

Innovations

The Lighter Side of Christmas

The writer says these signs were actually seen in stores:

Toy store:

"Ho, ho, ho spoken here."

Bridal boutique:

"Marry Christmas."

Outside a church:

"The original Christmas club."

At a department store:

"Big pre-Christmas sale. Come in and mangle with the crowd."

On a reducing salon:

"24 shaping days until Christmas."

At a ski resort:

"All I need to know about life I learned from a snow man."

In a stationery store:

"For the one who has everything, a calendar to show when the payments are due."



Smart year-end technology decisions can save huge on your tax bill

At the end of the year, business owners often start making plans for the new year. Unfortunately these plans often forget that significant tax savings could be achieved this year by timing your purchases well.

December is usually a pretty busy month for us at Intelligent Technical Solutions, with the week between Christmas and New Years' Day especially hectic. No vacations that week for us! We are dedicated to your needs throughout the holiday season. Preparing for a new year can become a building block for growing your business.

Uncle Sam will allow you to write-off up to \$108,000 of capital expenditure against this year's tax bill. Check with your tax advisor, of course, but if you have been thinking about investing in a computer or network project, this month may be the time to do it. Plus, the week between Christmas and New Years' Day is often a slow period for many businesses and

would be an opportune time to do a somewhat disruptive computer project.

This time of year is also when many manufacturers roll out special "end of the year" price incentives.

Some ideas of projects to consider:

❄ What about a new Server?

If you have several computers on a network but do not have a server, you should look at the Microsoft Small Business Server system. For a very reasonable investment you can have the security of a server to protect your

data, the ability to share calendars and contacts, to get all your email one place, and to work from home effortlessly.

❄ If your computers are getting older,

this is a good time to replace them. Anything more than about three or four years is a good

(Continued on page 2)



Treat yourself to Cell-Fi this holiday season

Are you tired of paying insane rates for your cell calls when you are out of town, state or the country? Now you really can take a stand against those annoying roaming charges.

Jump into the new wave of Wi-Fi cell phones — dubbed "cell-fi" by Kevin Maney of USA Today. Voice over internet protocol or VoIP technology is reinventing the way we perceive cell phone service. Image, a dependable service right at your fingertips

filling gaps in coverage and freeing you from roaming charges anywhere.

How does it work? When in range of a Wi-Fi connection at your home, the office, or a hotspot location, your phone can make calls using VoIP technology. You will not only experience better call quality than the typical wireless carriers can provide but, you will beat them at their own game — the calls are absolutely free! Yes, I said free!

(Continued on page 2)



Smart year-end...

(Continued from page 1)

candidate for replacement. You can get new equipment today and write it off in 2007. Head off disaster, replace your older equipment before you are faced with down time.

❄ **Assess your network equipment.**

Newer network equipment such as gigabit Ethernet switches, newer routers, and wireless access points can make your network faster and much more secure. It's worth a look.

❄ **Is it time to look at a new accounting program for the new year?**

If so, now is the time to buy it. To be ready to start 2008 with the new system your staff will need time to learn the program and practice. Buying now, late in the year, gives you time to prepare for January and opportunities for great manufacturer discounts.

❄ **What about that old phone system?**

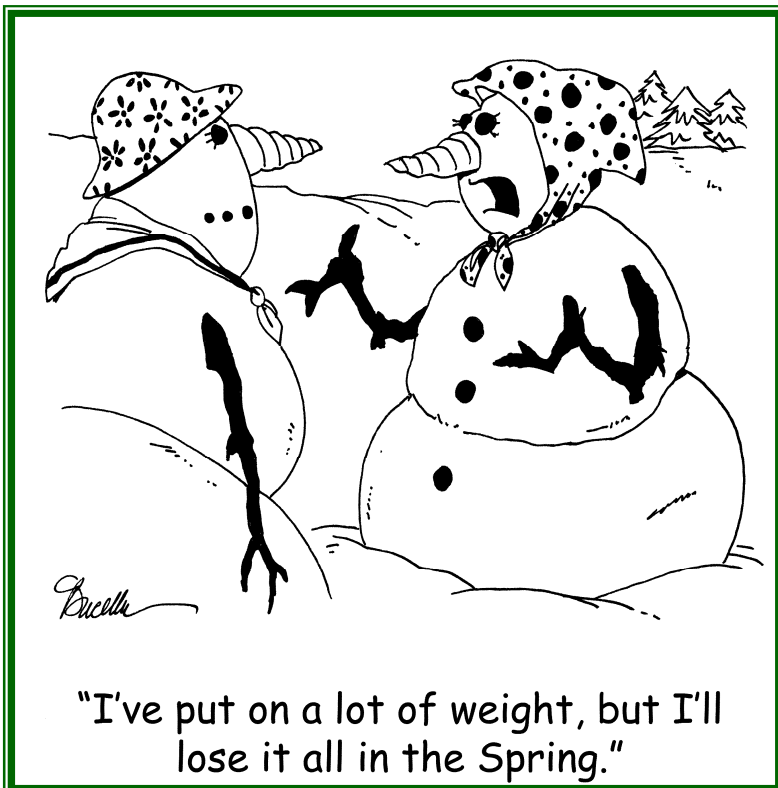
Check out our fantastic, yet highly affordable telephone system now available in your area. New telephones are a lot like smaller computers, your investment goes a long way.

Not only will you experience great call quality but you will fall in love with your new phone. We're in an excellent position to help you make the best choice to replace that ancient phone system and move your company into the new wave of all inclusive communication services.

❄ **One last thing...** One of your New Year's resolutions should be to create a budget for your computer and network. Our IT Protectorate plans are offered on a fixed monthly price so you know exactly how much your technical support will cost for the year.

Don't worry... We guarantee satisfaction. If you're not happy with any aspect of our performance, we will make it right. We do ask, however, that you communicate with us openly and honestly so that we can work most effectively with you and your staff.

If you're interested... In talking about a project or about our support program options, don't wait! Give us a call right away. Our December calendar fills up fast and we want to make sure we can meet your deadlines before December 31st.



Treat yourself...

(Continued from page 1)

What if a hotspot is not in range? Your phone will switch back to your normal wireless network. T-Mobile offers a Wi-Fi package that allows you to roam seamlessly between Wi-Fi and wireless. Of course, you do have to buy the dual mode phone and subscribe to the hotspot@home plan for just \$9.95 per month.

Big deal, another new cell phone. This is a great deal! Now you can lower your monthly plan to the most basic plan and depend on your Wi-Fi service for your calling needs. Slash your cell phone bill and expand your coverage map to include free calls from all your favorite Wi-Fi hotspots.

Treat yourself to cell-fi service this holiday season. Besides, this new breakthrough technology will ultimately change the dynamics of telecommunications for the future. Virtually every cell phone manufacturer has some sort of cell-fi phone in testing or on a drawing board today. Jump into the new trend. You deserve a little break from roaming and coverage fees anyway.

Bring your best to the table for 2008

Take time this Christmas to brush up on your computer skills. With technology emerging at every turn in our lives, it is important to take a life-long learning approach to your professional skills.

From a very young age, we are taught to bring our best to the table. My mother always impressed mannerisms upon me like: “Tuck in your shirt, your grandparents are here!” , “Wash your hands before dinner!” or, my favorite “Don’t talk with your mouth full!”

If you are anything like me, your rebellious side took over the moment you were out of the house. You took pride in eating your first meal in your pajamas with unwashed hands, while talking on the phone, and watching television.

Don’t let that rebellious alter ego slip up at the office though. While I sympathize with your attraction to those 5 year old plaid pajama bottoms, your customers and colleagues will not.

Bring your best to the table for your clients and company. Take time to freshen up on your techni-

cal skills over the holidays and start 2008 off with a bundle of newfound confidence. In no time at all you will find yourself whipping through your work day and advising coworkers.

How can I get started? If you use Microsoft products visit office.microsoft.com/training. They have a variety of free self-paced training courses to help you increase productivity and software utilization.

If you prefer Macintosh products, would like to learn about the internet, or work on your email basics visit www.gcflearnfree.org/computer/.

I don’t have enough time for that. Microsoft and GCF offer free tutorials you can work through at your own pace. So, sit with a fresh cup of your pleasure and learn at your leisure.

For those of you who are more eager to add a few new topics to your skill inventory; GCF also explores computer and technology skills with free 3-week online courses to help you build up or refresh your technology skills for the new year.

Protect your company from the ‘latte’ effect

Is your business limping along on outdated computers and a peer-to-peer network that hinders you more than it helps you? Consolidate your technology service needs — and save!

In his book Automatic Millionaire, author David Bach talks about the “latte” factor. Simply put, most people end up financially broke not because of the big purchases they make, but because of the small, seemingly innocent day-to-day spending of small amounts of money over a long period of time. For example, no one thinks twice about spending \$4 on their Starbucks coffee every morning. However, add that up over the course of a year and they have invested \$1,460 into a daily cup of coffee. Why am I telling you this?

If you are like most small businesses, you acquire desktop computers, phone systems, and software in a random, “buy-it-when-you-need-it” fashion as your business operations demand it. At some point, this patchwork of stopgap technology you’ve acquired is going to end up costing you more than you should have paid. Hence, the ‘latte’ effect. Give Intelligent Technical Solutions a call today for your complementary Holiday Network Audit. Our knowledgeable technicians will work with you to evaluate your needs, examine your network, and reveal 3 immediate changes you can make to utilize your current computer systems better. Pull your company out of the cookie cutter mold and gain the upper hand over your competition with less downtime, interruptions and problems.

No risk, no hassles, no obligations! We don’t want you to jump into services that will not benefit your organization. Take advantage of our complementary Holiday Network Audit first. Let us examine your computer network, look for security loop holes, evaluate your virus protection and check your back-up system before you make a commitment.

Give us a call today! *Intelligent Technical Solutions 888-969-3636*





INTELLIGENT TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS

December 2007

7500 W. Lake Mead Blvd.
Suite 9-196
Las Vegas, NV 89128

(702) 869-3636

(888) 969-3636 toll free



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

Ask us about our fixed price service agreements — UNLIMITED support at a flat monthly fee you can budget for just like rent!

Inquiring minds...

Feeling “phishy” this winter? Be sure to take a few extra minutes analyze and scan all your email carefully this holiday season. Viruses and phishing sites take no vacations. There are no safe senders during the busiest season of the year. Even people you know may send you corrupt emails unaware of their dangerous nature.

Take care this holiday season. Make sure your anti-virus program is up-to-date and running properly before you jump into those Christmas jokes from your Uncle Charles. While you are grabbing share the laughter with friends or family, harmful files may be turning your computer into a useless lump of coal.

Stop the viruses before they take over. Build a triple wall of protection. Make sure you have a good anti-virus program like McAfee, use firewalls with Intrusion Prevention and monitor your system regularly.

Unfortunately, with the increase in activity through out the holidays it is critical to scan all attachments you receive and be on the look out for phishing sites. Clever hackers are using more enticing website content to make you think they are the real deal.



That’s not all! Make sure you examine the offers you receive in your emails. Try locating the main page for the company who sent you the website link. Make sure they are a good natured organization by calling their office, checking the address through the United States Postal Service or even Google their company name.

If you have no luck at all...the offer that seemed too good to be true, is probably as fake as the artificial Christmas tree shimmering in the lobby.

Happy Holidays

Wishing you a joyful holiday season.

December has come again, bringing the wonders of Christmas and Hanukkah. Decorations and delicacies abound, and we seem to smile more than before as the spirit of the holidays takes over.

As 2007 draws to a close, it reminds us that it's time to thank you, one and all, for being a great client and friend in the year just ending. You are the life blood of our organization and we sincerely thank you for your dedication.

From all of us here at Intelligent Technical Solutions we wish all the joys of the holiday season.

Happy Hanukkah!

Merry Christmas!

Happy New Year to you and yours!