"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

Inside This Issue…

Disaster Recovery

The Most Critical Part Of Data Backups That Most Companies Overlook

Back in May, tornados ripped through Moore, OK causing massive devastation. If you have been fortunate this storm season, you've only had to suffer through minor interruptions of utility services. Others have paid a far steeper price. In fact, two years ago a colleague of mine who also offers IT services had his office in Joplin reduced to a pile of rubble.

This got me thinking about how important disaster recovery planning is to any business. NO ONE expects terrible things to happen, but when they do happen, having that plan in place can really save your bacon. And one of the MOST important aspects of this is the *recovery* part—how are you going to get that data back onto a working platform that allows you to continue serving your customers and operating your business. The shocker for most business owners is that simply having a copy of the data does NOT guarantee a fast recovery. Let me give you an analogy to help you understand…

Let's suppose we made a disaster recovery plan for your home. Your house would represent the server and platform, and all your furniture and personal items would be the data. Now let's suppose we could make a backup of your home by making an exact copy of everything that's in your house (all your furniture, appliances, clothing, etc.) and storing it in a "backup" shed.

Then the unthinkable happens: your house gets leveled by a tornado, flood or fire and everything is gone (or a critical part of it is damaged and needs to be replaced). You would think, "Well, at least

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I have a copy!" True, but the first thing you would need to do is replace the home itself (remember, that's the platform that everything resides on). Next, you would have to "reinstall" the services like gas, electricity and water (let's call that the software). Then you would have to haul everything from the shed back to the house and "reformat" it by arranging it into the house. Depending on the extent of the damage done to your house, that could take days or weeks; chances are you'd have to find a hotel to live out of in the meantime. In addition, there's the time and cost of moving everything back in and re-arranging and restoring everything to its proper place.

Plus, the above *assumes* you have a recent, working copy of your entire home and everything in it. If you failed to make a copy—or if the shed where you were storing everything had a water leak that destroyed everything inside due to mold—then you're really out of luck.

Of course, this is a simple analogy—and there are ways to back up your data and network so that recovery can happen inexpensively in a matter of hours versus days or weeks. But if you simply think having a tape backup is going to be your saving grace, you might be unpleasantly surprised. I can't tell you the number of businesses who ended up losing incredibly valuable, irreplaceable data because they didn't think through the RECOVERY part of the backup equation.

So what do you need to think about? First, the way you backup your data should be based on how important your data is and how fast you would need to be back up and running in the event of a disaster. If losing your data would only be a mild inconvenience and you could stand to be down for a couple of days, then tape backups may be okay. If that's not an option for you and there are certain critical functions that need to happen to keep you from getting into hot water with your customers and to prevent you losing a LOT of cash, then you want something more reliable than tape drives.

The BEST thing to do is **contact our office to schedule a strategy meeting** to go over your needs and expectations for what should happen in the event of downtime or an outright disaster. That way you know for sure what to expect and—more importantly—how to accurately prepare for a disaster.

Questions or concerns? Give our office a call at 816-229-2290.

Get More Free Tips, Tools, and Services: **www.procomputersolutions.com.**

The 3 Biggest Mistakes Kansas City Business Owners Make With Their Computer Network That Cost Them Time, Money And Aggravation

Want to avoid the most common and expensive computer problems that most Kansas City business owners experience? Then read on! We've compiled a list of 3 things you should be doing to save yourself a lot of time and money by avoiding a big, ugly computer disaster.

1. Have an automated off-site backup system in place. I cannot stress the importance of this enough. Having an off-site backup of your data will be the equivalent of wearing a seatbelt in a major accident. You don't think much about it until you need it, and then you will thank your lucky stars you had it in place.

2. Centralize your data on your server. At one time, servers only made sense for large organizations because of their high cost and complexity. But today, there are very affordable and easy-to-implement server systems designed specifically for any size of small business. Depending on your business needs, your server can be in your office or hosted in the cloud. A server will not only speed up your network, but it will also make backups easier, allow secure remote access (allowing you and your employees to work from home or on the road) and make it much easier to share documents, databases and printers.

3. Keep your anti-virus software up to date, and perform weekly spyware scans. Almost everyone understands the importance of anti-virus software, but many businesses still do not perform weekly spyware sweeps. Spyware can cause a host of problems, including slowing down your systems, pop-up ads and even identity theft.

Want An Easy Way To Make Sure You Aren't Making These 3 Mistakes (Or Others) In Your Business? With our managed service program, we take full responsibility for managing your computer network! This service is guaranteed to eliminate expensive, frustrating computer problems and give you the peace of mind that your data is safe and secure. For more details, call our office at 816-229-2290 or visit our website, www.procomputersolutions.com.

The Lighter Side:
Useless Summer Fun Facts

- The Eiffel Tower can grow by more than 6 inches in summer due to the expansion of the iron on hot days.

- July is the month where most ice cream is sold in the US. Americans eat about 5.5 gallons of ice cream per year on average.

- Popsicles were invented by accident in 1905 by 11 year old Frank Epperson. He mixed soda and water and left the mixture out overnight with the stirring stick still in it. Since the temperature was low, the mixture froze.

- Many people enjoy throwing Frisbees in the summer, but they were originally designed as pie plates in the 1870s. Students started throwing them in the 1940s.

New Employee Spotlight

This past May, David's son Tyler and daughter-in-law Cynthia both graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Tyler received a degree in Actuarial Science and Cynthia completed a degree in Political Science. Tyler recently started his job as an actuarial analyst for the consulting firm Mercer located in Crown Center. Cynthia, meanwhile, has joined the Pro Computer Solutions team as our Marketing Manager and Administrative Assistant.

David along with son Tyler, daughter-in-law Cynthia, wife Karen, and daughter Emery at UNL's commencement ceremony.

Cynthia Downs is a Blue Springs native, daughter of Blue Springs School District substitute teacher Mary Topi and retired U.S. Army Corps of Engineers geologist Joe Topi. Back in her hometown after 4 years in Nebraska, Cynthia is excited to get involved in the greater Kansas City community. She recently completed the introductory "on ramp" course at CrossFit Blue Springs and looks forward to gaining strength and stamina in the months ahead.

At Pro Computer Solutions, Cynthia will be working on developing relationships with our clients and connecting the company to businesses in the community.

Help Us in Welcoming Cynthia to Pro Computer Solutions!

Who Wants To Win A $25 Gift Card?

Take my monthly "Trivia Challenge" and you could win too! The first person to correctly answer my quiz question will receive a $25 gift card!

Now, here's this month's trivia question. The winner will receive a gift card to 54th Street Bar & Grill!

The Pagans used the term _____ for the first full moon in June because they drank fermented honey as part of summer wedding celebrations.

a) Moonshine b) Honeymoon c) June-moon d) Honeydew

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

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