



"As a business owner, I know 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!"

David Downs, Owner
Pro Computer Solutions

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The End Of An Era... Take Action By New Year's Eve 2013!

As you may have heard, Microsoft long ago announced the retirement of its most successful software platform of all time, Windows XP. Effective April 8, 2014, Microsoft will no longer support the Windows XP platform in any way, shape or form.

What this means if you are currently running XP

This means any computer or server with Windows XP installed will be completely exposed to serious hacker attacks aimed at taking control of your network, stealing data, crashing your system and inflicting a host of other business-crippling problems you do NOT want to have to deal with.

This is such a serious threat that all companies housing financial and medical information are being **required** by law to upgrade any and all computer systems running XP because firewalls and antivirus software will NOT be sufficient to completely protect them (or you).

Unless you don't care about cyber criminals running rampant in your company's server, you **MUST** upgrade any servers or workstations running these programs no later than April 8, 2014.

The Time To Act Is Now

As Windows XP comes to the end of its life, businesses with software applications dependent on XP will feel the effects. Not only will Microsoft stop supporting XP, so can any other company that still has software built for XP that they are currently supporting. The writing is on the wall and these companies will follow. Companies producing antivirus and firewall software will also have no reason to continue releasing updates for something considered to be dead.



Don't wait until the last minute to plan for an XP-free business existence. We fully expect to be extremely busy now through April 8. **Schedule your Microsoft XP Risk Assessment and Migration Planning Consultation today by calling our office at 816-229-2290.**

Don't Let The Grinch Steal Your Identity!



If you want to prevent your personal or business identity from being stolen by a cyber criminal, this eBook is a MUST-read!

You will learn:

- 1) The top 3 ploys used by online identity thieves to easily gain access to your business and personal information and how to avoid them.
- 2) 10 sneaky e-mails used to steal your identity that you should IMMEDIATELY delete if they land in your in-box.
- 3) One easy, surefire way to keep your network and computers safe and secure from online thieves.
- 4) Best practices to prevent your employees from inadvertently giving away passwords and other "keys to the castle" to Internet criminals.

Claim Your Free Copy Today!
www.pcsiweb.com/identity-theft

Free Microsoft Office 365 Cloud Software For Non-Profits?

As part of its "Technology For Good" program, Microsoft has recently announced that it is giving away Microsoft Office 365 software licenses for free to qualified nonprofit organizations. Office 365 is Microsoft's cloud-based software solution that allows users to run office applications, e-mail, calendars, video conferencing and more all through the web.



The Office 365 donation program is part of Microsoft's larger giving program where it hands out \$2 million worth of software each and every day to nonprofits around the world. This specific program donates the "cloud only" Web Apps version of Microsoft Office 365, including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, SharePoint, online cloud storage and more, to qualified organizations. Nonprofits can upgrade to the cloud/desktop hybrid version of Office 365 for a reduced rate of over 75% off the normal price.

See If You Qualify: Eligible nonprofits must hold recognized charitable status and must have a mission to benefit the local community in areas such as providing relief to the poor, advancing education, improving social welfare, preserving culture, restoring the environment, promoting human rights and establishing a civil society.

If you're a nonprofit organization or have a nonprofit organization in mind that could benefit from this free program, you can check for availability online at www.microsoft.com/office365nonprofits.

Shiny New Gadget Of The Month



Lockitron: Keyless Entry Using Your Phone

Now you can lock your door from anywhere in the world. Any smartphone can use Lockitron through its intuitive two-button app. With Lockitron you can instantly share access with your family and friends.

In addition to the convenience, Lockitron gives you peace of mind. Lockitron lets you see if your door is locked when you're gone. It will send a notification when someone unlocks the door using a phone or key.

Here are a few key details (no pun intended):

- ♦ Any phone works – Lockitron is compatible with any smartphone. Older phones can use Lockitron through simple text-message commands.
- ♦ WiFi built in – Lockitron connects to the Internet, thanks to built-in WiFi. You can control Lockitron and receive notifications from Lockitron anywhere in the world.
- ♦ Keyless entry – If you use an iPhone 4S or iPhone 5, you can enable Lockitron to sense when you walk up to the door and unlock for you using Bluetooth 4.0.

Pre-order your Lockitron today for only \$179!

<https://lockitron.com/preorder>

3 Simple Tricks To Get More Done Every Day

In today's crazy-busy world, who doesn't want to cram more "done" into your day? We've got 3 really simple things you can do to get more work done for the hours you're putting in.

1. **Use dual monitors.** According to a University of Utah study, you can increase your efficiency by 25% just by adding a second monitor. Performance measures included task time, editing time, number of edits completed, number of errors made, as well as usability measures evaluating effectiveness, comfort, learning ease, time to productivity, quickness of recovery from mistakes, ease of task tracking, ability to maintain task focus, and ease of movement among sources. All of these factors combined show truly increased productivity.
2. **Block social media sites and/or other non-work related content online.** This one won't be popular for a lot of people, but if you want to get more done, then take the distractions out of your day. Of course if your job is "social media director" for your company, this doesn't apply; for all the other workers in your office who don't NEED to go on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube to do their job, this will remove the temptation to "snack" on social media sites throughout the day, which add up to hours wasted on entertainment surfing. Content filtering software can easily manage which sites you can and cannot go online to view, also keeping employees from gambling, searching for jobs, reading the news or visiting sex sites.
3. **Set up remote access.** It's incredibly easy to access files, e-mail, and programs from home (or while on the road) these days using cloud technologies or other remote access applications. Not only does this allow people to keep working when forced to stay home with sick kids or to wait for the plumber to show up, but employees would also put in several more hours of work on their own initiative if they could easily jump on their home PC and put in a few hours.



Each of these is an EASY fix for us to implement. **If you want more details on how to get these implemented into your business, just give us a call at 816-229-2290!**

The Lighter Side: Fun Facts About December



- The name December comes from the Latin *decem* for “ten,” as it was the 10th month in the Roman calendar.
- December 12th is Poinsettia Day.
- Saint Nicholas, who would eventually be called Santa Claus, was originally the patron saint of children, thieves, and pawnbrokers!
- The first artificial Christmas tree was made in Germany, fashioned out of goose feathers that were dyed green!
- “Jingle Bells” was composed in 1857, and not for Christmas – it was meant to be a Thanksgiving song!
- In 1647, Oliver Cromwell, English Puritan leader, banned the festivities of Christmas for being immoral on such a holy day. Anyone who was seen celebrating was arrested! The ban was lifted in 1660.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

A SEMESTER AT DISNEY WORLD!

David’s oldest daughter, Abbey, was recently accepted into the Disney College Program. Currently a sophomore Musical Theatre major at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, Abbey will move to Disney World in Florida in January. Through the paid internship program, she will live, work, and take classes in Florida.

Abbey was accepted into the program after a web-based interview and a phone interview, during which recruiters asked about which positions interested her the most. During her internship, Abbey will be working in Attractions. She won’t find out her specific job until the first day of training, but her responsibilities could include operating rides, reciting scripts, checking heights of children wanting to get in line, or assisting with fast passes.



This internship is the culmination of a life-long love of all things Disney. When asked about her passion, Abbey said, “I love that Disney markets magic and dreams and happiness. I love how inspirational it can be. It’s a great escape from harsh realities. Also, I love the high-quality standards that Disney demands. It’s important to maintain the magic!”

Who Wants To Win A \$20 Plowboys Gift Card?

The Grand Prize Winner of last month’s Trivia Challenge Quiz is **Shelly Fleming** from **Jackson County Tow Service**! She was the first person to correctly answer my quiz question from last month: Barbara Millicent Roberts is the real, full name for...

The correct answer was C) Barbie (the doll). **Now, here’s this month’s trivia question. The winner will receive a gift card to Plowboys!**

Which of the following is not one of Santa’s many names?

A) Babbo Natale B) Jack Frost C) Pere Noel D) Kris Kringle

Call us right now with your answer!
816-229-2290