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AxiNews

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Ways to Fight Drought

June 17 is the World Day to Combat Drought and Desertification. Here are some ways to fight drought.

1. **Assess your landscape**—Survey your landscape and give top priority to established trees and shrubs.
2. **Try a root irrigator**—these devices deliver water directly into the ground so no water is lost to evaporation.
3. **Irrigate slowly**—soaking plants slowly limits runoff
4. **Build watering basins**—this will help concentrate the water on the root zones.
5. **Apply mulch**—spreading a layer of mulch reduces evaporation, insulates roots and helps prevent weeds
6. **Harvest rain**—no matter how little the rain, it's a good idea to try to catch some of the rain into buckets or barrels to re-use

Tech Briefing : AxiShare-the Dropbox Alternative

Dropbox is a popular and well-known brand in the file sharing space but is it the right solution for business? By most accounts, the answer is a resounding NO. The following explains what file-sharing is, the benefits of it and why AxiShare is a better solution than Dropbox for businesses.

File Sync and Sharing Services

Cloud-based file syncing and sharing services allow users to create special folders on each of their computers or mobile devices, which the service then synchronizes so that it appears to be the same folder regardless of which computer is used to view it. Files placed in this folder also are typically accessible through a website and mobile app, and can be easily shared with other users for viewing or collaboration. Such services have become popular via consumer products such as Dropbox and Google Drive. And, now, with AxiShare using eFolder as our preferred file sync and sharing service along with management by AXICOM, this too is gaining popularity with businesses.

Problems with Dropbox

- Every new computer will require to synchronize with Dropbox which sometimes takes several days and consumes large amounts of available bandwidth. So, businesses with larger numbers of employees should not use Dropbox.
- If Dropbox exceeds to the capacity of the computer's hard drive, the computer will crash and likely will not boot.
- No safeguards exist to prevent an employee accidentally or purposefully copying data, some of which may be sensitive or proprietary, to their home PC.
- * If a single computer gets infected with a crypto-virus, the files will be encrypted and synchronized to all the other computers. Dropbox support will need to roll back your account to before the encryption took place which will take up to 3 days.
- * If a user accidentally copies a folder with a large amount of data onto Dropbox, then it will be replicated to all computers thus bogging down your Internet connection for

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Backup Disaster Recovery (BDR) Device

By Christa Nonnemaker

What are BDRs?

Natural disasters are not something we like to consider but it is imperative that we prepare our businesses for such a circumstance. We have insurance to cover the cost of replacing our equipment and our offices. But what about the very essence of our business which is the information that we have at our disposal?

A BDR is a small appliance that would live in your server room most likely. It automatically backs up your data which is also stored in the cloud. Backups are scheduled and occur at regular intervals throughout the day so that data is always up to date.

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AxiShare (cont.)

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long periods.

AxiShare Advantages

By comparison, AxiShare users will be able to access all the files via a drive mapped to the cloud file server, thus negating the need to synchronize all the files onto their computers. But users who need to have the files copied to their computers will have the option to do so. We can also control which users and devices have access to cer-

tain folders. For example you may not want someone to connect their home PC with the cloud file share, so we can limit that exposure. Our AxiShare service supports iOS, Android, Windows, and Mac.

In summary, AxiShare scales better and have better controls, performance and security over Dropbox plus we offer management and support. Call us today at 818.865.9865.

BDR and Why You Would Want It (cont.)

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Benefit of BDR

The real benefit of a BDR and why we like it so much is that it gives us the ability to get an office back up and running in a matter of minutes after a major hardware outage, an electrical outage, a natural disaster or another emergency.

How It Works

The BDR replicates a server in the cloud so that if the real server is unavailable, you and your employees can continue to work as if it is. Your employees can work from an offsite location while the real server is being fixed or offline.

Other Features of BDR

The BDR appliance also helps the administrators to make sure that it working efficiently and smoothly. And it also allows users to synchronize backups to local or network destinations.

Create a Contingency Plan

Even with a BDR, it would be a good idea to create a Disaster Preparedness Plan. If an outage or disaster strikes, it's important to be able to keep daily operations running as normally as possible.

Special Offer!

For anyone who would like to meet with us to discuss the BDR as an option for their business, give us a call to set up an appointment to do so and we will give you a special gift—a solar powered phone/laptop charger! When and if the power is out, how will you be able to charge your phone? A solar-powered charger would be very handy not just during an emergency, but also if you're out and about, camping or just somewhere without a charger but low on battery.

So, give AXICOM a call today to schedule your appointment to talk about whether a BDR is the right fit for your business! 818.865.9865.



Rain Dances

Drought has been an issue in the southwestern United States through the ages which is probably why Native American tribes developed rain dances. Rain dances can be circle dances or in the Navajo tradition, two lines across from one another. There are many techniques but rain dances allow both men and women to participate. In light of the current drought, perhaps it's time for all of us to consider how we want to do our own "rain dance".

Windows 10—A New Age

Microsoft has announced July 29 as the release date for Windows 10. When it is released users will benefit from a number of useful features being introduced. Here is a quick overview of some of the more interesting ones we know about so far.

Why Windows 10?

When first announced, many eyebrows were raised regarding Windows 9 being skipped. In the tech world, missing out a number with a sequence is not the norm, yet Microsoft stated that they believe that the next version of Windows will be such a drastic improvement over Windows 8 that calling it Windows 9 would not do it justice. From what we can see of the new system, there really are some drastic improvements, including:

One operating system (OS), many systems

When Windows 8 was released, a slightly modified version of the OS was also released for mobile devices. While this was good news, especially for mobile users, the systems were still largely separate, with different apps, app stores, and more.

With Windows 10, Microsoft has noted that the OS has been designed to run across all systems. This means that different devices will likely have slightly different interaction experiences but the underlying system will be the same.

A new, yet familiar, Start menu

Windows 8 was a drastic departure from the familiar Windows desktop layout. For the most part, it was despised by business users, who instead have largely bypassed this layout for the traditional Desktop mode. Windows 8.1 allowed users to boot directly into the Desktop, but one large feature has been lacking: a Start menu.

Windows 10 welcomes it back! As with older versions of Windows, the Start menu will be at the bottom-left of the screen, and pressing it will bring up the familiar menu of programs and options. Only now, the old Tile-based layout has also been merged into this section. Think of the traditional Start menu bar, but with a mini-tile based section to the right that will be customizable.

Everything opens in a window

If you've ever downloaded an app from the Windows App store, you likely have noticed that they automatically run in fullscreen mode. With Windows 10, any Windows Store apps will open in window-format, similar to any desktop app.

When apps open you will see the familiar taskbar, along with the maximize, minimize and close buttons. This will make it much easier to work in multiple programs at the same time.

Multiple Desktops

Microsoft Virtual Desktops is a feature that will allow users to create different desktops for different purposes and switch between them quickly and easily. While you will only need to install Windows 10 once, you can have a different desktop setup for say home, personal, and business use all under one user.

Each desktop can display different icons and layouts, but all desktops will have access to the programs installed for that user. Essentially, this will make it easier for business users who also use their devices for personal use or those who need to switch roles at work.

An enhanced File Explorer

File Explorer has been a part of Windows for a while now, and its main function is that it helps you to find your files and folders. In Windows 10, this feature will be upgraded to now search for not only your files and folders, but also to scan the Internet as well. You will also be able to quickly see recent and most popular files and folders, meaning you'll be more likely to be able to find what you are looking for in less time.

When will it be available?

Microsoft has already released what they call a Technical Preview of Windows 10. Anyone can sign up to download Windows 10 and install it on their computers. We would advise against this however, as this version is incomplete and there will be bugs and compatibility issues.

Get ahead of the curve and find out what benefits Windows 10 can bring to your business, by dropping us a line first.



AXICOM

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the new year with computer support at a flat monthly fee you
can budget for just like rent!*

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Our printed newsletters are always available
online! Check it out at www.AXICOM.net.

Inquiring Minds...

The California Drought

To find out more information about the drought, there are two websites of note. The State of California website which has a section devoted to the drought with daily tips, information and updates. Visit ca.gov/drought for good ideas and resources. The National Integrated Drought Information systems (NIDIS) also has interesting resources available at www.drought.gov, especially if you like maps and statistics.

Artistic and Functional Uses of Old Computers

Wait! Before you recycle or discard your old computer or computer parts, think about doing the following.—use

some parts for art! Your old keyboard could become a pencil holder. Create all sorts of cool things from circuit boards including a circuit board necklace, desk clock, or even earrings!



Maker Faire

The Maker movement is based on their slogan “Make, Create, Craft, Build and Play.” Jake recently attended the Maker Faire Bay Area on May 16-18 and felt right at home among his fellow geeks. Exhibits included robotics, 3D printing, drones, rocketry, animatronics, woodworking, programming, embroidery and educational opportunities. Part science fair, part county fair, there are regional and local maker-faires around the country. If interested, visit makerfaire.com to find out more.

Water is the driving force
of all nature.

~Leonardo da Vinci

