

Carolina Tech Times

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*"Insider Tips To Make Your Business Run Faster,
Easier, And More Profitably"*



What's New

Do you know someone who would benefit from receiving our monthly newsletter? If so, let us know! We would love to share our monthly tips and tricks to others in the community!

Don't forget to check out our monthly referral deal that can benefit you and a company of your choice.

February 2017



This monthly publication provided courtesy of Rob Downs, President of Managed IT Solutions.

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.



That Fake App Just Stole Your ID

Ryan loved tweaking photos on his Android phone. He'd heard rave reviews from his friends with iPhones about Prisma, a new iOS app for image editing. So when he heard Prisma would soon be released for Android, he logged in to the Google Play Store to see if it was there yet.

To his surprise, he found one that looked just like what his friends were describing. Delighted, he downloaded and started using it. Meanwhile, the app—a fake—was busy installing a Trojan horse on his phone.

When he got to work the next day, he logged his phone into the company network as usual. The malware jumped from his phone to the network. Yet no one knew. Not yet, but that was about to change...

Now, this isn't necessarily a true

story (at least, not one we've heard of—yet...), but it absolutely *could* have been. And similar situations are unfolding as you read this. Yes, possibly even at *your* company...

Fake apps exploded onto iTunes and Google Play last November, just in time for holiday shopping. Apple "cleaned up" iTunes in an effort to quell users' concerns, but hackers still find workarounds. Unfortunately, these fake apps pose a real threat to the security of your network. Especially if your company has anything but the strictest BYOD (bring your own device) policies in place. And the more your network's users socialize and shop on *their* smartphones, the greater the risk of a damaging breach on *your* network.

Fake apps look just like real apps. They masquerade as apps from legitimate merchants of all stripes, from retail chains like

Continued pg.2

Dollar Tree and Footlocker, to luxury purveyors such as Jimmy Choo and Christian Dior. Some of the more malicious apps give criminals access to confidential information on the victim's device. Worse yet, they may install a Trojan horse on that device that can infect your company's network next time the user logs in.

So what can you do?

First, keep *yourself* from being fooled. Anyone can easily be tricked unless you know what to look for. Take the following advice to heart and share it with your team:

Beware of Fake Apps!

In case you weren't aware, one of the latest and most dangerous Internet scams is fake apps. Scammers create apps that look and behave like a real app from a legitimate store. These fake apps can infect your phone or tablet and steal confidential information, including bank account and credit card details.

"Fake apps can infect your phone or tablet and steal confidential information."

They may also secretly install on your device malicious code that can spread, *including to your company network*.

Take a moment and reflect on these five tips before downloading any app:

1. When in doubt, check it out. Ask other users *before* downloading it. Visit the store's main website to see if it's mentioned there. Find out from customer support if it's the real McCoy.
2. If you *do* decide to download an app, first check reviews. Apps with few reviews or bad reviews are throwing down a red flag.
3. Never, EVER click a link in an e-mail to download an app. Get it from the retailer's website, or from iTunes or Google Play.
4. Offer as little of your information as possible if you decide to use an app.

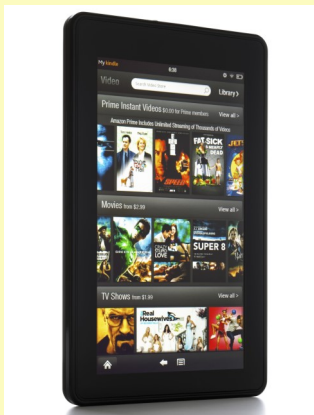
5. Think twice before linking your credit card to any app.

Most importantly, get professional help to keep your network safe. It really *is* a jungle out there. New cyberscams, malware and other types of network security threats are cropping up every day. You have more important things to do than to try and keep up with them all.

The Most "Bullet-Proof" Way To Keep Your Network Safe

Let's not let *your* company become yet another statistic, hemorrhaging cash as a result of a destructive cyber-attack. Call me TODAY at 919-848-3259, or e-mail me at brdowns@managedits.com, and let's make sure your systems are safe. I'll provide you with a Cyber Security Risk Assessment to check for and safeguard against any points of entry for an attack. This service is FREE, but DO NOT RISK WAITING: contact me NOW *before* the next scam puts *your* network at risk.

Help Us Out And We'll Give You A Brand-New Kindle Fire For Your Trouble



We love having you as a customer and, quite honestly, wish we had more like you! So instead of just wishing, we've decided to hold a special "refer a friend" event during the month of February.

Simply refer any company with 10 or more computers to our office to receive a FREE Computer Network Assessment (a \$397 value). Once we've completed our initial meeting with your referral, we'll rush YOU a free Kindle Fire of your choice as a thank-you (or donate \$100 to your favorite charity ... your choice!). Simply call us at 919-848-3259 or e-mail us at marketing@managedits.com with your referral's name and contact information today!



Andrew Burns and Rick Woods co-founded Hamilton Point Investment Advisors, LLC in June 2007. Andy, who had served as President and Chief Investment Officer for another investment firm in New York, was looking to return to North Carolina with his family and to start his own investment advisory firm. Rick, living in Atlanta at the time, was a long-time acquaintance of Andy's and was looking to get his family back to North Carolina and to find an entrepreneurial opportunity where he could apply his years

of experience in finance and investments. With that background and a combined 40+ years of experience in investments, it made sense to "join forces" and open Hamilton Point in Chapel Hill. As Andy said, "Rick and I founded Hamilton Point to serve clients who want completely independent, experienced and trusted advisors to preserve and grow their investment capital. Our emphasis when managing money is the same for clients as it is for our own portfolios... growth, reasonable valuations and quality."

With persistence and good partners that could be relied on to help get things off the ground, the firm successfully grew over the last 9 years and now includes seven employees managing approximately \$350 million in investments for high-net worth individuals and non-profit organizations. Hamilton Point aspires to maintain the "boutique" feel and high level of service, even as the Hamilton Point family grows to include more clients and presumably more staff to serve them. As Rick stated, "We enjoy the challenge of thinking long-term in a world that seems to be focused increasingly on the immediate future. We particularly enjoy being trusted partners to our clients whom they rely on for advice on all matters financial. Those relationships with clients built over years, and eventually decades, are a unique part of this business that is particularly special."

Hamilton Point's growth has also included an increased presence in the community, of which they are particularly proud. Andy Burns commented, "We feel fortunate that we were able to build this business in the Triangle, which is such a thriving place to be. One way we seek to further contribute to the success of the region is to be partners with Triangle Community Foundation, NC Center for Nonprofits, Habitat for Humanity, Ronald McDonald House, Methodist Home for Children and Rotary, among other organizations we support. Organizations like these ultimately help every business in our region; we look forward to seeing what our firm and the community becomes in the next decade and beyond."

A Cyber Safety Tip from Managed IT Solutions

This will SHOCK you about bank fraud on business accounts:

Did you know your COMPANY'S bank account doesn't enjoy the same protections as a personal bank account? For example, if a hacker takes money from your business account, the bank is NOT responsible for getting your money back. (Don't believe me? Go ask your bank what their policy is on refunding you money stolen from your account!) Many people think FDIC protects you from fraud; it doesn't. It protects you from bank insolvency, NOT fraud.

Quick Tip: Set up e-mail alerts on your account so you are notified any time money is withdrawn from your account. The FASTER you catch fraudulent activity, the better your chances are of keeping your money. If you contact the bank IMMEDIATELY, you have a very high probability of foiling a hacker's attack.



Get more free tips, tools and services at www.managedits.com



**PALLADIUM
SECURITY**

Business Security and Compliance

The National Cyber Security Alliance reports that one in five small businesses have been victims of cybercrime in the last year – and that number is growing rapidly. So, is your company at risk of being that one in five?

With Managed IT Solutions strategic security and compliance – Palladium Security, you can rely on our experts to make sure:

- Your network really and truly is secured against the most devious cybercriminals.
- Your data backup is TRULY backing up ALL the important files and data you would never want to lose.
- Your company's Acceptable Use Policy (AUP), enforced with content-filtering software and firewalls, protects your data from what your employees do on the internet while on the clock.
- Your firewall and antivirus are properly configured and up-to-date.
- You aren't accidentally violating any PCI, HIPAA or other data-privacy laws. New laws are being put in place frequently and it's easy to violate one without even being aware; however, you'd still have to suffer the bad PR and fines.

We can give you the power to stop worrying about the security of your business data – including your client's information – and focus on running your business.

We also offer ongoing Security Training for all employees so your #1 risk is no longer a liability and can help you get Cyber-Liability Insurance.

Want To Know For Sure If YOUR Data is Secure?

Because the safety of our clients is so important to us, we are offering you our CyberSecurity Assessment (a \$597 value) – ABSOLUTELY FREE! Just call our office at 919-848-3259 to schedule our onsite visit to:

- Test your firewall, anti-virus and spyware protection
- Check your backups
- Review your acceptable use policy
- Check your online security settings
- Discuss your extended liability regarding HIPAA, PCI, and other data-privacy laws.
- Discuss the training needs of your staff with regards to security

There is no obligation to do anything once our evaluation is completed. Take this opportunity to give yourself piece of mind that you are already safe, or to learn where you are vulnerable to loss.

Get more free tips, tools and services at www.managedits.com

Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:



Mevo Puts You In The Director's Chair

A single static video camera can make for some pretty boring storytelling...but who's got multiple cameras, a crew to run them and a team of editors?

Well, now your videos can look like you have an entire crew behind the scenes, with Mevo. Mevo is a new type of video camera and app that lets you shoot and edit multiple video shots on the fly, all while recording and/or livestreaming.

Let's say you're shooting a band concert. You get to mix in shots of the guitarist, the drummer and bass player together, and a wide-angle view of the whole band. Plus Mevo follows their faces as they move around so you don't have to. You just sit back, and cut and zoom on the fly.

On the downside, Mevo's battery lasts only an hour, and image quality is limited to mobile viewing. Still, with all the cool possibilities you get with Mevo, you may start getting ideas about becoming the next Spielberg. GetMevo.com

Smart Closing Technique, Step 2

Let's say you're closing a deal and you've already taken the first step: you've *summarized the client's underlying need...*

Now you're ready for Step 2: *Say what you plan to do.*

Describe exactly what you'll do to help the client successfully satisfy their underlying need. Even smart people worry about putting themselves out there by offering a plan. They worry that someone may disagree with them. They worry about proposing a plan that doesn't work. That's why many advisors stay "safely vague" rather than offering a specific plan.

But being vague doesn't help leaders solve some of their biggest problems. You have to have the courage to propose a plan. For example: "I have some ideas about how you can achieve your goals. Want to hear them?"

"Yes!" (the client says, while taking out a notebook and a pen).

"There are five parts to what I think you need to do, in this order. They are designed to increase your power score, starting with priorities, who is on your team and relationships. First, there is no way you are going to be able to take the company in a whole new strategic direction without the board's support."

"That's true."

"So first we have to articulate your vision and your priorities on paper, with goals and strategy and budget implications, and then get the board's support."

"Right, it's going to change our budget, so rather than let the board nix it this fall, I should get out in front of this and get their support from the beginning."

"Second, you seem to have questions about the capabilities of many of the key leaders in the US, Europe and in your Asia region. It would be helpful to assess your team, to have a clear view of who is going to fit in the new organization, and who is not a fit."

"Yes, that would be helpful—to have an X-ray of the org chart and figure out who needs to go where to align with the new strategy."

"Third, fourth and fifth will be all about culture change. Change the incentives. Change the meeting cadences of what metrics are tracked and discussed—who meets when to discuss what. And what some of our most successful clients have done in situations like this is design workshops—like a roadshow—for you and key leaders to educate and train the next two levels on what you expect from them, and why, in the new world order. This gets the troops aligned behind your new vision."

"Wow! Yes, yes and yes."

"And even if you do all of that, I only give it a 70% chance you will fully actualize your goal within three years—in the market and culturally. Still, that's a lot better than the 5% chance you give yourself today."

"I'd take 70% over 5%."

Now that you've stated your plan, you are in a much better position to close the deal.



Chairman & Founder of ghSMART. Geoff is co-author, with his colleague Randy Street, of the New York Times bestselling book *Who: The A Method for Hiring* and the author of the #1 Wall Street Journal bestseller *Leadocracy: Hiring More Great Leaders (Like You) into Government*. Geoff co-created the Topgrading brand of talent management. Geoff is the Founder of two 501c3 not-for-profit organizations. SMARTKids Leadership Program™ provides 10 years of leadership tutoring and The Leaders Initiative™ seeks to deploy society's greatest leaders into government. Geoff earned a B.A. in Economics with Honors from North-western University, an M.A., and a Ph.D. in Psychology from Claremont Graduate University.

Your phone may be spying on you, warns Edward Snowden.

While TV is a medium you watch, the Internet is a medium that watches you, as you watch... For example, intelligence agencies—or anyone else, for that matter—can run a nifty little piece of malware called “Nosey Smurf” on your phone to listen in on everything going on all around you. And it’s not just phones. Internet-enabled devices—from Amazon’s Echo to your new toaster—can have “ears,” waiting for your command...or be used for more nefarious purposes. Snowden’s warnings presaged last year’s DDoS attack on DNS host Dyn that used connected devices like DVRs and even baby monitors to take down major sites like Twitter, Spotify and Amazon.

-Forbes

This simple, 30-second breathing exercise wakes you up like a cup of coffee. Whether you skip caffeine to get

a better night’s rest, or just wake up slowly, here’s a quick way to activate your brain and give yourself an energy boost. It can help you beat that mid-afternoon slump, or to just get going in the morning. If you’re doing it in the office, find a quiet place, like an unused corner or stairwell. Stand up straight, arms gently at your sides. Leaving your elbows pointing down, raise your hands up to shoulder level. Now, inhale deeply and raise your hands and arms straight up over your head. Quickly exhale and lower your arms. Repeat for 30 seconds, or until you’re re-energized.

-Lifehacker

No bigger than a water bottle when folded, this “personal drone” is packed with features.

DJI’s new “prosumer” drone, the Mavic Pro, crams lots of excitement into its compact size. Unlike other, more confusing foldable drones, it’s a snap to fold or unfold. Yet, at \$999, including a light yet rugged

remote, it’s not just a toy. The Mavic Pro can climb at 16.4 feet per second up to 1,640 feet, and can fly as far as eight miles away at speeds up to 40 mph, though you’ll start in newbie mode, at a top speed of 27 mph and max height of 400 feet. Its camera features obstacle detection and gesture recognition, and shoots 4K video, stored or streamed.

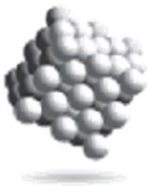
-Mashable

Uh-oh...these AI machines just created their own secret language. And they’re probably talking about us right now...

Well, sort of. And the last part is certainly not true. As far as we know... Google’s AI team recently ran across something curious. Back in September, Google announced its Neural Machine Translation system had gone live. Using deep learning, it improves translation from one language to another. But the AI guys decided to take it a step further. Until then, they had to teach the machine how to translate. But having learned the process, could the machines then translate unfamiliar languages on their own? Turns out they can. So can they now talk among themselves? We don’t know... Don’t panic (yet), but do stay tuned.

-TechCrunch.com

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