saver mode or eco mode on your laptop.** Manufacturers are now more conscious of battery life than ever. Every laptop is designed with a cluster of settings that will automatically make changes to lengthen your usable battery life.

**2. Disable unused devices.** The quickest way to reduce your power consumption is to turn off things you are not using. Every piece of your computer needs power to operate, but it doesn't mean you need them all powered on all the time. Start by disconnecting things like peripherals and turning off the big hogs like Wi-Fi, radios, and graphic processors. Visit the Control Panel and find the Device Manager to explore everything that is working behind the scenes.

**3. Turn off extra applications too.** Hardware isn't the only part of your computer that takes juice. Your applications eat away at your battery life too. In windows systems, start by looking at your system

tray just to the left of the clock to see what is running in the background. Open your Task Manager by pressing Ctrl+Alt+Del and review the apps, you may find a few extra programs that are set to run simply because you forgot to close a window or they came with a program you installed.

**4. Treat your battery right.** You may have heard old tricks about not leaving your battery on chargers all night or only charging to 80%. Unfortunately, these old tricks are outdated. Keeping your battery cool and clean is truly the best advice. Make sure there is no debris inhabiting its contacts. If it gets dirty clean it with a cotton swab and alcohol.

**5. Tune up your laptop.** The most effective way to keep your battery pumping longer is to make sure your machine is running at its peak. Remove all unused programs and clean out those files just collecting dust. Keep your cache and temporary file folders cleaned out too. De-cluttering your computer will make it run more efficiently and help your laptop run smoother overall.

## Break/Fix Or Managed Services

Don't rely on luck to keep your businesses afloat. Review these questions. If you answer "no" to any of them, you're playing the break/fix game only addressing the bare minimum fixing current problems.

1. Do you find out immediately when your back-up has failed?
2. Do you know if your server and desktops have up-to-date anti-virus?
3. Do you know if you have the latest patches installed?
4. Do you know which machines in your office are running out of memory?
5. Do you have a number to call if you have a problem with your computers?
6. Do you only hear from your computer guy when something is broken?
7. Do you know what equipment on your network is aging and should be replaced?

If you answered "no" pick up the phone right now and take advantage of our

**FREE 27 Point Network Assessment.**

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## Q & A: St. Patty's Day...

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### involved?

**A: They show where the treasures where hidden by the leprechauns.**

There really is no end to a rainbow. According to physics rainbows are really a full circle except the earth often gets in the way of its projection. Rainbows are said to fall right on the spot where a leprechaun has hidden a pot of gold as a marker of sorts so they can find their stashes again quickly.

**Q: Where do leprechauns live?**

**A: Some folklore states that leprechauns were driven underground.**

Others state, they inhabit the forests of Ireland. Usually residing in hollowed-out trees and small caves. They just remain carefully hidden from view to avoid greedy encounters with humans.

**Q: Do leprechauns have more than just one pot of gold?**

**A: Leprechauns are much richer than people think.** Some people believe that leprechauns made up the pot of gold folklore to deter humans from finding or asking for their larger stashes when captured.

## Spring Into A More Secure Future With A Sound Server Migration Plan

*Don't let time tick away without exploring your options to overcome Microsoft's upcoming Windows Server 2003 End of Support deadline on July 14th.*

**Don't wait to migrate!** The end of service for Windows Server 2003 is quickly approaching, only four months left to get your ducks in a row. There are four key steps to help you move to a new solution.

**1. Explore your options.** Even if you don't choose us, explore your options. Even Microsoft recommends that you start by looking at your workloads and evaluating how you use your server.

**2. Assess your current situation.** Make sure to take an inventory of all your current

systems. This will help you make a better decision and possibly consolidate some systems into one great solution.

**3. Make goals and buy.** Shoot for the stars. Create a plan that helps your company grow. If your migrating to a new server, why not have it do more?

**4. Migrate.** Schedule your migration early and pick a time that will cause the least interruption. New IT investments shouldn't cost you extra in down time. Partner with an IT resource that can take care of your migration after hours or on weekends for a smooth transition.

*Give us a call, we're here to help!*

## Technology Symbols With Hidden Meanings

*Have you ever wondered where technology companies come up with their logos and symbols? Take a look.*

**Sony VAIO** Sony note books are most commonly identified by the wavy emblem on the cover. The subtle symbolism with the "V" and "A" are arranged to represent the basic analog signal. The "I" and "O" are structured to look like the numbers one and zero, representing digital binary code.

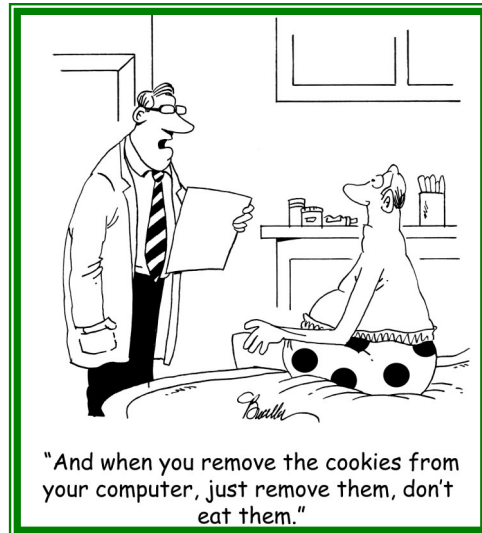
**Amazon** The yellow line logo is a very simplistic take on a smiley face. If you look closely you will notice the beginning and end of the smile touch the letters "A" and "Z" indicating they carry everything you need from A-Z.

**CISCO** The CISCO vertical line symbol was rolled out in 2006 to honor their roots in San Francisco. The arrangement of lines was intended to mimic the frame of the Golden Gate Bridge.

**Bluetooth** Surprisingly, the Bluetooth

symbol was created from the initials of a Viking king of Denmark, Harald Bluetooth, written in Scandinavian runes. This symbol was intended to unite the PC and cellular worlds with a wireless link. Fitting, right?

**The Power symbol** When you stop to think about it, this one makes total sense. The power button was created from a overlap of I/O which means on and off.





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## Inquiring Minds...

**How to reduce your risk of a tax audit** The idea of having an Internal Revenue agent spending days at your place examining your books can strike fear into the hearts of most people. Even if the agent finds nothing (and they usually find something to argue about) it's a very scary experience. Tax advisor Frank Degen, writing in Kiplinger's Personal Finance, says, generally, auditors are looking for something on your tax return that's out of the ordinary, such as a big deduction you haven't claimed before.

**Reporting a loss.** If you have a business and report a large loss, particularly one that offsets other income. That's one reason the auditor has come. Additionally, they want to see if your business is a hobby in disguise.

**Large charitable contributions could be a red flag.** Auditors ask if you have a receipt for every contribution. Today you must remember that a receipt is now required for every contribution. Make sure you have your receipts ready and available.

**Unreimbursed business expenses are another item that often gets flagged.** Keep your expenses in line and recorded properly. Be aware of how the total measures up against your adjusted gross income before you file your taxes. Be sure your tax preparer understands that your expenses are legitimate before you have to convince the IRS.

**Instructing people as you would a computer.** Jason Fried discovered that programming makes you break things down completely before building them back up again. For instance, if you wanted the

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computer to make a sandwich, first you'd have to explain what a sandwich is, what ingredients go into it, and how to assemble it. He says you can't assume much, because the computer itself doesn't know anything.

**Learning to program forced him to see how well he understands things in the real world.** He would have to know enough about sandwiches to explain them to someone who has never heard of them. But, writing in INC., Fried wondered about how he explains more complicated things to his people.

He discovered that he assumes too much about what he actually knows about something until he has to explain it to someone else. Programming taught him that he needs to explain things more specifically and clearly.

**Fried used to assume a lot and rush through things.** Now, when he describes something, he goes slowly. He breaks the idea down in his mind first, and then explains it piece by piece. He'd rather have someone ask him to speed up than risk going too fast and skipping over fundamentals that really matter.

**The technique is helping him all over.** Recently, he was explaining the company's project-management software to a new customer. He found that when he approached the customer like a computer, he had a better shot at making a clear and deep connection.



## We'll Be Your Peanut Butter!

Ever feel like your network is a half made sandwich? Tired of dry unresponsive technical support services? Want to find a fresh approach to your IT management?

We believe we are your perfect match. We're ready to couple with your company to support all your IT needs. Besides, what is a peanut butter and jelly sandwich without good peanut butter? It's just toast!

Give us a call today for your:  
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See how we can be the perfect match for your sandwich.

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