

Tech Times

Solutions Unlimited, LLC



4 Business Resolutions For 2015: Increased Flexibility, Scalability, Efficiency, And Connectivity

Has your network grown into a heavy weight monster that's costly to maintain? If you've been on the fence about cloud computing, here are a few examples of the enormous opportunity it can bring to your business.



What is cloud computing? Cloud computing is when a company uses a network of remote servers hosted on the Internet to handle things like storage, management, security and standard data processing tasks. Although many business owners recognize cloud computing is a technology game changer, it is difficult to envision and therefore remains virtually untapped. Take a moment to evaluate whether a cloud strategy can help your organization slim down on hardware and boost profits.

Flexibility: Cloud computing developed a huge shift for IT spending in 2014 and according to Forbes is expected to increase 46% for 2015. However, this

spending is not all upfront which is why many business owners are ready to give cloud computing a try. The pay-as-you-go cost structure of cloud based operations allows you to match your spending to the needs of your business. Cloud completely eliminates the need to build out expensive hardware systems, install a multitude of software programs or pay costly licensing fees all up front when it's time to make a change. You have the flexibility you need.

Scalability: Cloud solutions also give you room to grow. As you add employees, you are able to simply add a "seat" to

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Happy New Year!

Traditions and superstitions abound and may differ according to regions of the world. Here are a few you may know about and a few that may befuddle or amuse you.

New Years celebrations: The U.S. and Canada have observed January 1st for over 400 years. The noise from fireworks and other trinkets is believed to drive out evil spirits.

Images of a baby with a banner: They represent the birth of a new year. The Greeks used this imagery in 600 B.C.

Kissing at midnight: Smooching our favorite people ensures our ties continue throughout the new year.

Resolutions: Early Babylonians made promises to return borrowed farm equipment, but modern people are more likely to swear off smoking and liquor.

Eat black-eyed peas, collard greens and

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Silly Resolutions

- ~ I will not bore my boss with the same excuses for taking leave. I'll think of new ones.
- ~ I will answer snail mail with the same enthusiasm as I do e-mail.
- ~ I will always fill the printer completely with paper, not just what I need when I need it.
- ~ I will try to consolidate my nine e-mail addresses.

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4 Business Resolutions For 2015...

Office Tips

Insert a comment:
ALT+CTRL+M

Close the Reviewing Pane:
ALT+Shift+C

Turn tracking on or off:
CTRL+Shift+E

Switch to outline view:
ALT+CTRL+O

Switch to print layout view:
ALT+CTRL+I

Print: CTRL+P

Find and replace menu:
CTRL+F

Insert hyperlink:
CTRL+K

Change the case of letters:
Shift+F3

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your cloud program. This “seat” gives your new user access to the programs they need immediately without jumping through hoops. You have the ability to keep a close eye on your company’s services and implement what you need swiftly when it is time.

Efficiency: Everyone looks for new ways to keep their business agile. Getting the resources you need, when you need them, slims down the time it takes to complete tasks. Cloud computing solutions deliver the tools you need faster, cheaper and generally with more quality that will keep your company nimble.

Connectivity: Staying connected these days is must for all businesses to keep a competitive edge. Whether you are collaborating with partners or selling to a potential client, the cloud can help you better facilitate the information exchange. Cloud computing offers access to your work documents and correspondence on your laptop, tower computer and even your smartphone or tablet.

Don't Rely On Good Fortune In A Pinch

Your computer just crashed, you can't even get the darn thing to turn on and you've called for IT support, but how long will it take until you are back online? Can you work on your laptop? Are your files ok?

Sometimes things fail. While hardware and software fails, a firm foundation with nightly back-ups and a secure file server offers priceless support in your time of need. Back-up and restoration procedures generally don't take longer than a few hours. Even if your computer isn't repairable on the spot or salvageable at all, you can retrieve all

Imagine all of your work resources available like accessing your Gmail or Hotmail account. Everything is available online all the time without a hitch.

Business in the here and now.

Kick the new year off with a great start. A cloud solution for your business will take care of these four resolutions all in one fail swoop: flexibility, scalability, efficiency and connectivity.

Don't keep doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. Break out of the box with a new solution for the new year and watch your business thrive.

Ready to explore your options?

Give us a call today. We will work with you to review your systems and give you a better idea of the latest applications and cloud services that will benefit your business. Cloud computing can do nothing but improve and benefit your business and for a fraction of the costs.

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your data from a file server and have you working on a temporary machine in no time.

A firm foundation. Make sure your company is covered for any storm. Setup a file server or cloud data solution to house your sensitive information so it is easily retrievable in case of an emergency. Don't let mother nature's tantrum storms dictate your progress. Give your organization the best chance for continued success with a secure storage solution that is accessible when you need it from anywhere.

Don't rely on fortune. Computers are not 100% reliable. There will always be turmoil with technology, but you can rest assured data loss doesn't have to be a huge risk for your business. Fortunately, secure file servers and cloud solutions are available. Give us a call for more details. We're here to help.

Fillable But Not Editable

Want to create a document that can be filled over and over again but cannot be edited?

Create your own business forms. Microsoft Word offers tools to create forms that can be filled out electronically and returned to you.

Step 1: Open Word and click the “Office” icon, “Options, and “Customize Ribbon.” Then click “Main Tabs” and verify that there is a check next to “Developer.”

Step 2: Type your form completely including descriptions to fill the form.

Step 3: Click the “Developer” tab on the ribbon and place your mouse where you want the form filled. Then use the options in the “Control” section to enter text boxes, check boxes, menus and more.

Step 4: Lock down your template. Click “Protect Document” from the “Protect” section of the ribbon and click on “Restrict Formatting and Editing”. Select “Allow only this type of editing in the document” and choose “filling in forms.” Then click “Yes, start enforcing protection” under the Start Enforcement Header.

Then, share your new form with the world.



Fun Holiday Facts...

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cornbread: This Southern tradition has gained favor nationally. Black-eyed peas symbolize prosperity because peas swell when cooked, collard greens represent money, and cornbread symbolizes gold.

Common superstitions about New Year's Day.

Here are a few interesting ones you may not have heard about.

Take nothing out of the door:

Nothing, not even garbage, should leave your house on New Year's Day. Don't even take Grandma home.

Don't eat chicken or turkey on January 1:

Like these birds, you'll scratch in the dirt all year long for your dinner.

Don't wash your laundry on New Year's Day:

If you do, a family member may be washed away.

Don't cry on the first day of the year:

Tears set the tone for the next 12 months of the year.

Let out the old year:

At midnight, open all the doors of your house to let the old year escape unimpeded.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Your Company's Success Depends On More Than Just The Brains Of Your Operations

Your company's success depends on more than how smart you are. When you see lists of successful and less-successful companies, you may think successful leaders must be smarter than those that didn't make the list, but in most cases that's not true, one business strategist says.



of long-time brand winning companies -- Whole Foods and Southwest Airlines, for example -- will tell you over and over that they value their corporate cultures more than any single strategy or intellectual property.

The right stuff... To determine the right success factors, Inc. Magazine asked for the insights of Patrick Lencioni, president of the Table Group and author of 10 best-selling books on organizational management. He says that intelligence, knowledge and product expertise are vastly overrated as the driving forces behind competitive advantage and success. Meanwhile, the importance of organizational health is severely underrated. Organizational health includes management, strategy, operations, and a culture that fits them all together.

What qualities are needed?

Academics and analysts have attributed business success to knowledge of their market and brilliant ideas -- two qualities that are essential to success. But those qualities don't account for continued success. Leaders

Organizational health as a business goal.

To develop organizational health, Lencioni advises leaders to be sure their top team is clear about the identity and direction of the company, and that they act in ways that indicate they are aligned. These leaders should not tolerate any violation of corporate identity and culture.

Walk the walk.

Address problems like passive aggressiveness, outbursts, or other poor behavior in meetings immediately to back-channel second guessing and develop solutions. Lencioni says the benefits of organizational health include lower hiring costs, higher employee retention, better word-of-mouth marketing and greater customer loyalty.

3 Tips To Team Consult And Develop Solutions

Resolve any challenges in your office with a quick team consult meeting with the leaders of your organization. Here's how:

- 1) Identify and define the issue in one sentence. Write it down so everyone can see it.
- 2) Identify possible solutions with the team and write them down.
- 3) Narrow solution down to two final solutions and have the leader presenting the problem, implement the solution selected and report back.



"This is security. Looks like we have an escape from cubicle 36."



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Inquiring Minds...

Computer Bug Hides For 19 Years? Those pesky Windows updates. Do you sometimes wonder if they are trivial and designed just to annoy you?

How important those updates? Microsoft has just released a patch for the Windows 95 operating system -- and to every version of its desktop operating system since then. That's 19 years worth of operating systems. In all that time, a major bug was 'sitting in plain sight,' according to C-Net. The bug is so serious that it earned a vulnerability score of 9.3 out of 10.

Dubbed WinShock, the vulnerability could allow a hacker to run code remotely on an infected computer. Like many operating system vulnerabilities, the user would first have to be enticed to click on a link or open an attachment. Still, it appears even the legions of evil hackers did not discover the security hole before it was patched in November 2014. On the underground information market, this vulnerability, if detected could have been worth six-figures, says an IBM researcher.

If your computer is set for automatic updates, the patch has long since been made and your computer is safe. However, if you update your computer manually, be sure to keep up with the recent updates from Microsoft.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Application Predictions For 2015. Applications are the basis for many smart devices these days. From smartphones to tablets, these handy software programs keep us plugged into systems we use every day like social media and productivity applications. What's new in the coming year?

Applications will become more targeted. Technology managers are creating business-focused tools based on what people do daily on their phones and tablets for their standard operations. More companies in the coming year will rely heavily on applications as tools for their enterprise to process transactions and manage correspondence.

Applications will be more focused on 2-way communication. Application creators are working hard to find the right balance for users to communicate more frequently. You may be soon updating your consumers, sales people or your entire company using your applications as a regular mode of communication.

Applications will be more disposable. Along with more targeted applications and business-minded options, we will see many applications with a shorter shelf life due to the release of newer versions or even advance substitutions.

Sell Your Time Machine! A New Era Of Data Storage

Tired of keeping track of those old tape back-ups?
Sick of trimming down your files when you run out of space? Ready for a change?

Consider a **cloud storage solution** that offers unlimited storage and 24/7/365 secure access to your company data. You don't have to fire up the Delorean to look for those old files anymore. You can keep everything stored securely off-site and rest at ease knowing they are safe and available when you need them. Give us a call today to build a futuristic solution for your company.

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