Technology Times

ProComputer Solutions

"Insider Tips To Make Your Business Run Faster, Easier, And More Profitably" September 2013

"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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Which Of These 4 Cloud Computing Solutions Is The Right Fit For You?

Most likely you've heard all of the commotion around cloud computing and know that it's the "Next Big Thing" in business technology. Yet, despite all of the hype, most businesses really don't understand exactly what cloud computing is and what it could do to help their business. "What are my options?" and "What is right for me?" are two of the top questions that I hear quite often. There are at least 4 types of cloud computing solutions for your business. Which one is right for you?

1. Pure Cloud: This is where all your applications and data are put on the other side of the firewall (in the cloud) and accessed through various devices (laptops, desktops, iPads, phones) via the Internet.

2. Hybrid Cloud: Although "pure" cloud computing has valid applications, for many it's downright scary. And in some cases it is NOT the smartest move due to compliance issues, security restrictions or performance issues. A hybrid cloud enables you to put certain pieces of existing IT infrastructure (say, storage and e-mail) in the cloud, and the remainder of the IT infrastructure stays on-premise. This gives you the ability to enjoy the cost savings and benefits of cloud computing where it makes the most sense without risking your entire environment.

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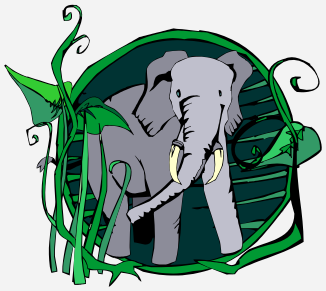
The Lighter Side:
Truly Random Facts



— President Kennedy was the fastest random speaker in the world with upwards of 350 words per minute.

— In the average lifetime, a person will walk the equivalent of 5 times around the equator.

— Rhode Island is the smallest state with the longest name. The official name, used on all state documents, is "Rhode Island and Providence Plantations."

— When you die your hair still grows for a couple of months.

— Every year about 98% of the atoms in your body are replaced.

— Elephants are the only mammals that can't jump.

— The average person makes about 1,140 telephone calls each year.

— You burn more calories sleeping than you do watching TV.

— The first product to have a bar code was Wrigley's gum.

— In ancient Rome, it was considered a sign of leadership to be born with a crooked nose.

— The word "nerd" was first coined by Dr. Seuss in "If I Ran the Zoo."

3. Point Solutions: Another option would be simply to put certain applications, like SharePoint or Microsoft Exchange, in the cloud while keeping everything else on-site. Since e-mail is usually a critical application that everyone needs and wants access to on the road and on various devices (iPad, smart phone, etc.), this solution is often a great way to get the advanced features of Microsoft Exchange without the cost of installing and supporting your own in-house Exchange server.

4. Public Cloud vs. Private Cloud: A public cloud is a service that anyone can tap into with a network connection and a credit card. They are shared infrastructures that allow you to pay-as-you-go and are managed through a self-service web portal. Private clouds are essentially self-built infrastructures that mimic public cloud services, but are on-premise. Private clouds are often the choice of companies who want the benefits of cloud computing but don't want their data held in a public environment.

Keep in mind that there is no "perfect" one-size-fits-all cloud solution for every business. All options have upsides and downsides. And which option is best for your business has to be determined on a case-by-case basis based on your company's needs and business requirements.

Want a professional opinion on which option is best for your business? Give us a call during the month of September for a FREE Cloud Readiness Assessment And Cost Analysis. We'll give you a full Cloud Action Plan that shows what options will work for you.

See Your Company's Name In Print!

Would you like to be a featured client in Technology Times? Spread the news about your services and upcoming events! Email Cynthia at CDowns@pcsiweb.com for more details.

Shiny New Gadget Of The Month

The Nest Learning Thermostat is an electronic, programmable, and self-learning wifi-enabled thermostat that optimizes the heating and cooling of homes and businesses in order to conserve electricity. And if the company's claims are correct, this smart little device can save you 20% off your energy bill each year.

Nest is built around an operating system that allows interaction with the thermostat via its easy-to-use control wheel or through your iPhone, iPad, Android phone or computer. Control your thermostat anywhere with an easy-to-use interface. This smart thermostat can determine whether or not you're around or whether the sun is shining on the thermostat and instantly adjust accordingly—saving you money. There's no need to program your device either as Nest works to figure out your patterns and schedules to fit you.

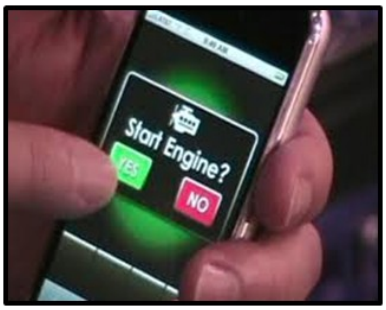
Since the Nest is connected to the Internet, you can instantly access your device settings or energy history and schedule from any device, anywhere. The company also pushes updates to your thermostat regularly to fix bugs, improve performance and add additional new features.

The Nest thermostat is available online for $249 at www.nest.com,

Could Terrorists Really Use Software To Crash Your Car?

A recent AOL online article titled "The Scary Truth Of How Terrorists Could Crash Your Car" freaked a lot of people out by implying that terrorists could easily hack into your car's computer systems and wreck your car (or hundreds of cars at a time) at speeds exceeding 100 mph. While that is a scary thought to consider, the facts are quite a bit less severe than the article suggests. Nothing like some great sensationalist journalism, eh?

What really are the facts? Could you really be hacked driving your car?



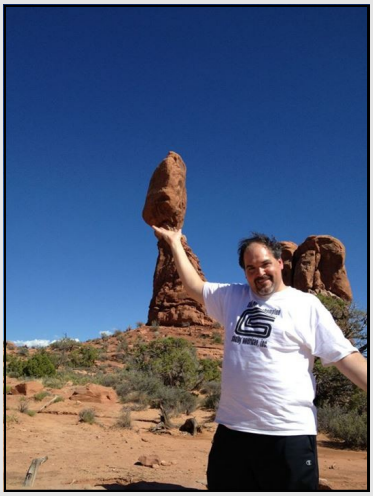
- Cars are more and more dependent on software and electronics to run everything in the car, including GPS, music, brake systems, your power train, throttle and more.
- A new car is a rolling computer with 80 to 100 microprocessors and 100 million lines of software code.
- Researchers from the University of Washington and UC San Diego recently were able to successfully hack into an ordinary sedan, lock and unlock the doors, turn the engine on and off and listen to a conversation going on.
- In another experiment, researchers compromised an auto repair "pass-through device" that helps technicians diagnose problems, which then allowed them to install software on every car that touched that device, potentially allowing them to control a wide range of auto functions on those cars.
- New studies are being done on how to use wireless connectivity in cars to help avoid accidents, route traffic more effectively and make our travels even safer (over 90% of accidents are due to human error, and smarter cars can potentially fix that).

But the truth of the matter is that, although cars are packed with computers, very few systems can currently be controlled wirelessly from outside the car. In all reality, someone would likely need to install an additional attachment to your car's computer system to really take it over.

Stay tuned, however, as I'm sure that this is going to be an ongoing discussion for many years to come.

4900 Miles in 14 Days

Last month, David and his family went on a two-week road trip across the Northwest. Heading out through Kansas, they made their way up to Seattle for a wedding before heading back home. Along the way, they stopped at several national parks and visited with extended family. It was a trip made of many miles, geysers, s'mores, mountains, and memories.



David visits Balanced Rock at Arches National Park near Moab, Utah

David and daughter Emery ride a carousel in Missoula, Montana

iPad Mini Referral Contest

Refer a friend to Pro Computer Solutions by November 30th for a chance to win a new iPad Mini!

- Send in your referral information by either calling our office at 816-229-2290, emailing us at referral@pcsiweb.com, or visiting www.pcsiweb.com/referral.
- We will call to schedule an appointment.
- We will pay you $25 for anyone that you refer to us with whom we get an appointment. **For each referral that turns into an appointment, we will enter your name into the drawing for an iPad Mini.**
- If your referral becomes a client, we will pay you an additional $50 AND we will give your referral $100 off their purchase.

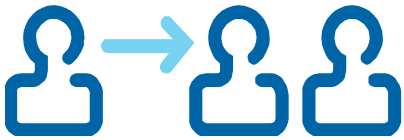
1. PICK ONE

⇒ **816-229-2290**

⇒ **referral@pcsiweb.com**

⇒ **www.pcsiweb.com/referral**

2. REFER A FRIEND



3. GET MONEY

4. GET A CHANCE TO WIN

Who Else Wants To Win A $25 Gift Card?

The Grand Prize Winner of last month's Trivia Challenge Quiz is **Diana Jones** from **Rhythm Engineering**! She was the first person to correctly answer my quiz question from last month: Which musician died in August of 1977, leaving behind a huge following of fans who still adore him to this day?

The correct answer was d) Elvis Presley. **Now, here's this month's trivia question. The winner will receive a gift card to 54th Street Bar & Grill!**

Which of these American historical events took place during the month of September?
a) Star-Spangled Banner Composed b) U.S. Constitution Completed & Signed c) Bill of Rights Created d) All Of The Above

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