ThinkTech
You have enough to think about

tech-ade

Turn your technology lemons into lemonade

What's Inside

Tweeting Could Land You In Jail
See Page 2

5 Simple Ways To Prevent Damage From Viruses & Spyware
See Page 3

You're Never Too Old To Tweet
See Page 3

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How To Save Hundreds of Dollars And Get More Done Using A VPN

If you've ever used an online software like Log Me In or Go To My PC to work from home or from the road, you know what a pain in the neck it can be. It only works about half the time, is usually slow, and you have to pay a fee to use it. But lots of companies these days want their employees to work from home or from the road as a way to cut their costs and get more done. So how do you work from home without the above mentioned hassles?

For less than the cost of a new computer, a Virtual Private Network (VPN) will provide fast, safe and secure access to your data and other network resources from anywhere in the world.

Until recently, only large enterprise organizations could afford to install and maintain a VPN. Today this technology is integrated into firewalls and other unified threat management (UTM) devices, making the VPN affordable to businesses of all sizes.

Which One Do I Use?

Remote control of your office computer is a great solution for those that occasionally find themselves away from the office at a fixed location such as their home. But for business owners and employees who travel a lot and need access via their laptops, remote control may not be the best solution. Typically, these folks need to use a **VPN** to be able to get work done quickly and seamlessly.

Advantages Of A VPN

The VPN is like a long cable that connects your computer to the office network from anywhere in the world allowing you to use a single computer for all your work. This reduces the capital expense for remote employees and makes it easier for your sales people or other road warriors to get work done. If you have multiple offices, a VPN can connect the office networks together so all employees have "seamless" access to company data they need.

VPN Helps Local Lawyer

While listening to trial testimony, a local lawyer remembered he had case notes from a deposition that would refute the testimony of the witness. Unfortunately, he could not remember the details and the notes

and transcript were buried in the case information stored on the server in his office. Using his cellular wireless access card, he was able to connect to the server at his office using the VPN, quickly search for the case notes using the practice management software installed on his laptop, print it on his portable printer, and use it during cross examination.

Accounting Firm Hires Remote Talent

A small accounting firm we know found several, talented, potential hires located in nearby states. The candidates didn't want to move so instead of losing the talent to their competitor, the firm allowed these hires to telecommute. Initially, this required two computers, one at the employee's home and one in the office for the employee to remote control using Log Me In software. This was expensive to deploy, difficult to maintain and the limitations of remote control annoyed the new employees. If a VPN had been installed, the remote employees would have only needed one computer and could have accessed the data across the VPN just like those working in the office, saving them hundreds of dollars and countless hours of time.

Tweeting Could Land You In Jail

The Associated Press reports that Guatemalan Jean Anleu may spend five years in a Guatemalan jail for his anti-government Twitter rant. It makes him the first person in the world to be arrested for a tweet!

Using his Internet alias "jeanfer," Anleu advised Guatemalan depositors to "take cash out of Banrural and bankrupt the bank of the corrupt." According to prosecutors, these words "illegally undermined" the banking system, violating a 2008 law enacted by the fledgling democratic government.

Foreign governments aren't the only ones concerned about the use of social networking sites. Many US businesses are revising their acceptable use policies regarding company-owned technology to include social networking. A recent survey estimated the annual cost to US businesses in lost wages due to personal use of technology on company time topped $1 billion. FREE assistance with the creation or modification of acceptable use policies is one of the many benefits enjoyed by our "Network Headache Eliminator" Platinum clients.

Stop Malware Before It Destroys Your Data
5 Simple Ways To Prevent Damage From Viruses & Spyware

#1. Install Business Grade Anti-Virus Software

The proliferation of free anti-virus applications has enticed many business owners to be penny wise and pound foolish. These programs are lacking several areas of protection vital to keeping a business network secure, and licensing is usually restricted to non-commercial use. We deploy only industrial strength protection products for our Network Headache Eliminator clients. They keep you safe without slowing you down.

#2. Install Real Time Anti-Spyware Protection

Over the last 12 months, spyware has grown from an annoyance to the #1 threat to your data. It is critical that business computers have real time protection (sometimes referred to as active protection) against spyware in addition to virus protection. Unfortunately most real time anti-spyware products conflict with anti-virus software. Our Network Headache Eliminator clients receive the benefit of our extensive testing ensuring they receive maximum protection and compatibility.

#3. Keep Anti-malware Software Updated & Running

Anti-virus and anti-spyware software must be updated every few hours. We monitor each system on our Network Headache Eliminator and push updates as soon as they are available from the software vendor. We also monitor and immediately restart your protection should it be turned off by the user, system error or previously unknown threat.

#4. Don't Click On Email Links Or Attachments

We cannot say this often enough and this is the #1 reason given when we receive a call complaining about a possible infection. Links in a malicious email don't send you to the location promised. Instead they redirect you to a malicious website. If you aren't expecting an email with an attachment, it is likely malicious even if sent from friend.

#5. Use A Hardware Based Firewall Or UTM

Firewalls and Unified Threat Management (UTM) devices are a must for every business network. They are the first line of defense against viruses, spyware, spam and hackers. UTMs can block access to known bad websites and more.

For more ideas on protecting your network call us at 508-992-2541 or send an email to support@thinktechonline.com

You're Never Too Old To Tweet

The Reuters news agency reports that more than 3% of the 84,000 centenarians use Twitter to tweet with their friends and family at least once a week. This trendy technology seems to have skipped a generation with most of these very senior citizens being taught to tweet by their grandchildren and great grandchildren. Another 10% utilize email, 12% share photos on the Internet and 4% download music.

Folks born around 1900 have overcome a lot to have the privilege of these modern marvels.

- Their life expectancy at birth was 46.7 years.
- There were 8,000 cars and 10 miles of paved roads in the USA.
- The average worker spent 59 hours per week to make $12.98.
- Police arrested women for smoking in public.

> *"Education is when you read the fine print. Experience is what you get if you don't."*
> Pete Seeger

Services We Offer:

- IT Consulting Services
- Network Design & Repair
- Disaster Recovery & Backup Solutions
- Virus/Spyware Protection & Removal
- Network Security
- PC and Server Maintenance & Support
- E-mail & Internet Solutions
- Helpdesk Support
- Managed Spam Filtering
- Storage Solutions
- Network Monitoring to Prevent Problems

Monthly Contest

This month's raffle winner gets a gift certificate to a local restaurant. Submit your company contact information by email to jessica@thinktechonline.com. Be sure to Include your name and phone number! The deadline for the raffle is September 30.

Element-ary School

1. Which element makes up the hardest natural substance on Earth? a-Lead, b-Carbon, c-Silicon, d-Platinum.

2. Which element is found in all acids? a-Carbon, b-Chlorine, c-Sodium, d-Hydrogen.

3. Which element is added to steel to make it stainless? a-Zinc, b-Tin, c-Chromium, d-Boron.

4. How many chemical elements are represented on the standard periodic table by a single-letter symbol? a-7, b-10, c-12, d-14.

August Answers: 1a, 2a, 3d, 4a.

I'd Love To Hear From YOU!

Is there an article you would like to comment on? Is there a topic you want me to research? Have a funny story or a resource you want to share with the other subscribers? Send it to me! We are always looking for new and useful content to add to Tech-ade.

508 992 2541

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"I'm sorry, but stress caused by trying to figure out your health insurance is not covered by it."