

# Tech Times

## Solutions Unlimited, LLC

*"We make all your computer problems go away..."*



### XP Isn't Alone! Server 2003 Support Ends Soon.

Do you have Microsoft Windows Server 2003 powering your operations? Be aware, product support for this product is ending next year. Just like the end of life date for XP, Microsoft is phasing out support for Server 2003 products too. This could mean major risks for your company.

#### Microsoft is ending support on July 14th, 2015

This date proposed for the end of support applies to standard, enterprise and datacenter versions of Windows Server 2003. While it may seem like a ways off, upgrading a server isn't as quick and easy as updating a tower or laptop computer. What does this mean for businesses?

**Your server could be dismantled by a 5th grader.** Ok, so it isn't that bad, but it's really no laughing matter that the end of extended support means no more patches or updates to keep your

company safe. So, watch out! Threats against your server could skyrocket and new threats will undoubtedly be on the rise as malicious bullies position for attack when support disappears.



#### Your company may be out of compliance.

Outdated software means your business is out of PCI compliance too. If your company is held to HIPPA or PCI requirements in order to operate, you can't afford to wait.

Businesses in the healthcare or financial industry should not operate without ongoing patches, security updates and software support. Penalties for PCI violations are steep, estimations are reported at around \$5,000 or more.

#### Why should you upgrade your server OS if it isn't broke?

Answer this one question, "Are  
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### Back To School

*It's that time of year again, when children are back in class learning new things. Why not make a commitment yourself or as a company to further your knowledge this fall?*

**Why expand your horizons.** There is nothing more frustrating than the prospect of sitting in a position you are not happy with for a seemingly endless enlistment. Give yourself more opportunities with the knowledge to spread your wings or expand your company.

**The right talent in the right position.** This next piece of advise really isn't news to a smart business person like you, but it is important to recognize. There is an ideal position for everyone. The trick is finding the right seat that allows the individual to use their strengths and build on their weaknesses.

**Commit your compa-**

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### Computer Life:

- Most irritating moments  
~ Blue screening and virus warnings
- Most difficult Task  
~ Updates and security
- Most dreadful journey  
~ Lost my work
- Most tragic moment  
~ My entire hard drive wiped due to a virus
- Most wonderful news  
~ Solutions Unlimited, LLC can fix it all right now!

## XP Isn't Alone! Server 2003 Support...

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you comfortable running your company with the risks of an unsupported OS?" If your answer is "No?", upgrade. Leaving your server unprotected means there will be holes for hackers to attack. All your company data may be exposed.



**Spread the word about Microsoft Server 2003.** Don't let your company, clients, or friends run on an outdated system. This end-of-life date means all servers running Server 2003 will be vulnerable leaving everyone using this old oper-

## Motivate Your Remote Workforce

*Even though you're willing to pay remote workers, that doesn't ensure that they will do a good job for you. Here are a few great tips to make the best of it.*

James DeJulio, president of Tongal and an expert on managing remote workers,

ating system open to viruses and invasions.

**July 2015 is coming.** While it may seem like you have plenty of time, the truth is it takes roughly 4 to 8 weeks for manufacturers like Dell to build a new server. It can also take up to four weeks for configuration and installation when you purchase a new server. Even upgrades can be a little tricky for businesses with specialty software programs or large amounts of data.

**Don't hesitate.** This is an investment you can't afford to miss. Give us a call today for a FREE Server 2003 Assessment to determine the best and most economical course of action for your organization.

says the key is to provide challenge and fun. Writing in Inc.com, he says remote people like to work whenever they want to. That's why it's important to set deadlines. You have to structure their work.

**Let them know you care.** Hire a remote worker who is motivated by developing a new product, fixing a problem or changing the way things are getting done. Let them know how much their work adds value to the company.

**Keep your company data safe.** Remote workers can carry infections right in the back door of your business. Make sure anyone connecting to your company information has their computer scanned, a firewall in place, and updated anti-virus. These small precautions can save your business from data loss.

**A policy for your company's protection.** Little things like, keeping company information saved on the server and not home computers seems like a no-brainer, but is often overlooked. Put a set policy to guide employees when they are working away from the office.

## Take A Tech Break

*How do some managers get more done and done better than others?*

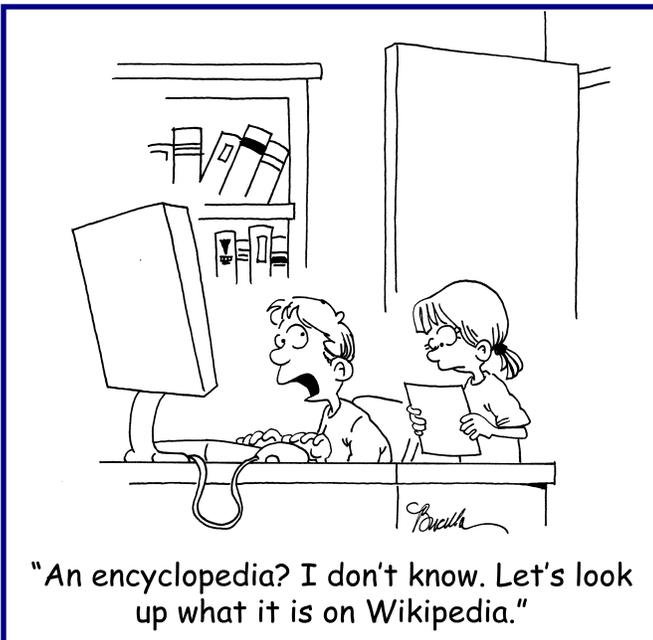
Here's a new thought on the topic, just do less. Sure, that sounds almost comical to most business owners and managers, but it is a fantastic way to boost your productivity.

**In his new book,** *Do Nothing: How to Stop Overmanaging and Become a Great Leader*, management professor J. Keith Murnighan 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.

**According to one study,** stress goes up significantly when being interrupted. The cause of stress is having to keep shifting your attention from one thing to the next.

That's why we don't text and drive a car, right? Sure, we are sharper than a tack when driving and most of us text lightning fast, but put the two together and our attention is torn.

**Slow down just a bit.** Make plans to enjoy yourself once in a while. Take a tech free walk or disengage while you make dinner with family.



"An encyclopedia? I don't know. Let's look up what it is on Wikipedia."



## Back To School...

(Continued from page 1)

**ny to growing knowledge.** Many companies these days are investing in their talented staff with an educational reimbursement plan.

Some companies will pay up to 90% of the costs of obtaining a bachelor's degree in a field geared toward the employee's position. Others may even pay 100% for specific industry certifications.

**An educated staff is more dedicated.** Just knowing the organization supports personal growth may be a great inspiration for employees. Even prospective employees may see this benefit as a determining factor when signing on for a position.

**Passing considerations...** Don't go crazy with your reimbursement policy though. Set a cap on the reimbursable amount, require a "C" average or better, and always have something in writing with your employees that clearly defines the reimbursement policy.

**Smarter workers.** Encouraging education can help you develop your company. With more competent employees, your organization will flourish.

## 3 Essential Subjects For Server Upgrade Projects

*Do you know what to ask about for your server project? With the cut off of Microsoft's Server 2003 products coming next summer, it is important to know what questions to ask about the project..*

**1. What is the first step to get started?** Any good technical talent will begin with a full data backup. Don't let anyone make changes on your server, not even minor changes, without confirming a full backup of all your company information.

**2. How will the changes be implemented?** All IT professionals understand the importance of procedure. Every upgrade or addition should be completed individually. Simultaneous modifications can make it very difficult to isolate challenges later if a problem arises.

**3. When will you follow-up?** Follow-up is critical. Upgrades and addi-



tions may require adjustments. For example, if we were to add memory to your server and leave it to its own devices, we may miss the opportunity to optimize Windows' performance.

**Server projects can quickly become a financial burden** if they are not

managed correctly. Make sure your prepared. New hardware and software isn't always as easy to implement as it seems. Workstations and servers can be temperamental when it comes to accepting new additions. Remember, technology should be a tool for the betterment of your business, not a hindrance. Give us a call today if need help with your next project.

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## Stay Safe Without Passwords?

*The best passwords include letters, numbers, symbols and a mix of capital letters, or they should. They are generally long, complicated and hard to remember. What if you could toss those difficult passwords right out the window?*

Technology companies are pushing to provide solutions that are both more secure and more convenient. Soon, all hardware offerings will have additional security included as a standard.

**Smartphones and other devices** are opening up options such as facial and voice recognition. Apples new iPhone even comes with a fingerprint sensor. Even Microsoft is bragging about the new Windows 8.1 operating system that is optimized for fingerprint biometrics too.

**What about online accounts?** Google, Paypal, Lenovo and others have come together in an organization called

FIDO (Fast Identity Online) Alliance, which is working toward creating industry standards for forms of so-called strong authentication.

**A password token could also be the answer.** Google is testing tokens with their employees this year and may offer them to consumers next year. The tokens provide a way of logging in created by Yubico, Inc. They generate numeric passwords, which companies have used for years, as a second form of authentication. Employees simply plug the token into a USB port or touch it on a mobile device using near-field communication.

**Security measures moving on up.** Give us a call today to explore new cutting edge security features available right now to keep your company safe.

## If Your Password Is In This List, Change it!

These are the twenty-five most common passwords last year. If you see your password listed here, change it now!

1. password
2. 123456
3. 12345678
4. abc123
5. qwerty
6. monkey
7. letmein
8. dragpn
9. 111111
10. baseball
11. iloveyou
12. tristmp1
13. 1234567
14. sunshine
15. master
16. 123123
17. welcome
18. shadow
19. ashley
20. football
21. Jesus
22. michael
23. ninja
24. mustang
25. Password1



***“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...

***Device Makers Gather To Set Standard Rules For 'The Internet Of Things'*** The Internet of Things refers to adding computer chips and sensors to devices like door locks, lights, thermostats, TVs, appliances and cars, to name some of the projected uses. Soon we will be living in a true “information age”.

***Wi-Fi connects life.*** The products involved are expected to use wireless technology, like Wi-Fi and Bluetooth, so they can be remotely managed by smartphones or tablets. Agreeing on how to do it isn't easy though, and different approaches are being suggested. A group called the Open Interconnect Consortium hopes to set technical ground rules for all uses. The alliance includes Intel Corp., Samsung, Microsoft and Cisco Systems. Big players like Apple and Google are working on similar plans. A group called the AllSeen Alliance includes chip maker Qualcomm, Microsoft and Cisco Systems are working on the ground rules.

Backers stress the need for security features and software to help the writers of application programs exploit connected devices. That goal is nearly identical to that recommended by the All-Seen Alliance, which plans to release open - source software based on their technology called Alloy.

***Can't everyone just work together?*** Quoted in The Wall Street Journal, Douglas Fisher, vice president of Intel's software and services unit, says the new initiative is Tech Times September 2014 “We make your entire 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! Trying to unify rather than fragment the market. We will see how these clever developers layout out the foundation for our Live with ‘The Internet of Things’.

***Laugh! It Will Give You A Positive Start.*** Sometimes, just starting a conversation with a soft smile and a laughing matter can kick things off to a good start. Showing a person that you are approaching, that you are in a good mood will reduce their anxiety about communicating and may have health benefits too.

***Share a laugh.*** Believe it or not, laughter is instinctive; it is in our blood, a part of our genetics if you will. No one can resist laughter. It can't always be controlled, but it can always be encouraged. Laughter is one of the few contagions everyone can enjoy.

***Truth be told...*** laughter even has some surprising benefits. When we laugh, our bodies release endorphins or feel good chemicals. Laughter can even lower blood pressure, increase muscle use and therefore increase oxygenation in your blood, decrease stress hormones, and boost your immune system. So, share a good joke or funny cat video online with a friend, coworker or client just to brighten the day.



## When Do Your Licenses Expire?

As a business owner, I'm sure you have a handful of items in your office that require license like a firewall, server license, or even software renewals. Do you know when they should be renewed?

Don't let little things like this slip through the cracks. Up-to-date licenses allow you to keep your appliances and software safe.

If you're worried something has been missed, give us a call today for your free **47 POINT NETWORK ASSESSMENT**.

Kick off the new school year with a fresh audit of your systems to ensure your offices' best defenses are working for you.

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