Technology Times

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

August 2014

ProComnute



"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...

Beat The Summertime Heat	Page 1
Student Laptop Buyer's Guide	Page 2
Silly Summer Stories	Page 2
Is Your Website Vulnerable?	Page 3
Shiny New Gadget	Page 3
The Ultimate IT Guidebook	Page 3
10 Years: Picnic Celebration	Page 4
Referral Contest	Page 4



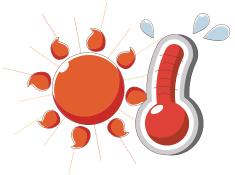


Could The Dog Days Of Summer Be A Threat To Your Business?

How To Ensure The Heat Doesn't Fry Your Server (And Your Profits!)

With the "dog days" of summer upon us, most business owners are looking for ways to keep their company's sales and profits HOT, while keeping their IT expenses COOL. But if proper attention is not given to your server and network equipment during the summer, all that heat outside can actually bring your company's growth to a grinding halt and increase your

IT expenses significantly. Excess heat can be a big problem for small to mid-sized business servers, since a server that becomes overheated usually costs more in energy, fails more often and is more likely to crash. For most companies, a server crash can mean hours or days of downtime, unproductive employees, HUGE amounts of stress and thousands of dollars in lost opportunity.



7 Steps Every Business Owner Must Take To Prevent A Server Crash

Here are a few simple things you can do to prevent your server and network equipment from overheating and crashing this summer:

- 1. Tidy up the server room; a neater room will increase airflow.
- 2. Keep the doors to the server room closed and seal off the space.
- 3. Make sure cold air reaches all the equipment.
- 4. Have a redundant A/C that is specifically designed for computers.
- 5. Buy a rack enclosure where the cooling is built into the bottom of the rack.
- 6. Keep the temperature at no more than 77 degrees Fahrenheit.
- 7. Consider virtualization or cloud computing so that you are generating a lower amount of heat in the first place.

Protect your server and computer equipment from frying with our FREE "Beat The Heat" Network Audit. Schedule your "Beat The Heat" Audit today by calling our office at 816-229-2290. Offer Expires 8/31/14.

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

The Lighter Side Silly Summer Stories



How to Grow Strawberries:

Farmer Evans was driving his John Deere tractor along the road with a trailer load of fertilizer. Tim, a little boy of 8, was playing in his yard when he saw the farmer and asked, "What've you got in your trailer?"

"Manure," Farmer Evans replied.

"What are you going to do with it?" asked Tim.

"Put it on my strawberries," answered the farmer.

Tim replied, "You ought to come and eat with us, we put ice cream on our strawberries."

Young Entrepreneur:

Robert, who was 6 years old, was looking at the ripe red tomatoes growing in Farmer White's garden. "I'll give you my 2 pennies for that tomato," said Robert, pointing to a beautiful, large, ripe fruit hanging on the vine.

"No, I can't do that," replied Farmer White. "I can get a dime for a tomato like that one."

So Robert pointed to a smaller green tomato: "Will you take 2 pennies for that one?' "Oh, yes," answered the farmer, "I'll give you that one for 2 cents."

"Okay," said Robert smiling, sealing the deal by putting the coins in the Farmer White's hand, "I'll collect it in a week's time."



Student Laptop Buyer's Guide Use These 6 Tips When Buying Your Student's New Laptop This Fall

School is almost back in session. If you're in the market for purchasing a new laptop for one of your children (it seems like anyone from elementary schoolchildren to college graduates need a laptop these days, right?), here are 7 tips to get the most out of your laptop purchase.

Tip #1: Bigger is NOT necessarily better when it comes to laptops. If your student is on the go, smaller laptops are going to be your best bet. Go for less than 4 lbs. and either 11" or 13" screen size. The SurfacePro, UltraBook or MacBook Airs are all solid options for most students.

Tip #2: Pay for a good design. A student will be using their laptop day in and day out. Choose sleek over clunky. Also opt for a design that is made to protect the display and resist wear and tear over the next few years of use.

Tip #3: Buy for the long haul. Think about how long you want your student's computer to last. Make the mistake of saving a few bucks now for a cheaper processor, lower memory or smaller hard drive and you'll be regretting that decision when you're buying another laptop in 2 years instead of 3 or 4.



Tip #4: Go for long battery life... your student will use it! Six hours of battery life is the MINIMUM spec you should purchase. If you can get 10+ hours of battery life in your budget, go for it.

Tip #5: Consider touch screen hybrids. Many Windows 8 devices such as the SurfacePro allow you to use the device as sort of a tablet/laptop hybrid. For kids that grew up on tablets and smartphones, these hybrids make them feel right at home with their new computer and actually make them more efficient.

Tip #6: Mac versus PC. This decision is really up to you and your preferences. Software choices these days allow your student to do just fine with either choice. Choose whichever operating system your student is used to using and they'll do just fine.

Still unsure what to buy? Don't hesitate to give us a call and we'll be happy to guide you in the right direction. We're here to help.



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

Shiny New Gadget Of The Month

Don't you sometimes wish you had a teleprompter?

CuePrompter Online Teleprompter

CuePrompter is a free teleprompter/autocue service. Your browser works like a teleprompter—no extra software needed! You can use it for free in both commercial and noncommercial settings!

Videos are a great way to get clients to hear what you have to say, whether you post your video Facebook. LinkedIn on or Google+, or whether you e-mail it out to your clients. CuePrompter makes creating those videos so much easier—now you don't have to look down at your notes or memorize vour three-minute speech, and the best part of this neat web site? It's totally free.

CuePrompter works well with most operating systems and browsers and allows you to make the text as big as you need it to be. It's easy to control the speed settings as well as reverse and fast-forward as needed.

This handy gadget can be found for FREE at <u>www.CuePrompter.com</u>. Just type in what you want to say, and you're in business. Now go out and make a video!

Warning: If You Are Using WordPress For Your Website, There Is A 73% Chance It Is Vulnerable To Being Hacked

Hackers are crazy busy right now, and WordPress websites are their favorite target! So far this year, hackers have broken every record to date. In 2012, there were roughly 192,000 WordPress sites worldwide. In March 2014 alone, a single hacker used 162,000 hacked WordPress websites in just one single attack.

A recent study by EnableSecurity concluded that 73% of the 40,000 most popular websites that use WordPress software are vulnerable to attack. WordPress is the most popular blogging and content management system in the world and powers 1 out of every 5 websites.

The main culprit in these vulnerabilities is violating the first rule of WordPress security - not running the most up to date version of WordPress. In fact, if you're not running the very latest version of WordPress, then chances are your site is vulnerable to any hackers using simple, free automated tools.

Here are 5 quick tips on keeping your WordPress website secure:

- 1. Always run the very latest version of WordPress.
- 2. Be conservative in your selection of plugins and themes (and run the latest versions of these).
- 3. Make sure every user has their own strong password.
- 4. Put a Web Application Firewall (WAF) in front of your website.
- 5. Force logins and admin access to use HTTPS.



Computers Should Just Work! Now Available for Order

Recently released—the ultimate small business owner's guidebook for IT solutions, written by Pro Computer Solutions CEO David Downs. In this book, David reveals the top tips and secrets to turning technology into a competitive advantage for your company.

Order your copy today: **www.procomputersolutions.com/book** <u>Free copies available to select readers</u>. Visit our page to learn more.



Connect with Pro Computer Solutions on our LinkedIn company page for business tips and service updates throughout the month!



LED TV Referral Contest

Refer a friend to Pro Computer Solutions by September 30th for a chance to win a new 39" TV! **For each referral that turns into an appointment, we will enter your name into a drawing for a brand-new TV.** Even if you don't win, every qualified referral will earn you a cash reward (or an equivalent donation to your favorite charity).

1. PICK ONE

- ⇒ **816-229-2290**
- \Rightarrow referral@pcsiweb.com
- ⇒ www.pcsiweb.com/referral

2. REFER A FRIEND



3. GET MONEY



4. GET A CHANCE TO WIN



10th Anniversary: Time to Celebrate!

Join us for a Rock 'n' BBQ Anniversary Picnic

Pro Computer Solutions is turning 10! As a thank-you to all of the friends, family, and clients who helped us get here, we will be treating our guests to games, live music, and lots of food including BBQ prepared by David himself!

10 Years



Saturday, August 16th 2:00-7:00 PM

> Lake Jacomo Shelter 11 Blue Springs, MO

For more details or to RSVP, visit **picnic.pcsiweb.com**

Who Else Wants To Win A \$25 Gift Card?

The Grand Prize Winner of last month's Trivia Challenge Quiz is **Jerri Mcleod** from **MEL Contracting!** She was the first person to correctly answer my quiz question from last month: Which of the following are NOT lyrics from the US National Anthem?

The correct answer was D) "O beautiful for spacious skies..." Now, here's this month's trivia question. The winner will receive a gift card to Scooter's: Which of the following is a definition of the word "august"?

A) Respected and impressiveB) Reddish-brown in color

C) Extremely plain D) Disappointing





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

"Like" our Pro Computer Solutions page on Facebook for tech news and company announcements throughout the month!