

TECHNOLOGY INSIDER

"The latest in technology news, trends & tips for business"

Are You Prepared for Windows Server 2003 End of Support?

The end of life support for Microsoft's 11 year old server operating system, Windows Server 2003, is rapidly approaching on July 14, 2015. This follows the end of support for Windows XP, this past spring. Failure to upgrade your server operating system, dramatically increases any company's cyber-security risks.

Server migrations take, on average, 4 months from planning to completion. If you still have a server running Server 2003, now is the time to start planning.

End of support for Windows Server 2003 means:

- **No further updates or security patches released:** 37 critical updates were released for Server 2003 in 2013 alone. No updates will be released after 7/14/15.
- **Loss of compliance:** Various industry regulations and industry standards will no longer be able to be achieved if you are using Server 2003 actively on your network.
- **Increased security risks:** Any server running this operating system will be completely exposed to serious hacker attacks aimed at taking control of your network, stealing your data or crashing your systems.
- **No applications support** - Many applications will also cease to be supported, once the operating system they are running on is unsupported.

In addition to ongoing Microsoft support, upgrading to Server 2012, has additional benefits, including better security, improved performance, increased functionality, virtualization and improved manageability.

Call to Schedule your FREE Server 2003 Migration Plan
Call 904-229-0922 or go to: www.Boxmeta.com



"As a business owner, you don't have time to waste on technical and operational issues. That's where we shine! Call us and put an end to your IT problems finally and forever!"
- Dave Russoman, Owner

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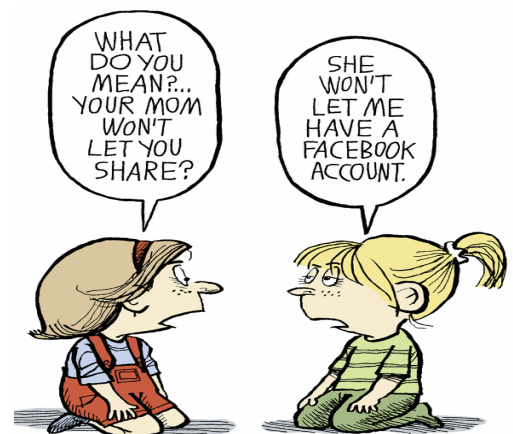
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How To Protect your Privacy and Data When Using Public WiFi Hotspots

Public WiFi hotspots are everywhere, even on airplanes. Have you ever wondered, how safe is it to connect? With hacking, viruses and identity theft at an all-time high, it is critical to take every possible safety precaution.

Unfortunately, it is easy for a hacker to set up a WiFi spot, called an “evil twin,” a wireless hotspot that is used to lure people from a legitimate hotspot. For example, you may inadvertently log into an evil twin Internet connection set up by the person working on a laptop at the next table. Evil twins allow you access to the Internet, but in the background they record everything you are typing.

You may be asking, “How do I protect myself at WiFi hotspots?”

- ♦ **VPN (MOST SECURE):** The best protection you can have is connecting via your company’s virtual private network. A VPN protects your online information by encrypting your data and activity even if you're connected through an evil twin.
- ♦ **Verify:** Ask an employee to confirm the name of the correct hotspot. Even here you need to be careful. The hacker will use an evil twin name that mimics the legitimate hotspot and, on some occasions. The fake site may even show up at the top of your network list by having a stronger signal than the legitimate site.
- ♦ **Personal Hotspot:** Carry a personal hotspot or mobile phone that has a hotspot feature. Use a personal hotspot when accessing sensitive data, such as banking sites, a company network or entering any credit card, social security or financial information.
- ♦ **Surf Wisely:** If you don’t have a VPN or personal hotspot, never type in password, credit card, social security, bank account or other sensitive information when connected to a public WiFi hotspot.

FREE Report: The Business Owners’ Guide To IT Support Services And Fees



You will learn:

- ♦ The 3 most common ways IT services companies charge for their services, and the pros and cons of each approach.
- ♦ A common billing model that puts ALL THE RISK on the customer, when buying IT services
- ♦ Exclusions, hidden fees and other “gotcha” clauses IT companies put in their contracts that you DON’T want to agree to.
- ♦ How to make sure you know exactly what you’re getting to avoid disappointment, frustration and added costs

Claim Your FREE Copy Today at www.boxmeta.com/pay-support

Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:



Amazon ECHO

Amazon Echo is the new voice-activated, cloud-connected wireless speaker, that talks back to you and acts like a personal assistant. The device is a 9-inch tall cylinder speaker and responds to the name 'Alexa'. Echo is controlled over your home WiFi network, from an app on your iDevice or Android device. Echo is like Siri or Google Now, in a box, and she has a sense of humor.

Echo offers weather and news from a variety of sources. Echo can also play music from streaming services such as Spotify, iTunes, and Pandora Radio from a phone or tablet. Echo maintains voice-controlled alarms, timers, shopping and to-do lists and can access Wikipedia articles. Kids can ask 'Alexa' their homework questions, without getting up out of their seats. 'Alexa' also tells jokes.

While Echo still has room to improve, at \$199 (\$99 for Amazon Prime members), Echo is a fun addition to any family room but is likely to be more of a novelty than a true productivity tool—For Now.

Tips for Protecting Yourself from Credit Card Fraud

We are all too familiar with the stories of card breaches that have taken place recently and becoming more common. Credit card providers are set to roll out new, more secure credit cards to consumers this year, catching up to Europe and much of Asia in terms of credit card security. The U.S., has lagged behind in credit card security. There are several steps you can take to protect yourself:

Only give your credit card information to secure and trusted web sites. Never enter any personal or financial information on a non-secure web page. If you don't see "https" in the web address, move along.

Monitor all activity. Regularly check your credit card and bank statements. Many credit card providers have custom alerts you can set to notify you if certain purchases are made, such as frequency or transaction amount.

Never save credit card information. Many online retailers and shops now ask if you would like to save your credit card information for future use. While it may seem convenient, skip it.

Do not provide your credit card, where you have not initiated the conversation. Hackers can be very persuasive and create fake sites that look legitimate

Create Strong Passwords for sites where you will enter credit card information. Use lower case, upper case, special characters or create pass phrases instead of words.

Place a credit agency 'security freeze' on your account if you suspect that you may have been breached or have been exposed to a potential breach, a 'security freeze' it will prohibit lenders from accessing your credit history and not allow hackers to apply for loans or credit cards.

Request a Free Credit Report. You can get 3 free reports (1 from each credit bureau) from annualcreditreport.com

Delete your cookies and auto-fill data. After you complete a transaction, go into your browser's options, settings or history tab and delete the data.

How to Responsibly Dispose of Computers and Electronics

Like all of us, you probably have a mound of gadgets, electronic equipment and computers in your home and/or office. Most of us feel guilty just throwing it away in the trash, not to mention the security implications of the data that may be on the devices.

Before discarding of any electronics, wipe the hard drive or any component that retains data. Just deleting the data is not sufficient. There are free data wiping programs such as Active@Killdisk available for download. Contact a reputable IT provider if you have any questions.

Here are some ways to dispose of your electronics:

- ◆ **Retailers.** Some stores, such as Best Buy and Staples offer drop off programs. There may also be incentive programs for recycling toner, such as Staples who pays \$2 for each cartridge.
- ◆ **Public Programs.** Organizations, such as Call2Recycle (www.call2recycle.org), has more than 30,000 locations. To find a TV recycling programs, go to: www.ecyclingcentral.com or for general recycling, go to: www.e-stewards.org.
- ◆ **Manufacturers.** Most manufacturers have take-back programs, such as Dell with their Goodwill Connect partnership (www.dellreconnect.com). Apple provides free recycling of ANY BRAND computer. If the item has monetary value, it will be applied to an Apple Gift Card. Amazon has a program as well which is not just for electronics, www.Amazon.com/trade-in.
- ◆ **Donations.** Reach out to local schools or churches. There are also services such as, World Computer Exchange (www.worldcomputerexchange.org) and National Christina Foundation (www.cristina.org).

What Does 'Cloud' Really Mean?

In the simplest terms, cloud computing means storing and accessing data and programs over the Internet instead of your computer's hard drive. Cloud services range from the hosting of a single business application (Email, Quickbooks, etc.) to hosting some or all of your companies servers and network infrastructure. Public clouds sell services to anyone, anywhere (Microsoft, Amazon). Private clouds is a proprietary network that services a limited audience. In either case, the goal of cloud is to provide easy, scalable access to resources and services.

Some Cloud Benefits:

- **Elastic.** Quickly add/reduce capacity and services. Pay for what you use
- **Economies of Scale.** Providers can pass along the value benefits of building a large scale networks, shared among thousands, as compared to the cost of building your own.
- **Lower Infrastructure Costs.** Reduce the need for power, space and equipment
- **Accessibility.** Connect from anywhere, remotely and securely.

Some Cloud Risks:

- **Application Issues.** Not all applications are compatible with all cloud platforms
- **Limited Flexibility.** The cloud vendor will dictate all standards because there are hundreds/thousands of client sharing the same infrastructure.
- **Physical Access to Data.** The client does not have access to the equipment that houses their data. This may be an issue for businesses that are subject to regulatory oversight.
- **Productivity Loss.** Features such as multiple monitors, remote printers, scanners, video, web meetings, music, etc. are limited, on some cloud platforms.
- **Perpetual Cost.** A subscription model is not always the most valuable, in the long term.

Before moving your network to the cloud, the vendor should work with the client to conduct a very detailed analysis of requirements, applications and work flow. The wrong decision can cost a lot of time, productivity and money.

If you are entering into a cloud agreement, the vendor should offer a 90+ day money back guarantee and an ample grace period to perform all necessary testing. The test environment should be a mirror of your production environment and be made accessible to several members of the company, representing different departments.

Call to Schedule your FREE Cloud Evaluation

Call us today at 904-229-0922 or
go online to: www.BoxMeta.com

Trivia Corner: Who Wants to Win A \$25 Gift Card?

Pronounced as one letter,
And written with three,
Two letters there are,
And two only in me.
I'm double, I'm single,
I'm black, blue, and gray,
I'm read from both ends,
And the same either way.

What am I?

E-mail your answer to: trivia@boxmeta.com

The first person to submit the correct answer wins a \$25 Gift Card!!

FEBRUARY FUN FACTS



Q: Cupid is the son of which Goddess?

A: Venus, the Goddess of Love and Beauty

Q: Approximately, how many Valentines Day cards / boxes of chocolate are purchased each year?

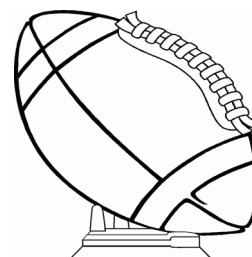
A: 1 Billion / 36 million

Q: Valentines Day is mentioned in which Shakespeare play?

A: Hamlet

Q: February 14 was declared Saint Valentines Day, by whom and when?

A: Pope Gelasius, 498 A.D



Q: Which player has won the most Super Bowls?

A: Charles Haley (5)

Q: What is the cost for a 30 second Super Bowl commercial spot in 2015 / 2005?

A: \$4.5 million / \$2 million

Q: Which 4 players have won both the Heisman and Super Bowl MVP?

A: Roger Staubach, Jim Plunkett, Marcus Allen, Desmond Howard

Q: Who was the first player to be awarded MVP, three times?

A: Joe Montana

Q: Which team has been to the Super Bowl, 4 times but never led, for a single second?

A: Minnesota Vikings