

Happy Thanksgiving!

November 2015

Tech Times

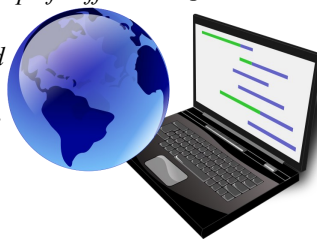
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Sick Of Feeling Like Your Server Can Turn Your World **Upside Down** At Any Moment?

It's a Monday and you managed to make it out of the house early, grab your favorite cup of coffee and head into the office. When you arrive, you flick on all the lights and log into your computer. As soon as you sit down and start opening your daily programs, you realize that nothing is opening up? Everything is showing just status bars on your screen. Then you receive an error that says the three most dreaded words for any business, "Server not found..."



or annoying error messages at every turn. These problems can lead to a full failure that could become very costly for your business.

The Red Cross found that 40% of businesses never reopen after a major disaster. Large prolonged outages from disasters or equipment failure can make you feel like your network is turning your world upside

down. Not only will your company be out of business while the repairs are being made, your customers and employees will be held hostage until your server is ready.

What is the true cost of an outage? Consider the total cost of your lost opportunities. It is hard, but put a dollar amount on the business you missed out on during the outage or clients you may lose due to the downtime. Then quantify the value of your daily operations, how much

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Signs your server is begging for attention. Servers are the centerpiece of our business's much like the turkey is at Thanksgiving. Your computers, scanners, printers and all the other side dishes can fail on their own and everyone else in your office can keep working. However, when the server fails everyone is taking a vacation. Watch for the constant complaints about performance, not enough processing power to get things done, missing files,



Solutions Unlimited, LLC

401 E Kennedy Street

Spartanburg, SC 29302

(864) 599-8678

SolutionsUnlimitedSC.com

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Give Thanks

May your stuffing be tasty, may your turkey plump, may your potatoes and gravy have nary a lump. May your yams be delicious and your pies take the prize, and may your Thanksgiving dinner stay off your thighs!

We are so thankful to work along side such a fantastic group of people. Thank you for your patronage.

Turkey Gone Wild!

Try a new tradition this year. There are a million alternatives to your granny's roasted turkey recipe. Take a look!

Deep-fried is a great southern tradition shared by many these days. Foodies cling to this method even though it is by far the most unhealthy way to cook a turkey, it sure is tasty.

Spatchcocked. While turkey is quite a challenge, spatchcocking solves the overly dry meat and uneven cooking temp dilemmas. With this type of recipe, you butterfly the bird from the bottom removing the spine and laying the meat out flat. You can use this method for baking or grilling. Yum!

Grilled goodness. Many people enjoy grilling their birds too. This frees up your oven for other delicious treats. However, it does pose a few challenges. For example, grills often do not heat as precisely as an oven.

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Sick Of Feeling Like Your Server...

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money does your company make working daily? Finally, add in your cost for personnel (# of employees x daily salary x length of time out of work.) If everyone in your office is able to continue in some capacity, you may want to reduce this calculation by 50% or 20%. The final number you come up with will undoubtedly shock you. Most businesses don't realize how much money they really lose over just a few hours or a few days and this number doesn't even include the cost for repairs!

Leftovers only last so long. You wouldn't eat Thanksgiving leftovers for Christmas dinner. So, why rely on leftover equipment from 20 years ago. Oh, yea... it is that bad. Age may not be as important for your label maker or your calculator, but when it comes to servers, it's a game changer. As your equipment ages it will become outdated and inevitably fall behind. The ability to recover data is reduce, things can be lost and it just takes more time to repair older systems. If your server fails, this could mean your repair invoice will triple or quadruple.

Losing a little bit each day. Yes, you've

read or heard about old outdated servers and sure, we would love to put a new server in every office in the world or move everyone to the cloud, but let's be realistic. You need a good solution just for your business. Ask yourself:

- 1) Is my server more than 5 years old?
- 2) Do I need to make a plan just in case it fails tomorrow?
- 3) Is there a constant hum of complaints in the office about the server's performance?

If you answered "yes" to these three questions, give us a call today before the holiday's hit to ensure your office is ready. There is nothing worse than being bombarded with issues when you're trying to escape with family.

Ensure your business is Always-On! Create a stable and reliable network starting with your server. Take advantage of our 47 Point Network Security Assessment. We will assess your entire network for vulnerabilities that can plague your business with downtime.

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Think Security Before You Go

Headed out of town for the holiday? Whose watching your dog, your house, your office, your network?

Headed out? We all go through a mental checklist when we are leaving for vacation. Toothbrush, phone forwarding, alarm, camera... A million and one things need checking and rechecking.

What about the office? Shutting down the office for a few days of rest and relaxation can do your company some good. Let everyone embrace visiting relatives without work interruptions, but be safe.

Before you go... Make sure your computers are logged off. Don't leave passwords written down on note pads, under your keyboard, or stuck to your monitor. Keep your client files and important documents under lock and key too.

Lock up! Make sure your antivirus is updated and your computers, servers, and firewalls are all up-to-date as well. Lock up your network tight just like you do for the windows and doors too.

Expert Online Black Friday Shopping Tips



Black Friday shopping is quite a sport for many people. Take a look at these tips for the most efficient Black Friday shopping.

Shop in your pajamas. Over 70% of Black Friday shoppers are now zeroing in on the online door busters available at their favorite store websites.

Know what you want. Do your homework before you go shopping. Make sure the items you find to buy actually have your wish list of "must haves" before you pay for a lesser model.

Prepare ahead of time. Make sure your online retail accounts are setup and you have the payment method you want on file. Deals go fast, be ready when the offers are booming. Load up your cart! Your online shopping cart that is. Many online retailers will allow you to load your shopping cart even before the deals or discounts are available.

Look for the best shipping offers. One of the most treasured online benefits of Black Friday shopping (besides avoiding the chaos at the stores) is FREE shipping. Check the retailers you love to see who will be offering free shipping on Black Friday so you know where to get the best deal.



Turkey Gone Wild...

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So, keep your thermometer close by.

Smoked turkey. Some of the more robust smokers allow you to get pretty creative with your meats. They have ample room for a large turkey and you don't even have to season the bird. Some fancy cooks brine the turkey beforehand with the usual ingredients like wine, bourbon or even apple cider.

Evaporating beer.

In more recent years, a new beer can method for grilling has become popular. The turkey is placed over an indirect heat source with a beer-can stand. This method allows the beer to evaporate and moisten the interior of the bird.

Turducken? Sure.

If you haven't tried it, turducken is actually quite tasty. It's a turkey cooked with a duck that is stuffed with a chicken inside. There are about a million ways to put this dish together with a variety of infused flavors.

Inspiration. Check out the Food Network for ideas to spruce up your turkey this holiday season.

Happy
Thanksgiving

Holiday Emotions Running High? Management Tips To Keep Things Smooth At The Office

It's that time of year again when the holiday's make us all a little crazy. There is nothing worse than your know-it-all sibling trying to show you up or that red headed step-child of a relative like my aunt Marge who just never stops talking. Sometimes, the drama can get under your skin a bit and you may see your work suffer.

Stop the madness! While we would all like to tell a few of our relatives to hit the road, and never come back no more, no more, no more, no more! That isn't generally an option. So, take a more proactive approach and prepare yourself for the seasons rush of activities. Here are a few quick tips to help you keep things running smoothly:

- 1) Ask for help or outsource your time consuming minor tasks.** Don't be afraid to lighten the load during the holidays when your home life can be more demanding. Ask co-workers for help or outsource minor tasks using an agency like Upwork.com. Reducing the demands on your time even for a few months, can help improve your productivity and attitude.
- 2) Be honest with the people around you, clients and coworkers.** Let everyone know what is going on. You don't have to spill the beans about every family secret, but let people know if you aren't able to go about business as usual. Alert your clients and coworkers to the situations at hand so there are no misunderstanding or hard feelings. Reassuring them that their business and concerns are very important to you and set good expectations for service or replies during this time.
- 3) Work with your staff to implement tools and process that are easy to follow and understand.** Managing a business is hard. There are always hurdles to overcome. It may be time to step back and

assess your daily operations.

Are there tasks that are repetitious that can be automated? Are there some additional tools, equipment or software that can help your task work more productively. Sometimes, simplifying processes and implementing a few new tools can help everyone work more harmoniously.

- 4) Open up as a leader and show you're human.** Good leaders are insightful, proactive, passionate, reliable and transparent, but they are also human. When things get stressful juggling tasks and home life, give yourself the benefit of the doubt. Talk with your employees and coworkers. Show them your human side. Don't make false promises because you are stretched too thin. Disclose the information your team needs to support you and share your knowledge generously to welcome their assistance.

**Don't stress. Have a very
Happy Thanksgiving.**



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Inquiring Minds...

When Robots Do Everything, What Will Humans Do? While this is probably quite a ways off, it is fun to think about. Robots can already do a lot. More than you know. More than you might think.

As technology hurtles forward, what will be the role of humans?

“In Humans are Underrated: What High Achievers Know That Brilliant Machines Never Will” Colvin writes that humanity or humanness will be exactly what the future needs. The human abilities to interact with others will be the missing ingredient in a world where robots can do so much.

Colvin asks a challenging question: What are the jobs or activities that humans demand that other humans do? The answer might be collaboration, Colvin suggests. Understanding the nuances of the world, the subtleties of society, requires humans who can work and learn in teams.

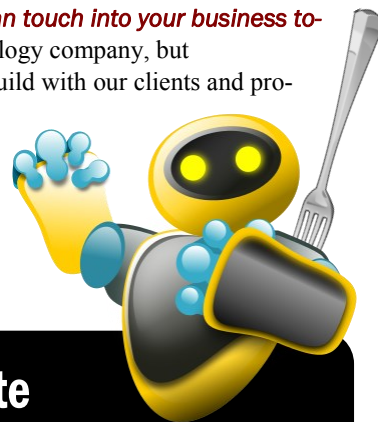
Allan Murray, the editor of Fortune, says these questions reflect the broad skill sets that Colvin says will define the role of humans in a hypertechnology workplace.

- We must work together in groups because we keep changing our perception of what the problem is and what the goals should be.
- We want to work with people to solve problems, tell them sto-

ries and hear stories from them, and create new ideas.

- The most effective groups have members who have deeply human abilities, empathy above all, social sensitivity and the ability to build relationships.
- We want to follow human leaders and negotiate agreements with a person, hearing a voice. To be able to look into someone's eyes can often be the key to high-value work.

So, why not bring more of a human touch into your business today? Strange to hear from a technology company, but we thrive on the relationships we build with our clients and prospects. We are thankful first and foremost for your support and acceptance, that's what makes our business so successful. After all, we are just human.



Automagic Off-Site Backup: Put A Fork In It, It's done!

Did you know automagic has actually been added to the Urban dictionary? Of course it will take another decade for Merriam-Webster to catch on, but that's ok. We all know automagic means something that happens automatically, but that also has some mysterious, “magical” element to it. For example, “smart” appliances, fancy features, and our off-site backups. Ok, so we just like the sound of it.

The real question is, do you have an automagic off-site backup you can count on? The weather is changing and power outages are more frequent these days. A reliable off-site backup can save you time and money in a pinch. Give us a call today to explore your options.

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