



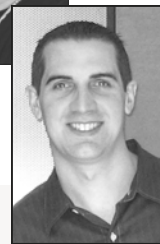
INTELLIGENT TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS

April 2007

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Inquiring Minds...

Soon we *will* be able to fit all our eggs in one basket.

New disk drives and flash drives have huge storage capacity. Haven't heard much about terabytes? We'll all be hearing about them soon.

A terabyte is 1,000 (actually 1,024) gigabytes. Ordinary PCs have about 100 gigabytes. Now, disk drive maker Hitache will soon be shipping a terabyte-capacity disk drive. Seagate, another big drive maker, says it will soon have terabyte-capacity disk drives as well. Top-of-the-line units will sell for about \$400, but the price will come down over time.

It was 1991 when the first gigabyte drives were introduced. Makers boasted that a gigabyte would store 1,000 copies of Gone With the Wind, but users couldn't imagine why anyone would need so much storage.

Now we know how the terabyte will be used. The new owners will record TV shows and movies. A terabyte gets you 250 hours of HD programming.

Flash is the solid-state memory found in USB thumb drives. Because it has no moving parts, it is considered more durable than disk drives. But the biggest flash drives on the market today are in the eight to 12 gigabyte range. This year, flash drives of both 16 and 32 gigabytes are expected. The half-gig drives that were top of the line just a few years ago are being phased out.

What is a Cookie?

Cookies are small files that Web sites put on your computer hard disk drive when you first visit.



Think of a cookie as an identification card that's uniquely yours. Its job is to notify the site when you've returned. Cookies should not be confused with viruses. While it is possible to misuse a cookie in cases where there is personal data in it, cookies by themselves are not malicious.

Many Web sites, like Microsoft, use cookies to tell them how often you visit pages, which helps them find out what information interests you. In this way, companies can give you more of the content you like and less of the content you don't. Cookies can actually help you be more efficient. Have you ever put something in a virtual shopping cart in an online store and then returned a few days later to find that the item is still there? That's an example of cookies at work.

Cookies let you store preferences and user names, register products and services, and personalize pages. So, lets make more cookies.

Pretzels: Do they remind you of monks?

Here's an Easter snack that has lost some of its message over the years, but arguably none of its flavor.

History tells us that pretzels are second only to the eggs and bunnies in their association with Easter. In about the year 600 AD, European monasteries wanted to remind people that the season of Lent was a time for prayer.

They baked little breads in the shape of a monk with arms folded across the chest either in prayer or in warning.

The pretzel was born, and has survived these many years. As an Easter treat, today's pretzels may carry a coating like white or milk chocolate.



Innovations

Remember When?

A PROGRAM was a television show. A CURSOR used profanity. And a KEYBOARD was a piano...

COMPRESSING was something that you did with the garbage. LOG ON was adding wood to the fire. HARD DRIVE was a long road trip and a MOUSE PAD was where a real mouse lived.

BACKUP was an expensive sewer problem. CUT you did with your pocket knife, and PASTE you did with glue. A COMPUTER was something in a science fiction show.

A WINDOW was something you hated to clean. And RAM was the cousin of a goat. MEG was the name of the girl next door and COOKIES were only to eat.

Now they all have different meanings...

And that really

MEGA BYTES.

Real World Vista

Changing over to the new Windows Vista is more difficult than expected. Don't let your business get held up with compatibility issues.

Microsoft's release of Windows Vista was the most anticipated software release of the century. It's construction took over five years and 50 million lines of code to develop the Vista we see on shelves today.

So, does it work better than XP? The sad truth is all that work has not come close to creating a worthy operating system for many business owners. Many of the custom software programs that business owners rely on are not certified for Vista and realistically they may not be compatible for some time.

What does this mean for you? If your company uses any sort of specialized program it may not work at all if you upgrade to Vista. Software like AutoCad graphics programs, Kronos workforce management products, and Minitab statistical software just to name a few, are simply incompatible and unsupported.

Many manufacturers are in the development phases of new and improved products that will be of great use, when they are created. Unfortunately, the complexity of Vista creates a gap in development. Vista's here but we have yet to see shelves lined with compatible new software releases.

Even manufacturers we have all come to depend

on are posting messages on their websites to inform customers of the dangers. Messages like this are becoming surprisingly common:

We strongly advise you not to attempt to run (our program) on your Vista computer until our Vista versions are released.

(Our programs) have not been developed or tested for Windows Vista. Therefore, we cannot guarantee that they will run or

install in this configuration.

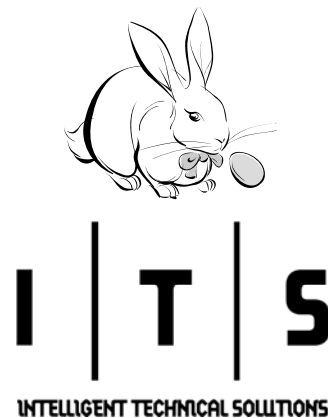
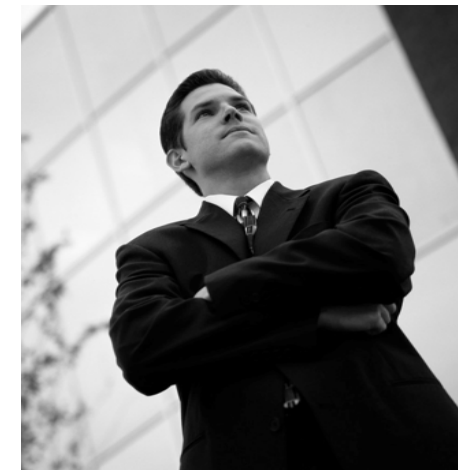
Of course following these wonderful words of wisdom is their blurb about their fantastic new releases that will be designed and tested just for Vista at some unspecified date in the future.

As for now, the risks outweigh the benefits. There are just too many unforeseen issues. Save your organiza-

tion time and money by letting technicians be the guinea pigs. Hopefully, they will work through all the hang-ups soon then recommend and support the switch later this year.

Remember, all of these software issues cannot be swept under the rug with the purchase of a brand new computer. Merchants would love to sell you the latest and greatest as long as you are willing to pay top dollar.

However, how useful is a computer without your business dialed in. It would be like a car with no engine. You could never drive on the open road.



Calling In Sick...Again?

According to an annual survey by CareerBuilder, 32% of workers called in sick with phony excuses in the last year. One in three admitted to lying about being sick to their bosses once a year, and one in ten admitted to doing so three times or more a year.

Why are so many calling in sick when they aren't? Almost half (48%) said they wanted to relax, 24% said they needed to catch up on sleep, 20% wanted to run personal errands, 16% wanted to spend time with friends and family and, oddly enough, 16% said they used the time to clean their house!

But employees beware! While most managers don't question their employees' excuses, 27% of managers have fired an employee for calling in sick without a good reason.

The Lighter Side...

On loving your enemy:

"Love your enemies. It makes them so damned mad." - P.D. East

On the road less traveled:

"Sometimes the road less traveled is less traveled for a reason." - Jerry Seinfeld

On failing:

"I didn't fail the test, I successfully found 100 ways to do it wrong." - Benjamin Franklin

On fashion:

"I base most of my fashion taste on what doesn't itch." -Gilda Radner

On speaking the truth:

"Speak the truth, but leave immediately after." - Slovenian proverb

On convenience:

"Death, taxes, and childbirth: There's never any convenient time for any of them." - Margaret Mitchell

On men and women:

"Sometimes I wonder if men and women really suit each other. Perhaps they should live next door and just visit now and then." - Katherine Hepburn



Think Your Tape Backup Is Keeping Your Data Safe? You Won't After Reading This!

Tape backup users beware: ***The average failure rate of disk and tape drives is 100%!*** ALL tape drives fail at some point. But what's really dangerous is that most companies don't realize it happened until it's too late. That's why thousands of businesses lose millions of dollars worth of data to disasters like fires, power outages, theft, equipment failure, and even simple human mistake. In almost every case, these businesses had some type of backup system in place, but were horrified to find out it wasn't working when they needed it most.

You've Probably Experienced These Problems With Your Tape Drive Already...

In addition to the fact that they are unreliable and are guaranteed to fail at some point, tape drives require a user to swap out the tapes on a daily basis. If someone forgets, goes on vacation, or leaves the company, the plan falls through.

Tape backups also need constant monitoring to make sure they are working. If you've ever tried to recover data from your tape drive, you may have discovered how difficult it was, or that the data you thought was being backed up in fact - wasn't.

Finally, (God forbid) if your office gets flooded because of a storm, incurs water damage from a sprinkler system or faulty pipe, hit by a tornado, burned to the ground by a fire, or burglarized, your tape backup will be damaged along with everything else and will be completely worthless!

How To Quickly and Easily Eliminate the Risk and Hassles of Tape Backups Finally and Forever!

If you want to truly protect your data from loss AND eliminate the daily hassles of tape backups, you'll want to know about our new Hands Free Backup Service. This service automatically uploads your financial records, client data, and files right over the Internet every night to a secure, offsite data center. This means:

- ... Your files are automatically backed up every night right over the Internet. No more rotating and storing tapes - one more important item off your to-do list!
- ... Your data is safe from fire, floods, storms, viruses, hackers, hardware malfunctions, and human error!
- ... You can back up ALL of your data and not be limited to the size of your tape drive.

This small ounce of prevention is worth a TON of cure; just ask any business owner that suffered through losing their data. No one expects bad things to happen, but if it does, this service will be your saving grace! To get a free quote, call: 888-969-3636

Happier Motoring

Ethanol could decrease reliance on oil.

Does the inside surface of your car's gas cap cover read "flex fuel" or "E-85 compatible?" If so, you already may be on your way to using the fuel of the future and the United States being less dependent on foreign oil.

E-85 is the current bio-fuel composed of up to 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline. Scores of ethanol plants are currently being built or are on drawing boards across the country, especially in the corn-producing states of the Midwest.



The technology in producing ethanol is not new. Distillers and moon shiners have been using it for centuries and cars have run on it before. Henry Ford's Model T automobile could use ethanol.

For the past two seasons, E-85 has helped to power Rahal-Letterman Racing and in 2007 the Indy Racing League will run all of its cars on pure Ethanol.

The fuel is causing some controversy. Corn growers are finding higher prices paid per bushel, but cattle farmers and ranchers are seeing rising costs to feed livestock. The rush to grow more corn is also cutting acreage allotted for other grains, which may raise the price of flour, baked goods, and breakfast foods.

Learn more about Ethanol fuel at www.ethanol.org

Santa Clause Tops Forbes Wealthiest List

The folks at *Forbes* magazine have been spending their time making a list that was difficult to create. Was it the wealthiest people of the year? Not exactly. Here is their list of the wealthiest fictional characters of 2006:

- « Santa Clause
- « Oliver "Daddy" Warbucks
- « Richie Rich
- « Lex Luthor
- « C. Montgomery Burns
- « Scrooge McDuck
- « Jed Clampett
- « Bruce Wayne
- « Thurston Howell III
- « Willy Wonka
- « Arthur Back
- « Ebenezer Scrooge
- « Lara Croft
- « Cruella De Ville



The Simple Document That Could Save Your Company From Complete Disaster!

It's official: end users are the weakest link in the IT security chain. You can set up a firewall, encryption, anti-virus software, and password protection up to your ears, but it won't save you from the employee who posts his access information to a public web site.

Most security breaches, viruses, spyware, and other network problems are a result of human error—an end user unknowingly downloading an infected file, e-mailing confidential information, or disabling their anti-virus, to name a few.

So what is a company to do? While there is no surefire way to keep end users from making mistakes, you can dramatically reduce the number of problems by creating an acceptable use policy (AUP) and training your employees on what is and what is NOT acceptable behavior.

But if you want your employees to actually adhere to your security policies, here are a few tips:

- ... **Keep it simple.** A long, confusing policy that looks like a legal document is about as easy to read as the instruction manual for your digital camera. Make the policies clear and easy to read. Give examples and include screen shots where necessary.
- ... **Provide group training.** Many companies make the mistake of distributing their AUP by e-mail and telling employees they must read it on their own. This gives the employees the option of NOT reading and simply signing and submitting. You don't need hours of classroom training but a simple 15 or 20-minute session will force even the most reluctant users to learn a thing or two.
- ... **Keep employees updated.** To add to the above tip, make sure you update employees on a regular basis to keep the policies fresh in their minds and to educate them about new threats.
- ... **Explain the consequences of not following the policy.** This is both explaining the negative effects to the business as well as disciplinary actions that will be taken if they refuse to follow policy. Occasional violators should be warned, and habitual violators should be disciplined.
- ... **Monitor their behavior.** The best policy in the world won't work if it's not enforced. There are many tools on the market that can do this for you automatically.