

Innovations

The holidays are here...

Take time this holiday season to enjoy the little things that make this time of year simply enjoyable.

Treat yourself to a hot peppermint mocha on a cold winter morning and relax at a local coffee shop.

The holidays are the perfect opportunity to breathe in the world around you.

Shower yourself with a season of laughter and love to share with your family and friends.

Don't get your tinsel in a tangle! Follow this tech checklist to prepare your office for the holiday season

While you scramble to prepare your business for the holiday season, take a moment to review our top three tips to keep your tinsel straight.

Wait! Don't make the mad dash for the door quite yet.

I know it's Christmas, but what if your office is broken into over the holidays or the power goes out — is your business safe? Make sure your valuable data and equipment are secure while you are away for Christmas with our three-point tech checklist:

- ❄ **Backup your data reliably, entirely, and securely.** We cannot stress this enough. If you have not yet switched to an automatic offsite backup solution, now is the time. Did you know that tape drives have a failure rate of 100%? In other words, every tape drive will fail at some point. Give us a call today. Our service completes daily offsite backups for your company, with no effort on your part. Also, in the event of a crisis, we can have you up and running again, even in a remote location if necessary, in just hours — so



you can get back to what really counts, your business.

- ❄ **Battery backup...** Everyone loves a white Christmas, but will your data and equipment survive if the power goes out? Just before you head out for the holidays, make sure to power down your computer, monitor, printer, scanner, and other peripherals in order to protect your system from power surges, spikes, or outages.

If you plan to work remotely this season, leave only your computer tower on, and install a battery backup or uninterruptible power supply (UPS). APCGuard.com offers a great product. The Back-UPS ES for just \$49.95, or similar UPS's, will protect your equipment from damage due to surges or outages. If an outage is prolonged, the APC Back-UPS will actually shut down your computer system safely to prevent data loss.

- ❄ **Update your greetings...** Remember to add an "Out of Office" reply to your e-mail account.

If you use Outlook for e

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Top 7 technology gift ideas for 2008

Be jolly, by golly, give gifts you know will be helpful and good for the world. Take a peek at this year's top 7 technology gift ideas and treat your loved ones like royalty.

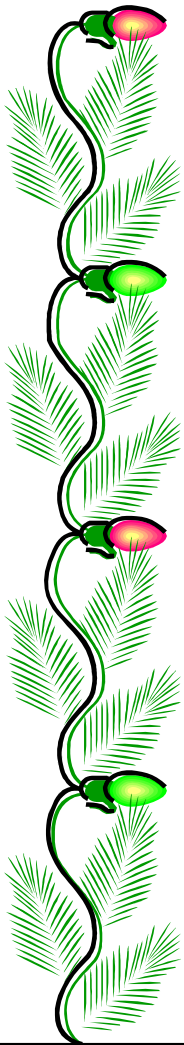
- 1. The new laser era of television** If your new HDTV isn't everything you dreamed of, take a look at the new Mitsubishi Digital Electronics laser

television. Just in time for the holidays, Mitsubishi announced their stunning 65-inch LaserVue HDTV — now on sale for just \$6,999.

This is the world's first laser-powered television, offering an amazing breadth and depth of color. The LaserVue delivers twice the experience at one-third the power of standard LCD or plasma televisions.

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No bubble here: IT spending going up next year!

As the rest of the world seems to be going through some sort of complete meltdown, the IT industry is in the process of holding its breath.

2001 was not that long ago, and we can remember what happened back then all too well: days of unlimited spending, lots of travel, and lavish celebrations came to a screeching halt almost overnight as the banks cut off credit, and the IT bubble popped. Reading the newspapers and watching TV, one may believe that the same sort of doom and gloom seems to be settling over all industries right now. Is another bubble popping?

Well, the folks over at Gartner have some (basically) good news for you. They've been talking with everyone and their mother's brother, and what they have found is: YES — IT spending is going to get cut back because of all of the financial turmoil that is currently going on. However, we're not going to see the massive cutbacks that came after the dot.com bust.

Before the subprime fueled meltdown of the financial markets started to happen, Gartner had been predicting that spending on IT for next year was going to increase at a healthy 5.8%. Gartner's new guess for IT spending next year is 2.3%.

To put this in perspective, you've got to realize that during the dot.com era, IT spending lived in the middle double digits. However, after the bust happened, IT spending descended into the basement

of low single digit growth (less than inflation!) and remained there for several years.

Peter Sondergaard is Gartner's global head of research. He believes that IT spending generally lags behind the general economy by at least two quarters, so the current meltdown won't impact IT spending until roughly mid next year.

What's going to get cut? Sondergaard says that hardware spending is an easy hit - it will probably get curtailed earlier and harder than either software or IT services. Spending on those IT services should probably focus on off-shore outsourcing. What's interesting is that they aren't predicting any more really big, huge deals. Instead, you should expect to see a collection of smaller outsourcing deals.

The folks in the software industry have cleverly thought to set up sort of a "safety net" for themselves, should this kind of contraction occur. Most software vendors (Oracle, SAP, Microsoft, etc.) have persuaded their customers to sign up for long term support contracts, so they may be able to dance by any general market slowdown with minimal impacts.

What does this mean for businesses?

In IT, it generally takes about 10 years to adopt a new technology. This time around, the experts are thinking that the downturn may cause everyone to adopt new technology faster because it will result in big cost savings just when they are needed the most. Expect *Software as a Service* (SaaS) and so-called "Cloud Computing" services to be among the early winners from this situation.

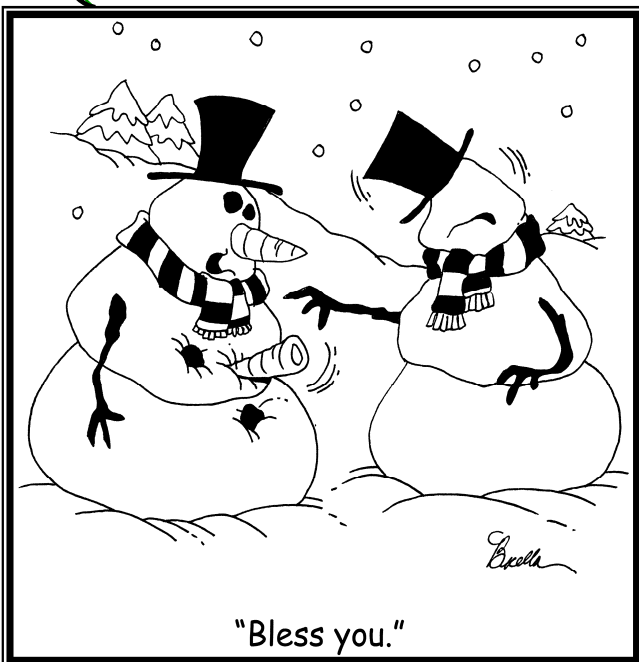
By Dr. Jim Anderson
www.BlueElephantConsulting.com

IT check list to prepare for the holidays...

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-mail, simply choose the Tools menu, and select "Out of Office Assistant" to set the details for your messages. However, keep your note short and sweet. If hackers or thieves obtain your message, they will know just when to strike if you include the exact dates for your vacation time. The same advice is highly recommended for telephone recordings as well. That way, unwanted visitors will not be tempted to drop in while you're out.

These three extra steps can help safeguard your data, equipment, and even your office as a whole. Even if your office is completely under water or 12 feet of snow when you return December 29th — we can help you access your company data and files immediately. Keep your company running smoothly through the holidays with accurate backups, secure backup batteries and cautious messages.



"Bless you."

Last chance to take advantage of Uncle Sam's offer

Considering an upgrade for your office? Why not start off the new year with new programs in place.

December is the perfect opportunity to slip in a few upgrades. While everyone is talking about the tax rebates, the business deductions have flown in low under the radar. Many business owners have not considered expansion throughout this quarter due to the recent declines in the economy. However, now is a opportune time to expand, and get more back from Uncle Sam.

The Economic Stimulus Act offers two incentives to promote business investment:

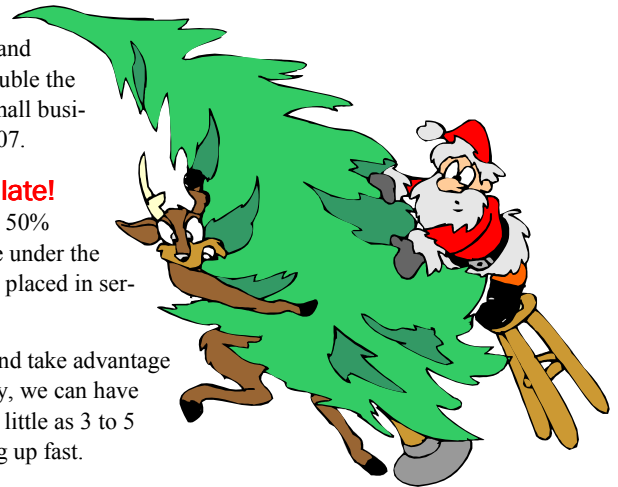
1. Depreciate 50% of equipment purchased in 2008.

2. Expense up to \$250,000 in equipment and fixtures. That is over double the allowable amount for small business expensing from 2007.

Don't wait until it is too late!

In order to qualify for the new 50% special depreciation allowance under the new law, the property must be placed in service before January 1st, 2009.

Give us a call today to order and take advantage of this great savings. Generally, we can have your equipment installed in as little as 3 to 5 days, but our calendar is filling up fast.



Top 7 technology gift ideas for 2008

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2. The nimble Nikon D60.

This detailed 10.2 megapixel camera is a high-quality image processor delivering beautiful high-res photos you will love sharing for the holidays. The Nikon D60 comes with an image stabilizing zoom lens to keep your pictures crystal clear, even with a low-light atmosphere, for around \$700.



device. This phone gives you instant access to key information, with the fully customizable home screen. The G1 is preloaded with Google applications like search, maps, instant messaging, and e-mail. It also comes equipped with a 3 megapixel camera, video playback, touch screen, a full QWERTY keyboard, and Bluetooth capabilities

— for around \$400.

3. Solar laptop case. Not only can you store your stuff, but this case recharges your electronic devices using solar power. The solar power laptop case is a fantastic solution when outlets are not available. You can recharge your laptop, iPod, cell phone, digital camera, and more. For just \$600, this case is a lightweight solution to your power needs. It holds up to a 17" laptop inside a protective case, and comes with common adapters for easy connection on-the-go.

4. How can you live without TomTom?

The TomTom Go 930 GPS was named the "Gadget You Can't Live Without" by T3 Magazine. This portable GPS satellite navigation unit will track you wherever you roam. This TomTom includes 5 million points of interest, touch screen, voice control, and Bluetooth remote control for just \$549.99.

5. The first Android cell phone is here!

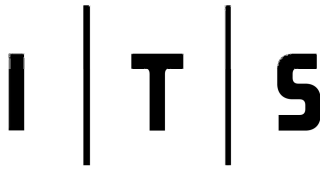
The all-new G1 is a wonderful union of cell phone features and Internet applications, all-in-one handy

6. The 32GB Apple iPod Touch won the title of "Gadget of the Year" for 2008. This handy device allows you to surf the web, read e-mails, and enjoy games, movies, and television shows. It also has an ingenious playlist feature. Now you can keep listening, playing, and browsing even longer since the iPod touch offers 36 hours of audio playback, or 6 hours of video run-time for just \$229.

7. The new Nintendo WiiFit. The old term "vididiot" is on its way out with this new system — pulling players off the couch and into physical gameplay. Now you can work to improve your balance, weight, body control, and even track your progress with the WiiFit Balance Board. This great new gaming alternative makes you WANT to workout. Over 40 training activities are included in the Balance Board pack providing core workouts, muscle conditioning, and balancing games for \$119.

Well, happy shopping friends. Don't forget, double-check pricing online for any larger items you are considering, to make sure find the best deal.





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December 2008

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Full-time IT, at part-time prices! — UNLIMITED support at a flat monthly fee you can budget for just like payroll!

Inquiring Minds...

Find a midpoint meeting place in a flash. Meetways.com was designed to give users a point of interest between two addresses. For example, your business partner contacts you for a meeting, but he is on the other side of town. How would you go about locating a suitable meeting location? With Meetways.com, you type in your address, your partner's address, and the type of establishment you would like to visit (sushi, coffee, bank). Press search and the website will give you a map that pinpoints both locations entered, and the midway point, as well as each of the points of interest for your selection.

As more and more people are working from home (or remotely from alternate locations on the road) easily finding central meeting spots to negotiate contracts, brainstorm, or develop deeper relationships with clients, partners or prospects is essential. Give this handy tool a try today and find the most practical location to meet.

Energy Star 5.0 — no it's not a search engine. The Energy Star specification for computers is currently under revision for version 5.0. Did you know that the new Energy Star compliant laptops and PCs actually use 15 to 25% less energy on average than the other new computers on the shelf?

If you are in the market for a new PC this holiday season, consider an Energy Star rated product. This program inspired manufacturers to produce more efficient models and, in turn, consumers and businesses are looking to save over \$1.8 billion in energy costs over the next 5 years. This savings helps us all prevent greenhouse gas emissions equal to that given off from 2.7 million automobiles. Since, "teleportation devices" have no defined release date, and we all love our cars, why not dive into the conservation efforts through purchasing Energy Star toys?

If you are interested in reading more about this program or further conservation efforts, visit www.energystar.gov

Happy Holidays

One true joy of the holiday season is the opportunity to express our gratitude and wish you the very best for the coming year.

We value your patronage and appreciate your confidence in us. Counting you among our customers is something for which we are especially grateful. It has been a pleasure to work with you this year and we look forward to a new year of service.

On behalf of all of us here at
Intelligent Technical Solutions

Happy Holidays and Best
Wishes for a
Successful New Year!