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THE TECHNOLOGY TIMES NEWSLETTER

Inside This Month's Newsletter

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This monthly publication provided courtesy of Howard Globus, Security Evangelist & Partner of **IT On Demand.**

Our Mission: To build a community of successful minded entrepreneurs that inspires excellence, encourages collaboration and expands the capacity of all members to achieve great things.

10 Things You Must Do Now To Prevent A Costly Data Disaster

In less than 60 seconds, you are about to learn 10 things that could save you days – or even weeks – of downtime, not to mention the undue stress on your company, and potentially thousands of dollars lost, due to a data disaster…

Use this article as your checklist in a conversation with your IT company to assure that your business has the right plan in place to get back up and running quickly if and when disaster strikes.

1. **Keep a written plan.** Simply thinking through in ADVANCE what needs to happen when things go south on you, and documenting it, can go a long way toward getting your network back up and running quickly if it gets hacked, flooded or compromised by human error or equipment failure.

   Outline the types of disasters that could happen, and a step-by-step recovery process. Be sure to include a budget, what to do, who should do it and how. Store printed copies along with key contact information and login details for essential websites 1) in a fireproof safe, 2) off-site at your home, 3) at each key employee's home and 4) with your IT consultant.

2. **Hire a trusted professional to help you.** Trying to recover data after a disaster without professional help is business suicide. One misstep can result in weeks of downtime, or permanent data loss. To improve your odds of a quick recovery, work with a pro who has experience in both setting up your plan and helping you recover when a loss occurs.

3. **Have a communications plan.** What if your employees can't access your office, e-mail or phone system – how should they communicate with you? Make sure your plan details the alternatives, including MULTIPLE ways to stay in touch.

4. **Automate your backups.** THE #1 cause of data loss is human error. If your backup system depends on a human being doing something, it's a recipe for disaster. ALWAYS automate your backups so they run like clockwork.

5. **Keep an off-site backup copy of**

Continued on page 2

your data. On-site backups are a good first step, but if they get flooded, burned or hacked along with your server, you're out of luck. ALWAYS maintain a recent copy of your data off-site.

6. **Be able to access and manage your network remotely.** You and your staff will be able to keep working if they can't get into your office. Your IT manager or consultant can quickly handle an emergency or routine maintenance. And you'll love the convenience!

7. **Image your server.** Storing your *data* off-site is great – but bear in mind, if your *system* goes down, the software and architecture that handles all that data must be RESTORED for it to be of any use. Imaging your server creates a replica of the original, saving you an enormous amount of time and energy in getting your network back in gear. Best of all, you don't have to worry about losing your preferences, configurations or favorites.

8. **Document your network.** Network documentation is simply a blueprint of the software, data, systems and hardware that comprise your company's network. Let your IT manager or consultant create this for you. It'll save you time and money in the event your network needs to be restored.

"It's critical to keep your network patched, secure and up-to-date."

It also speeds up everyday repairs and maintenance on your network when technicians don't have to waste time figuring out where things are and how they're configured. Plus, it may help with insurance claims in the event of losses due to a disaster.

9. **Maintain your system.** While fires, flooding and other natural disasters are certainly a risk, it's ever more likely that you'll experience downtime due to a virus, worm or hacker attack. That's why it's critical to keep your network patched, secure and up-to-date. And don't forget: deteriorating hardware and corrupted software can wipe you out. Replace and update them as needed to steer clear of this threat.

10. **Test, test, test!** If you're going to go to the trouble of setting up a plan, at least make sure it works! Hire an IT pro to test monthly to make sure your systems work properly and your data is secure. After all, the worst time to test your parachute is AFTER you jump out of the plane.

Need help getting this implemented? Contact us by May 31 at **(212) 235-0260** or info@it-on-demand.com for a FREE Backup And Disaster Recovery Audit.

Breaches Hit Nearly 3 In 4 Organizations

Nearly 3 out of 4 organizations have been plagued by at least one security breach or incident in the past year, with about 60 percent of breaches categorized as serious, according to a new report by CompTIA.

The International Trends in Cybersecurity report also reveals that organizations are changing security practices and policies due to greater reliance on cloud computing and mobile technology solutions.

Organizations are taking steps to assess and improve cybersecurity knowledge among their employees. Practices include new employee orientation, ongoing training programs, online courses and random security audits.

But the results so far have been mixed. Only 23 percent of organizations rate their cybersecurity education and training methods as effective. Making employee training mandatory, more comprehensive training delivered more often and combining training with follow-up tests and assessments are some of the steps that would improve effectiveness, executives said.

Contact our security experts at info@it-on-demand.com for assistance on ensuring your staff is well educated on and familiar with cybersecurity threats and best security practices.

Information Security & Open Risk Management

Safety with your personal information is always something to worry about when you have anything connected to the Internet. If you own a company, you would like guarantees that all of your electronic business data is protected. This has become a significant factor in the operation risk management of a company. As a business owner, you've taken into account the risks that could happen offline, however, it is imperative that you consider the potential security risks that would affect your electronic data and network. Being proactive in regards to ALL risks will enable you to protect yourself, your team and your business.

Knowing the possible risks is just a smart business plan. If you are aware of what COULD happen, you can take measures to lower your risk or avoid damage or loss altogether. That is the reason many businesses are now involving information security into their risk management meetings as well. You must be able to protect that bank information, your client's information, and even keeping your risk for fraud lowered. All of these factors are important in keeping the integrity of the company safe.

Your confidential data in a business is ultimately the most at risk. With cybercrimes on the rise these days, you can no longer take any gambles and leave it unsecured. If your network has been compromised in the past, then the responsibility falls on you, the business owner, to ensure that steps are taken to avoid a repeat occurrence. Fortifying your network environment and your confidential data is a process that incessantly requires updating since hackers are unceasingly determined to find vulnerabilities that would allow them to steal information. For this reason, your network should be monitored closely at all times.

If you have not considered your company's information security be included in your operational risk management assessment, then you are quite likely at risk of exposure. For the safety of your business and the clients that you serve, it is crucial that you look into your information security when you begin to assess your risks.

FREE REPORT: 12 Facts About Data Backup

"What Every Business Owner Should Know About Backing Up Their Data To Get A FAST, Easy, And Economical Recovery In The Event Of A Disaster"

If your data is important to your business and you cannot afford to have your operations halted for days – even weeks – due to data loss or corruption, then you need to read this report and act on the information inside.

This report will outline the most commonly made, costly mistakes that most small business owners make with their data backups, as well as important questions you should ask any offsite backup provider before giving them access to your data.

Download today: www.it-on-demand.com/12-facts/

Cloud Backup - Is It Secure?

Your business's data is important, and keeping it both secure and private is pivotal. That's why the integration of cloud backup technology is a critical step in the right direction.

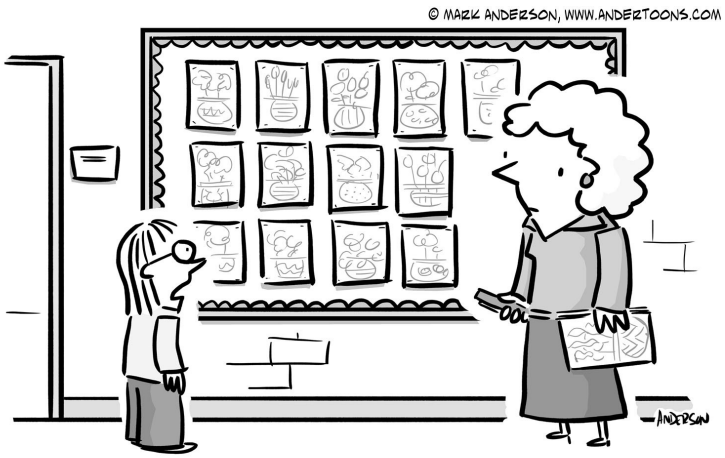
Cloud storage is a multibillion dollar industry that influences the ease at which businesses can access, manage, and restore their most valuable data. In addition to the functionality of cloud backup, it also offers an IT solution that is efficient, affordable, and scalable. But above all, it's a solution that's safe.

Well, *it can be.*

In order to ensure cyber security in virtual server environments, businesses must have a deep understanding of how to lawfully and efficiently implement and encrypt it. And that's exactly what I can give you. As a data security expert specializing in the cloud, I can guarantee to keep your information protected. I can guarantee compliance with SLAs to prevent monetary and reputational consequences, encryption to prevent data breaches, and ethical hacking to prevent potential safety deficiencies. I can guarantee that you'll feel the strength behind and see the value in backing up your data to the cloud.

Because when it comes to your business, cyber security is the skeleton for longevity and the backbone for success.

Contact any of our security experts at IT On Demand at (212) 235-0260 for assistance on ensuring your data is secure. We look forward to speaking with you and answering any questions you may have.



"You know, you'd get a lot more exposure on Instagram or Pinterest."

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