

July 2007

Intelligent Technical Solutions

Innovations

Did you know?

- ✘ The first 4th of July celebration was actually held on July 8th, 1776.
- ✘ However, Independence Day didn't become a legal holiday until 1938.
- ✘ Nobody really knows when the Liberty Bell was cracked.
- ✘ Gunfire, bonfires and fireworks were the first celebratory practices for the 4th of July.
- ✘ These practices were adapted from English birthday celebrations.

Energy efficient computing with 85% less electricity

Do you want to lower your electric bill and prolong the life of your equipment? Many of us dread seeing our energy bill each month and would love to add more time to the life of our equipment. Now you can do both!

As I am sure you are aware, our country is currently facing some serious challenges with the energy system. Energy demands continue to rise despite the record high prices and ecological concerns.

When you take advantage of Energy Star products you not only slim down your electric bill; you become a part of the nation's push to stabilize energy prices, create a more reliable system for gas and electric and reduce pollutants for future generations.

The Energy Star program

Over its lifetime, one Energy Star-enabled piece of office equipment like a computer, monitor, printer or fax can save you enough money on electricity to light your entire office for over two years. Earning the

Energy Star is not an easy task for manufacturers. The requirements for office equipment and electronics are now more stringent than ever.



For example, Energy Star computer monitors are required to meet specific requirements in On, Sleep and Off Modes. In the On mode, the maximum allowed power is based on the mega pixels but generally stays under 100 watts; the Sleep mode must consume 2 watts or less and Off mode only 1 watt or less.

These strict criteria are what give us 85% savings on electricity for Energy Star monitors.

Is it time for a new monitor?

If you have replaced your monitor in the last two years and it is already flickering or if it takes two people to move your monitor just to rearrange your office, then you need to treat yourself to a new flat-panel monitor. There are many choices on the market today and the prices of LCD are falling. So, take a look at the new line up of Energy Star products hitting stores across the nation this month.

(Continued on page 2)

Five "must-have" network features

Is everyone in your office on the same page? Do you constantly have to borrow someone else's computer to print? Save time and money with a new network.

Networking the computers in your office is simple, inexpensive, and offers tremendous benefits for everyone. You can share files and printers with the click of a button.

What is a network?

A computer network is a set of computers or devices that are all connected to each other. The Internet is even a network. Of course it is the largest wide area

network ever created but, none the less a network.

Benefits & access

There are many wonderful benefits to an office network that can simplify daily operations in an instant. Networking your computers can increase security of sensitive data while opening access to the proper employees within your organization.

Don't get stuck emailing files to yourself; have everything you need at your fingertips anywhere anytime with remote access. Use your laptop at the airport to prep for a presentation with all the comforts of your

(Continued on page 2)



Happy 4th of July!

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INTELLIGENT TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS



Energy efficient...

(Continued from page 1)

What is so special about LCD monitors?

Even though they are still a bit more expensive than CRT monitors, they are well worth it. Take a look at just six reasons you should get your hands on a new LCD monitor, I am sure you can think of many more.

1. Less heat generated by an LCD, increasing your comfort and lowering cooling costs so your equipment is not working against you.
2. Less flicker in an LCD display, meaning less eye strain for your long work day.
3. Smaller footprint, so you have more work space on your desk or finally upgrade to a dual monitor setup.
4. An LCD has a useful life of 5-7 years, not just 3 or 4 like a standard CRT.
5. Easy installation due to the lighter weight and smaller size.
6. Best of all, they do not contain lead so recycling is less complicated.



Save money by saving energy

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Energy, "Energy efficiency offers one of the lowest cost solutions for improving our energy security, reducing our energy bills and addressing the important issue of global climate change — all while helping to grow the economy." Who doesn't want to save money and look good doing it.

"About 2,500 private businesses, public sector organizations, and industrial facilities [are] investing in energy efficiency and reducing energy use in their buildings."

Don't continue paying too much to keep your computers, fax machine, printers and other office equipment operating. To get started, call us or go online to find Energy Star products and learn more about ways you can save.

Five "must-have"...

(Continued from page 1)

desktop at work. Remote access can provide you and your employees with an unprecedented level of flexibility and efficiency.

Five "must-have" network features

There are a few key features to look for when shopping for networking solutions. Here is a list of five that can save your business time and money:

1. **Sharing Printers.** Save money by buying just a couple of printers that everyone can share.
2. **File Sharing.** Setting up a file server provides a central location for your company's critical data.
3. **Security** can be set to ensure sensitive data is protected. A secured, locked-up network server is much safer than desktop computers for storing sensitive data like payroll and accounting

records. Any PC that can be physically touched can be compromised.

4. **Internet Access.** Networked computers can access the Internet and email. Email can be a great tool within your company, as well as when dealing with the outside world.
5. **Wireless.** If you have to change your workstation to accommodate conference calls, presentations or other meetings having a wireless network is an incredible asset.

Wireless networks operate on the same principles as cordless telephones. This eliminates unsightly wires and allows freedom of movement.

Now is the time to build a network, if you don't already have one, or call us for a network evaluation to ensure you are getting the most out of your network design.

Confused With All The Hype Surrounding VoIP? This Should Clear Things Up...

VoIP (or voice over Internet Protocol) is a way of routing your telephone calls over the Internet instead of using standard telephone lines.

Currently, the biggest reason people are switching to VoIP is to save money. In almost every case, VoIP service is considerably cheaper than traditional phone service. Most providers will allow you to make unlimited calls anywhere in the US and Canada for one low, flat rate, and international calls for a low per minute rate. For companies who make a lot of long-distance calls to customers or to other office locations, this can be a considerable cost savings.

Just like all other phone services, VoIP providers can offer voice mail, caller ID, and 3-way calling, but prices and features will vary with different providers so make sure you shop around. And some VoIP providers will allow you to check your voice mail over the Internet; something not offered by traditional phone service.

So what are the downsides to VoIP? Some providers— notably Skype— may require you to purchase special

phones to use with their service. Although VoIP providers promote the fact that you can keep your existing phone number, it may be a slow and difficult process for a VoIP provider to make the transfer. If you are lucky, it will only take a couple of days; but in many cases it will take weeks, a month or sometimes even longer.

Using a VoIP service for a fax machine can cause transmission errors. You will also need an Internet connection with a minimum of 128K upstream speed in order to get acceptable call quality. Before switching to VoIP, be sure to test your Internet connection for not only up-speed, but also for packet loss, latency and other factors that can negatively impact call quality (www.testyourvoip.com).

But even if you have a fast upstream connection, your call quality can suffer when you start uploading big files or sending big e-mail attachments because your VoIP traffic has to compete with those applications. There are add-on applications you can purchase to ensure your phone calls take first priority of the Internet resources available.

A Riddle: This Common Thing Could Make Or Break You

I am your constant companion.

I am your greatest helper or your heaviest burden.

I will push you onward or drag you down to failure.

I am completely at your command.

Half of the things you do in any given day, are driven by me.

I am easily managed, but you must be firm with me.

I often go unnoticed.

Show me exactly how you want something done, and after a few lessons, I will do it automatically.

I am the servant of all great men who have accomplished extraordinary success.

I am the master of those who are failures.

I am not a machine, but I work with the precision of one.

You can use me to secure great profit, or run me for utter ruin; it makes no difference to me.

Leave me to my own devices, and I will destroy you.

Who or what am I?

Answer on back page.

Notable Quotes On Being Thankful...

“Let us be thankful for the fools. But for them, the rest of us could not succeed.”
- *Mark Twain*

“I had the blues because I had no shoes; until upon the street, I met a man who had no feet.”
- *Denis Waitely*

“If more of us valued food and cheer and song above hoarded gold, it would be a merrier world.” -*J.R.R. Tolkien*

“My mother is such a lousy cook that Thanksgiving at her house is a time of mourning.”
- *Rita Rudner*



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Work Notes...

Boomers 'stay in the game'

Retiring baby boomers are expected to cause a shortage in skilled staff. Now, many employers are making it easier for them to stay. They are offering part-time work or a change in positions.

By 2012, 20 percent of the U.S. workforce will be age 55 or older, up from 14 percent in 2002. According to workforce planners at the Conference board, employers will need to hire people of any age who have the experience they need.

A survey by Merrill Lynch shows that 83 percent of boomers intend to keep working in retirement, and 56 percent of that group hope to work in a new profession.

New perk: gourmet coffee

To keep workers from leaving the office for a coffee break at Starbucks, more employers are installing high-end coffee machines. They hope to keep their people happy and close by.

To save employees' time and money, many are switching to coffee from Starbucks or Green Mountain Coffee Roasters. Many companies are switching to single-serve machines that brew one fresh cup at a time.

Last year, Microsoft upgraded from automatic-drip to single-cup Starbucks servers on every floor. Many smaller companies are doing the same.

To fight stress, get a pet

Work can be stressful. Sometimes home life is stressful too, but having a pet can help. A Pet Care Trust study shows that you don't even have to stroke or cuddle your pet to reap the stress-busting benefits.

Merely being in the same room with a pet has been shown to lower

Answer to riddle on page 2: *A habit*

stress levels, reduce heart beat, and lower blood pressure. About 64 percent of people reported that having a pet reduced their anxiety levels.

Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania say gazing at a fish tank can have the same calming effect as a session of hypnosis. Wow! Talk about a cheap alternative.



“Look on the bright side. With a credit score that low, nobody will dare steal our identities.”