Technology Times

ProComputer Solutions

"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!"

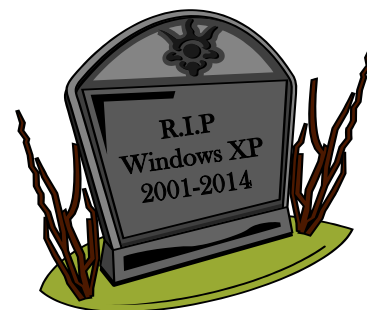**David Downs,** Owner
Pro Computer Solutions

Inside This Issue…

R.I.P. Windows XP
(October 25, 2001 – April 8, 2014)

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here to say farewell to a dear old friend, Windows XP. Born October 25, 2001, this operating system was a reliable computing friend through the dawn of the Internet revolution. She introduced us to "the blue screen of death," but overall lived a happy and productive life. XP outlived her troublesome brothers, Windows ME and Windows Vista, and is survived by Windows 7 and 8.

April 8, 2014 officially signifies the end of life for Windows XP. Launched in 2001, pre-dating 9/11, Windows XP instantly became a huge hit, unable to be toppled later by Windows Vista (by most) and even Windows 7 and 8 (by many). The operating system was still being installed on some new computers as recently as 2010.
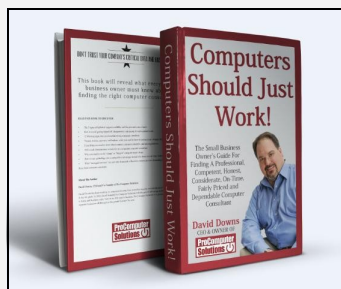
An Urgent Security Warning For Any Business Still Running Windows XP

If your organization is currently running Windows XP on one or more computers in your office (29% of all PC operating systems were Windows XP as of the beginning of this year), you need to be aware that you are exposing your computer network to a dangerous security threat that must be addressed immediately.

With the retirement of Windows XP as of April 8, no further security updates, patches or system updates will be released to protect you from viruses, malware, spyware, crashes or theft of personal information. That means your computer network could very soon 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 deal with. **If you have even one XP computer on your network, then you are at risk!**

If you still have any Windows XP PCs in your office, we need to replace these computers immediately! Please call our office at 816-229-2290 to schedule a priority appointment with one of our team members.

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

The Internet Of Things

In January, Google purchased home automation company Nest Labs, the maker of the Nest Thermostat, for $3.2 billion. This purchase was a huge sign that big companies (like Google) very strongly believe that we will soon live in a world where everything is connected online.

This new world has been coined "The Internet Of Things" and will soon be the reality of the world that we live in. Consider that high-quality sources estimate that by the year 2020, between 26 and 30 billion devices will be connected to the Internet and more than half of these devices will be everyday appliances such as thermostats, refrigerators, parking meters, trash cans and such.

SAP describes the "Internet Of Things" as everything from smartphone apps that control your home's lights and temperature from afar to real-time analytics that help ease traffic congestion and city parking woes.

Imagine a world where:

You can find a parking spot and reserve it with your mobile wallet before you arrive.
Traffic stoplights adjust to real-time conditions automatically to improve the flow of traffic.
Municipalities detect trash levels in containers to optimize trash collection routes.
Car insurance companies can track your actual miles driven and allow you to pay insurance only for the miles that you drive.

This is just the tip of the iceberg, and if Google's projections are true, you are going to see huge adoption of these devices coming fast.

3 Critical Elements You Must Have In Place To Guarantee A Fast, Pain-Free Recovery In The Event Of A Data-Erasing Disaster

When it comes to backing up and protecting your company's critical data, you need to know for certain – **without any lingering doubts** – that you could recover your files and be back up and running again fast after a natural disaster, server crash, hacker attack or other data-erasing event. Here are 3 critical elements you must have to guarantee a painless recovery when things go wrong.

Critical Element #1: Secure, Encrypted Off-Site Backup

While we recommend that you have on-site backup, it's absolutely **critical** to keep an encrypted copy of your data off-site as well. If a fire burns your office to the ground – or a thief breaks in and steals your server and equipment – or a natural disaster floods your office or makes it impossible to access your PCs and server – the on-site backup will be useless to you. And copying your data to an unsecure device and carrying it home every night isn't the safest or smartest system either. Data needs to be encrypted to prevent it from falling into the wrong hands.

Critical Element #2: A Data Recovery And Disaster Recovery Plan

A HUGE mistake many business owners make is thinking that data backup is the same as disaster recovery – it's not. Many business owners are shocked to find out just how long and arduous the process is to get all their data back after a disaster – and that's IF they have a good, clean copy of ALL their data (most are surprised to find out they don't). Just having a copy of your data isn't enough; you need to have a plan in place to get everything restored quickly, which is something that many solutions don't offer.

Critical Element #3: Test Restores

After you have a good backup system in place, you need to test it regularly to make sure it works. Point is, there's something wrong if you aren't doing this simple check at least once a month. If your current IT person is not doing this, you can't have any confidence in your current backup system.
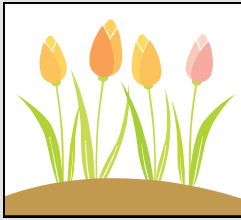
Have more questions about protecting your company's data? Call us at 816-229-2290 to find your solution.

The Lighter Side
Spring Is In The Air

- If you stand at the equator on the first day of spring, you will see the sun pass directly overhead. This only happens two times a year: the first day of spring and the first day of autumn.

- Baby birds are born with the ability to sing, but they must learn the specific songs of their species. They are thought to acquire these songs between 10 to 60 days of age and begin to sing them the next spring, when they have matured at about 300 days old.

- Spring fever is real! It commonly occurs when a sudden warm spell follows a long cold period. When the temperature rises, there's a dilation or expansion of the blood vessels so that blood can be carried to the body surface where heat can be lost quickly. This makes some people experience an energetic feeling.

- Spring cleaning often accompanies spring fever. And with the warmer weather, windows and doors can be open, which allows ventilation for dusting and the fumes of cleaning products. It has been suggested that spring cleaning dates back to the Persian New Year, when they practice "Khoneh Tekouni," which means "Shaking the house." Another possible origin can be traced to the ancient Jewish custom of cleansing the home in anticipation of Passover.

- Children tend to grow a bit faster in the spring than during any other time of year.

10th Anniversary: Humble Beginnings

As part of our 10th anniversary celebration, we thought it would be fun to share some of the history of PCSi. Ryan (my brother-in-law) and I started talking about the business in May 2004, picked a name, reserved our domain www.procomputersolutions.com, and started making plans to find some customers while we continued working our regular jobs.

Our first concept was to help people with their home computers. We were already doing that for our friends and family so it was a natural progression. We figured they'd all be ecstatic with our awesome service and refer us to work with their employers. We rented a booth at Blue Springs Fall Fun Fest, set up a canopy, made a couple of big vinyl signs, printed up information sheets, and had a pile of candy. And waited…

We learned the first night that people going to FFF mostly weren't interested in just stopping at every table, so on Saturday we put up a sandwich board sign with the message, "Computer Slow? Ask us why!" Wow! That worked great! Turns out that lots of folks have slow computers and they all want them to work better. We told people how to scan, fix, and protect their machines and we made some friends that are still around today. We even picked up our first two business customers.

Whether you've been with us since our humble beginnings or joined us somewhere along the journey, thank you for being a part of PCSi.

– David

Refer Us And Receive Up To $75!

- Send in your referral information by either calling our office at **816-229-2290**, emailing us at **referral@pcsiweb.com**, or visiting our page, **www.pcsiweb.com/referral**.
- We will pay you $25 for anyone that you refer to us with whom we get an appointment.
- If your referral becomes a client, we will pay you an additional $50 AND we will give your referral $100 off their purchase.
- So, if you have a friend or an associate in need, please contact us and we will reach out to them.

Who Else Wants To Win A $25 Gift Card?

The Grand Prize Winner of last month's Trivia Challenge Quiz is **Morgan Kyle** from **Rhythm Engineering!** She was the first person to correctly answer my quiz question from last month: Complete this saying: "March comes in like a lion and out like a _____"

The correct answer was C) Lamb. **Now, here's this month's trivia question. The winner will receive a gift card to Scooter's: The world's oldest annual marathon, held on the 3rd Monday in April, takes place in which U.S. city?**

A) New York B) Boston C) Los Angeles D) Chicago

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

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