Innovations

Reality Check! Computer quotes

The great thing about a computer notebook is that no matter how much you stuff into it, it doesn't get bigger or heavier.

ℵ Bill Gates

Not even computers will replace committees, because committees buy computers.

ℵ Edward Shepherd Mead

Computers can figure out all kinds of problems, except the things in the world that just don't add up.

ℵ James Magary

The most overlooked advantage to owning a computer is that if they foul up there's no law against whacking them around a little.

ℵ Joe Martin

The scary truth about supporting your own network and how you can make a change

Are you experiencing anxiety about computer troubles? Do you constantly worry about security or computer failure? Then it may be time to turn your IT concerns over to a trusted source, like Intelligent Technical Solutions.

If you have 5 to 25 computers in your office, a double agent just won't do. What does that mean? Well, all too often we see business owners relying on their office staff to take care of their IT needs. Then, they hire an hourly repair company when things go beyond their reach. What is wrong with this picture?

For a small company with very few records to secure and only one or two employees, this may work. However, when your business grows, requiring a server and multiple workstations, you need a trained eye to ensure your computers are safe and secure.

Standard equipment you may have or need in your office.
Generally, by the time we step foot in a prospects establishment, they have already exhausted all their internal resources to attempt to solve the issue at hand. One of the most common issues is hardware failure. Many offices today require

computers, networking, e-mail and file servers, remote access solutions, internet, and e-mail filtering as well as security and firewall protection. These are not easy necessities to maintain.

Take a look at these 3 reasons
why IT maintenance and security are not tasks to be assigned as duties for regular employees:

1. **There are no proactive measures in place to safeguard your business.** When your staff is learning what they need to make things work as they break, your company is in danger! Without proper measures in place to monitor and address threats daily you may be exposing your greatest asset, your company data.

2. **Preventative activities are not limited to anti-virus and spam filtering.** Preventative maintenance also includes things like updates, replacing worn components before they actually fail, or upgrading systems when they creep close to obsolescence. Preventative maintenance can provide your business with long-term benefits

Ghostly wire! A sensible solution to hide cables

Are you sick of running cords all over your home and office? Well, it's time to throw out your old ideas for concealing wires and discover a truly tactful way of hiding them in plain sight.

That's right, a company called FlatWire TV, a subsidiary of Southwire, has finally come up with a great way to hide those tacky cords that run all over. Beware!! This ghostly solution will flabbergast you!

Hide your wires under the paint on your walls...
FlatWire TV offers a paper-thin flat wire that you can hide anywhere. It is so thin, you can make it disappear behind plaster, paint, wallpaper, or even right under the carpet. You may still need a power center or surge protector to help you manage multiple cables in your office, but now you do not have to see all of those cables running from one area to the next.

Happy Halloween!

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INTELLIGENT TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS

The scary truth about supporting your own network…

like improved reliability, decreased replacement costs, and little or no down time.

3. **Inadequate backup and recovery practices may become a costly mistake.**
Where is your sensitive data stored? If you really don't know, *you need our IT Protectorate service plan*. Your company information is extremely valuable and should be a top priority with regard to security. If your company has important data stored on any of the computers in your office, move those files to a server immediately so they can be properly secured and backed-up. Backup is not an option, it's a necessity.

Supporting your own network can be extremely time consuming and will ultimately end up costing you more than you think.

Did you know? According to ComputerFileRecovery.net, roughly 32% of computers crash due to user error and 44% of computers crash due to hardware malfunction. Another resource, the Ponemon Institute, recently surveyed 945 individuals who were laid off, fired, or quit their jobs during the last year. Take a peek at these frightening statistics: 59% admitted to stealing company data and 67% used their former company's confidential information to leverage a new job. These statistics are staggering considering how much businesses depend on their company information and work to protect their employee and client data.

Are you ready to have a team of experts manage your IT needs?
Even if things seem to be just fine, unwanted problems may be lurking under the surface that will eventually come back to torment you in the future.

For example, if you miss a critical security

patch, you may be completely vulnerable to hackers attacks. Or worse yet, if you <u>do</u> install security patches and you use one that hasn't been properly tested, you may end up blue screening your computer and losing everything.

Free Well Network Check (a $499 value)
If you have any reservations about how your network is functioning or handled today, what have you got to lose? Take advantage of our Free Well Check. It's just one call and we will come to you to review the following key areas:

- Scan your systems for viruses, spyware, malware and more
- Check your back-up system to ensure your data is securely and completely stored
- Review your firewall's security settings
- Verify that you have the current security updates and patches necessary for your systems
- Examine your network speed, connectivity, and general functionality

With these assessments and a discussion with you about your goals as a business, we will prepare a sensible action plan to keep your network running smoothly.

I know what you are thinking, there is always a catch. The truth is, we are genuinely concerned. Too many business suffer from a lack of technical expertise and in turn, pay dearly when their network goes down. In these trying economic times, we want to be sure you know what is lurking in your office and give you an opportunity to take advantage of our protectorate plan that will alleviate all of your IT stress before it's too late.

Managed services, is a very general term that means one thing, **you don't worry about IT anymore!** Here is how it works. For one low fixed monthly fee, we take the helm. We proactively maintain and monitor your network for you 24/7, 365 days a year. We will keep your network safe, prevent disasters, and back-up your data. If you need us onsite to assist with new software, changes in your office, new equipment and more, we will be there in a flash. Our success is measured by your continued success. Our aim is to give you peace of mind, so you can focus on what counts… Your Business!

"Wait, someone just sent me a hex message."

Microsoft Windows 7 hits the shelves this month!

It's almost here! Microsoft is due to release Windows 7 on October 22nd. So, what is all the hype about?

Microsoft's focus with Windows 7 was to create a more responsive and user friendly system that would be better suited for daily use. Things like improved taskbar features, enhanced search functions, and performance improvements, make Windows 7 a great operating system for home and business users alike.

What does this mean for businesses?

It is the Vista that works! Microsoft seems to have identified many of the issues that businesses were seeing with Vista and corrected them in Windows 7. They added an XP compatibility mode so Windows 7 can work with many of the older programs and is more compatible with older hardware too.

From a day to day standpoint, many Vista users have issues with network files, browsing folders, and slowness due to the format of Vista. It is not nearly as piggish as Vista either. It doesn't take as much room on the computer itself.

Now, with Windows 7, Microsoft has brought back the basics of earlier operating systems, so the user experience is a bit more like XP.

Security in Windows 7. Microsoft received a
tremendous amount of flack for the security holes in Windows XP. With Vista, they went over the top with security. Now, with Windows 7 they are doing things right. They found the middle ground they needed. Windows 7 is a more security conscious version of Windows XP but, not quite as stringent as Vista, hounding users with warnings at every turn. Windows 7 isn't as intrusive.

What is the next move? We almost never
upgrade clients immediately when a new version of Windows is released due to the requirements and changes necessary to adapt old computers to the new operating system. However, after testing Windows 7 for ourselves, technicians are seeing more positives than negatives at this point.

Chief concerns with Windows 7. The big-
gest concern with regard to Windows 7 is that many business applications may not be compatible right away. As with any new operating system, it will take time for software vendors to make compatibility changes to their packages. We will have to wait and see how far Windows 7 has truly come and how many programs will really work.

Microsoft is packaging copies and manufacturers are putting Windows 7 on new PCs this month. On October 22, you'll be able to get the final product! Test it out, see if it is a good fit for your company.

Remember, if you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to call ITS! We are here to help!

Ghostly wire! ...

FlatWire products.

FlatWire currently offers products for audio, video, data, and sconce lighting. There are many applications for this type of product. So, if you are planning to mount a monitor or television on the wall, consider a FlatWire solution for the audio and data connections. However, you will still have the power cord to worry about, for now. FlatWire has their power cable product in testing now and anticipates their release soon.

Before   After

quite literally a lifeline for any office, it can also be a great hazard if neglected. Many electrical hazards in offices stem from over-loaded circuits, shocks, electrical fires, or power shortages.

Lower the risk of an electrical disaster by reducing the number of physical cords littering your office. FlatWire helps you conceal the data, audio, or lighting cables, leaving only the power cables that you use more often, out in the open. This is a great way to ensure safe stable connections for peripheral equipment and remove them from sight.

Lower the risk of electrical hazards in your office.

I am sure most of the world agrees that electricity is

Visit www.flatwirestore.com for more information.

Pumpkin skills!

With Halloween just around the corner, we put together a few easy pumpkin carving tips to make this time honored tradition a success.

When selecting your pumpkin, be sure to choose an un-bruised pumpkin about the size and shape of your design. Characteristics to look for, a pumpkin that is smooth, evenly colored so that your design will transfer clearly, and has a flat bottom so it sits upright.
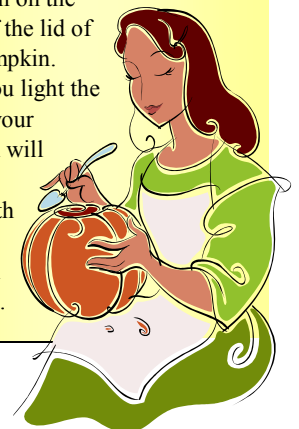
Once you have selected the perfect pumpkin, you are ready to carve. Be sure to saw at a 90° angle, holding the cutting utensil like a pencil and saw steadily with a continuous motion. Clean out the seeds and strings with an ice scream scooper, scraping the inner pulp away from the area you plan to carve until the pumpkin wall is approximately 1" thick.

After your pumpkin has been carved, put petroleum jelly on the cut edges of the pumpkin. This will prevent your Jack O Lantern from shriveling. As your pumpkin ages, you can revive your pumpkin with a soak in cold water for up to 8 hours followed by more petroleum jelly on the carvings to preserve your creation.

For the grand finale, light your Jack O lantern using a candle or flameless tea light. Make a chimney by cutting a hole on the upper, back part of the pumpkin, this will allow any heat to escape.

For something fun, sprinkle a little cinnamon on the inside of the lid of your pumpkin. When you light the candle, your pumpkin will fill the room with a sweet pumpkin pie scent.

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James Marty Shawn

"Our job is to make your job easier!"

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

Inquiring Minds...

Don't let the size of your files stop you from sending them. Take a look at www.YouSendIt.com. This handy website allows you to send 2 GB files and folders to anyone with advanced options like password protection, certified delivery, and return receipt. You can even track who has downloaded your files with advanced file delivery and the files can be downloaded as many times as necessary.

Here is how it works, upload your file to www.YouSendIt.com or use the YouSendIt Express application to send files directly from your desktop. From there, YouSendIt delivers a notification message to the recipient that the file is available for retrieval. You can also receive files with a branded YouSendIt Dropbox, making the file transfer process even easier on any outside parties you may work with. The YouSendIt service also directly integrates with popular everyday programs such as Microsoft Outlook, Photoshop, CorelDraw X3, iPhoto, Final Cut Pro, Acrobat, and more, so you never have to leave the work environment to use YouSendIt.

YouSendIt has many great advantages. They are HIPAA compliant and you can receive a file faster than overnight, in an ad-free environment. Recipients don't even have to register with YouSendIt to retrieve files and the notification emails you send can be branded with your company information. No more fighting with your mailbox limitations.

Check out www.yousendit.com today to identify an account that best suits your sending needs. Take advantage of their 14 Day Free Trial and test out just how easy this service really is!

Don't let your funding go up in smoke! Take a moment to evaluate where the excess funds are needed most. If you have a laundry list of needs, like many of us, prioritize with the items that will make your office more efficient, like more memory, a new all-in-one printer or even a new server. Don't think of it as greedy. Upgrades and other equipment improvements can be a great way to boost efficiency and ease tension in your office.

The most important thing to remember is a plan. Give yourself a few days this month to review and prioritize your needs. This will help you eliminate frivolous items and truly hone in on the things that make your company more successful. If you have any questions or would like some suggestions, don't hesitate to call. We are here to help.

No more screaming fits when the Blue Screen of Death comes knocking!

Imagine, you just finished up a *huge* project. You get up for a few minutes to stretch your legs and… BOOM! When you return to your workstation, you have been plagued with the *Blue Screen Of Death!!!* Dun Dun Dun… what do you do next?

Give Intelligent Technical Solutions a call! The information saved on your computer is probably still there even after receiving this error. We will assess your situation, work to resolve the issues at hand and help you retrieve your data. The best part, if your company has a managed service contract with us, you don't even pay for labor. So, what have you got to lose?

Intelligent Technical Solutions (702)869-3636