Tech Times

Solutions Unlimited, LLC

Is Your Network Malicious Because it is Miserable?

As many of you may remember from Mary Shelley's Frankenstein story, some creations just aren't meant to be. Do you feel like your network is raging against you?

Network nuances. While many business owners have computers, printers and servers not all networks are created equal. Often times they look so much alike from the outside that the type of machine labeled on the front is the only subtle difference from one office to another. However, the way your network operates proves its true worth.

"When falsehood can look so like the truth..." — *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein.* Recently, a business came to us with network security concerns. They were fighting tooth and nail to use their network each day. It was almost as if it were attacking them. We found that many of the programs they used to keep their network

running and their company data secure were not working properly. They had all the right tools, but no one to manage them regularly and keep them up-to-date. They had invested wisely in the right technology, but the miserable state of their network kept them from being able to use it efficiently.

What is network security? It is a combination of provisions and policies setup to prevent and monitor unauthorized access, modification or other general misuse of your computer network. Generally, network security is developed in layers to create a secure platform for computer users and programs to operate at their maximum potential.

It's alive! Your IT security policy. There are three primary components to keep your network safe; an IT security policy, enforcement, and au-

Solutions Unlimited, LLC
100 Corporate Dr Ste N
Spartanburg, SC 29303
864.599.8678
www.suisc.com

What's Inside...

Batty Tech

~ A computer once beat me at chess, but it was no match for me at kick boxing.

~ A printer consists of three main parts: the case, the jammed paper tray and the blinking red light.

~ Computers make very fast, very accurate mistakes.

~ If the pen in mightier than the sword, and a picture is worth a thousand words, how

Pumpkin Passion

Halloween is just around the corner. Have you picked the perfect pumpkin yet?

Pumpkins galore. Here in the U.S. growers produce over 1.5 billion pumpkins each year. Originally grown in central America, pumpkins are now farmed in 6 countries and there are over 30 varieties of pumpkins. The worlds largest pumpkin weighs more than 1,700 lbs.

What's inside? Every pumpkin is filled with about 500 seeds. These seeds are a rich source of protein. Pumpkins are actually very healthy. One serving of pumpkin has about .5 grams of fat and a boatload of potassium, vitamin A, and fiber too.

Carve it up! The tradition of carving vegetables on All Hallows Eve has been a common practice in many parts

Is Your Network Malicious...

(Continued from page 1)

diting. An IT security policy is a principle document that outlines exactly how your company plans to ensure the security of your assets. This policy will always be a "living document", meaning it is never finished. You will continually update it as your company changes and grows. Your IT Security policy will include things like an acceptable use policy, how employees are trained, what protection programs are in place and how your security will be carried out or enforced.

Strong enforcement for a stable network. There are three primary areas of focus with enforcement; confidentiality, integrity and availability. Confidentiality involves the security of your assets from unauthorized use. Integrity ensures your network modifications and updates are in good hands. The overall state of your network access is the availability portion.

Can everyone access what they need? If not, it's time for an audit. Sometimes untamed networks just need more management to get back on track. A little fine tuning can go a long way.

Spooky Web Trackers And Dangers, Be Aware!

We all use the Internet these days for work and our personal lives. It is conveniently accessible on our smartphones, tablets, and computers. However, this also puts us one click away from prying eyes with malicious intentions.

Be aware of the dangers. Sometimes ads have funny pictures or interesting stories, so be careful. Don't click "Like" or "Share" on these types of sidebar or banner ads because they may be filled with a nasty virus or lead you to a malicious website.

Web trackers. One of the most common issues you'll see online is the web ads that track your browsing and show advertisements based on your viewing history. While you may always be tracked in some way, make a habit of clearing unnecessary plug-ins from your browsers to keep you safe and never download anything from a website you don't know.

Firefox tracking and plug-in tips. To make these changes in Firefox, click on the three grey lines in the upper right corner of your browser, that's the "menu" button. Then click on the "privacy" tab and select an option under the "tracking" section. To edit your plug-ins click on the "menu" button again and select "Add-ons". Deactivate or disable any plug-ins or extensions you don't recognize or use.

Explorer tracking and plug-in tips. For Internet Explorer 11, Point to the lower-right corner of the screen and move the mouse pointer up, then select "settings". Click on "privacy" and under "tracking protection" select "add tracking protection lists" to install the current list from Microsoft. To remove add-ons, click on the "tools" button and select "manage add-ons". Under "show" click "all add-ons" and you will see the "remove" option next to each one.

Take security into your own hands. Make sure your antivirus program is up to date and your firewall is turned on. Their main purpose is to keep your systems safe from infections and unauthorized access.

Need a Firewall or Antivirus? Give us a call today. Don't wait another moment to boost your security with these two es-

Machine Graveyard

Take a look at these clear signs to look for when a workstation is on its last breath.

Experiencing a large number of software glitches or slow access? Sometimes, it is just a single program that may need to be reinstalled. However, if you are seeing glitches or slowness in various programs the problem could mean a hardware failure is looming in your future.

Things that go bump in the day? Listen to your computer. Sometimes hearing strange thrashing or grinding noises means your drive is ready to crawl in a grave. Don't push it or you may lose your data.

The disappearing data trick or rebellious streak? Does your computer seem to be fighting your every move? If you cannot save documents or if you're receiving disk errors, these could be symptoms of a larger issue. If you have any of these precursors, have your computer assessed.

Backup, not recovery. Remember, it is always easier to restore data from a back-up than to recover data after a failure.

Pumpkin Passion

of world. Originally, it started a with rutabagas, turnips, gourds and potatoes. Carving them up and leaving them on the porch with a burning candle inside at night was said to ward off evil spirits and bring good luck to the household. We didn't transition to the use of pumpkins until the 19th century.

Carving competitions.

Over the past decade, pumpkin carving contests have evolved into a highly competitive pastime. In Florida, there is even an underwater pumpkin carving contest.

Pumpkins soar.

Aside from carving, many people today find other fun traditions with pumpkins too. Delaware celebrates a whole festival devoted to launching pumpkins in the air. The World Championship Pumpkin Chuckin festival was recently dubbed one of the Top 100 Events in North America.

Chuckin.

For three full days festival goers enjoy chucking 8-10 pound pumpkins as far as they can. There are over a dozen categories to enter including air cannons, cata-

Why Alexander Graham Bell Is Turning Over In His Grave!

"Thank you for calling…" Take a look at this surprising news about our beloved telephone network. Surely, Alexander Graham Bell never saw this coming.

Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN),

also known as the wired telephone network, is widely used by people all over the world. However, with such rapid technological advancements, the use of PSTN has become rare, and people right now are more comfortable with the digital or wireless networks which are more efficient, stable, and secure than the PSTN.

The shift to new technology.

Before the advent of digital technologies such as ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network) or FDDI (Fiber Distributed Data Interface), PSTN was the most popular telephone network. This network is based on copper wires that carry analog our voice data. The main problem with PSTN is that the network is not robust. Due to hurricane Sandy, the PSTN network was completely destroyed in the Mantoloking Island in New Jersey in 2013. In addition to this, the voice quality is often not satisfactory in the PSTN system, causing serious problems. Unfortunately, this is not the only notable natural disaster to disrupt services. Due to the structure of the system, PSTN is physically vulnerable where its new competitors are untouchable.

People have already started to use digital or IP telephony using the Internet.

All of the telephone operators today unanimously agree that an Internet-based telephone network is the only efficient option to satisfy the demands for their large number of customers. Within a very short time, the PSTN network will be completely abandoned by users, who prefer the ease of use and efficiency of

the robust mobile broadband or IP-based telephone network systems.

The governments stance.

Government regulations will keep the PSTN network from being completely turned off. Despite the availability of better and cheaper alternatives, the PSTN network will be available no matter how few users it has. However, people have become more conscious, so the use of PSTN continues to decrease in a rapid fashion.

Go ahead… slice your phone bill in half!

There is no easy way to break this to you, but you've been paying way too much for your communication needs. Take a few minutes to pull out your telephone bill and give us a call for a FREE Phone Comparison. Carefully evaluate apples to apples so you can truly see how the cost of using PSTN telephone service is often much higher than its counterparts in the long run. Most business owners are shocked at the cost advantages, the included features, and the flexibility of Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) systems. It's time to do a little price shop-

©Marty Bucella   www.martybucella.com

AT THE TIME, BOTOX SEEMED LIKE A GOOD IDEA, BUT NOW I CAN'T SMILE.

#Halloween!

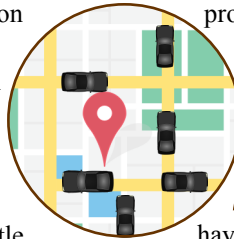# "We make all of your computer problems go away without the cost of a full-time I.T. staff!"

Ask about our fixed price service agreements
— Computer support at a flat monthly fee you can budget for, just like payroll!

Inquiring Minds...

Uber Transportation Sweeps The Globe. It is safe to say Uber is one of the most fantastic startups of the decade. This great little company is focused on arranging transportation so inexpensively and conveniently that you will never want to rent a car or ride in a taxi again! Honestly, when my friend suggested Uber I thought, "What? A car service? That has to be expensive." But, no! It is actually more affordable and easier to use than most alternatives.

Uber is really moving people. Uber offers a slick little application for your phone to schedule your pickup and pay for your ride. When you request a ride you can see all the cars in your area on a map, the system then notifies a driver and allows you to track their location. If you are still out on the town, you can even put your phone away and Uber will text you when your ride arrives. Your drivers name and the details of the vehicle show up right on the app. You can even send the driver a message or give them a call.

Clear pricing and convenient payment processing too. Aside from the clear advantages for booking, Uber also offers upfront pricing and cashless payment through their handy application. If you are riding with a friend, you can even split the fare between multiple people. No more saying "You can pay me back later." Uber takes care of dividing up the fare and each friend that opts in for the ride charges them equally.

Uber's commitment to safety and security. Uber even runs background checks on all drivers and keeps a log of driver profiles available for everyone to see. When your ride is scheduled the driver is documented, you have a record of it and Uber holds them accountable. You have the option of rating their service too. They are very professional and friendly.

Find your lost items fast! The best part, you don't have to frantically call the cab company if you leave something behind. Just call the driver directly. So, the next time you find yourself in need of transportation, give Uber a try. You will be pleasantly surprised about their professional, speedy, and safe services.

How Some Leaders Get More Done And Better.
Here's a new thought on how to accomplish more: Just do less.

Do Nothing: How to Stop Overmanaging and Become a Great Leader is a great little book by management professor J. Keith Murnighan. He says the key to unlocking a manager's productivity is to just say no: switch off the email pings, decline meeting invitations and get home in time for dinner.

Solutions Unlimited, LLC
100 Corporate Dr Ste N
Spartanburg, SC 29303
864.599.8678
www.suisc.com