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A Word From the Owner



“Crypto is still on the loose with new variations evolving.

The top 3 ways CryptoWall can infect you is if you click a link in an email, download an attachment or visit an infected site. This is one of the worst viruses to date, don't expose yourself!” -Paul Riendeau

Windows 10—Business Users Beware

Following the let-down that was Windows 8, Microsoft is keen to impress – jumping right into Windows 10. Released on July 29th, Windows-based small businesses are clamoring to try out its impressive new features. Beware though, as being the first to dive in also leaves you open to the bugs associated with the initial release of any product. We will explain why you don't need to rush into Windows 10 upon release.



You can get it for free

They say the best things in life are free, and that might just be the case with Windows 10. Microsoft has kept its word about making its newest operating system free to access – at least if you're currently running an authentic version of Windows 7 or 8.1, its two most recent releases. You'll enjoy a free lifetime upgrade to Windows 10 provided you make the move within the next year and, better still, it's an automatic upgrade directly from your existing Windows 7 or 8.1 interface.

It's being launched in phases

Although the official release date was July 29, in reality Microsoft undertaking a phased launch. This means that Microsoft is making the new operating system available to desktop and laptop users first, and only later to mobile and other devices. What's more, the firm already has its next move in the pipeline. Upgrade and update plans for Windows 10 are anticipated to be on the way in two phases, in June and October 2016.

It's the last you'll see of Windows

Microsoft has made no secret of the fact that it sees Windows 10 as the operating system's final release. But that's not quite as ultimate as it sounds – this is not really the end of Windows. Instead, what we're seeing is the transition of Windows from a product to a service. Microsoft envisions a future where, instead of major new versions of Windows emerging every few years, there are regular improvements and updates – far beyond the Windows Updates that we know at the moment.

Some consumers have expressed fears that this could lead to home and business users being tied into a subscription model in order to stay up to date. Microsoft appears committed to ensuring that ongoing upgrades are free.

Because of this, we HIGHLY recommend that business users ignore the upgrade phase on it's first cycle. We suggest waiting 6 months until all the major bugs and glitches have been worked out. This is because of software and hardware compatibility issues that have been present in every major release of a new version of Windows.

Fitbit Charge HR

Last month we talked about the Apple Watch. With all the hype dying down about it, let's take a look at a similar piece of wearable technology.

The Fitbit (specifically the Charge HR) is in our spotlight this month.

For those of you who are looking for more information about your health, the Fitbit may be right up your alley.

After a simple setup (either on your PC or smartphone) you are ready to go. The Fitbit can monitor your heartrate, steps taken, distance traveled, calories burned, sleep patterns and can be used as a stopwatch for time trials in sports.

With a price tag of \$149.99, it is considerably lower than the Apple Watch. Because of this, it is more affordable and easier to justify for those looking to invest in a health accessory.

The feature I like most about it that you can track your sleep patterns. I found that I become restless and woke often during the night, but never to full conciseness. This results in waking up feeling drained from the previous day and never fully recovering at night. This is one feature that the Apple Watch does not have.

Light, sleek and functional, it is my choice wearable. And yes, it is also a watch.

-By Leeanna O'Neill

Don't Be in the Dark When it Comes to Malware

How many of us actually know what the differences are between malware, viruses, Trojans, and other online threats? For those without a clue, here's a description the most common threats and the steps you can take to keep your business protected.



Malware is the short version of the word malicious software. And this is a general term that encompasses many types of online threats including spyware, viruses, worms, Trojans, adware, ransomware and more. The purpose of malware is to infect and harm your computer and potentially steal your information. Below explains the different types of malware and how they all differ from each other.

Virus—like a virus that can infect a person, a computer virus is a contagious piece of code that infects software and then spreads from file to file on a system. When infected software or files are shared between computers, the virus then spreads to the new host. The best way to protect yourself from viruses is with a reliable antivirus program that is kept updated. Additionally, you should be wary of any executable files you receive because viruses often come packaged in this form.

Spyware—just like a spy, a hacker uses spyware to track your internet activities and steal your information without you being aware of it. Credit card numbers and passwords are two common targets of stolen data. A common mistake many people make is they assume their antivirus software automatically protects them from Spyware. This is not always true as some antivirus isn't designed to catch spyware. If you are already suffering from an infestation, a program that works wonders is Malwarebytes.

Worms—similar to viruses, worms replicate themselves and spread when they infect a computer. The difference between a worm and a virus is that a worm doesn't require the help of a human or host program to spread. Instead, they self-replicate and spread across networks without the guidance of a hacker or a file/program to latch onto. In addition to a reliable antivirus software, to prevent worms from infecting your system you should ensure your firewall is activated and working properly.

Trojan—like the Trojan horse from ancient Greek mythology, this type of malware is disguised as a safe program designed to fool users, so that they unwittingly install it on their own system. Generally, the hacker uses a Trojan to steal both financial and personal information. It can do this by creating a "backdoor" to your computer that allows the hacker to remotely control it. Antivirus software is a dependable way to protect yourself against Trojans. For further safety, it's wise to not open up suspicious attachments, and also ensure that your colleagues aren't downloading any programs or applications illegally at the office – as this is a favorite place hackers like to hide Trojans.

Referral Station

How you can earn FREE gifts with our Referral Plan!

Do you like FREE things? Of course you do!

Do you want to get FREE gifts from us? I bet you do!

We are rolling out a new promotional plan for our current clients. It's simple, easy and rewarding.

If you have a friend or colleague that is a business owner and is looking for top notch IT support, refer them to us.

To start, visit our website below:
www.snecsllc.com/referral/

Once there, just fill out the required fields like your name, their name and contact info and submit. That's it!

If they take us up on our offer of a FREE network evaluation, you will receive a \$25 Amazon gift card.

If they become a fellow Office Solutions member like yourself, you will receive a FREE Tablet: The Asus MeMO Pad!

This tablet has dual built-in cameras, WiFi, SD Card reader and with a 7" screen. It is light and portable enough for anyone to use.

That's it! We are looking to serve more clients like yourself. You have the most dedicated IT team around, why not share us with your friends and family?

Steps for Free Gifts:

Visit: www.snecsllc.com/referral/

Fill out the info and submit.

If your referral schedules a FREE evaluation, you get a FREE \$25 gift!

If your referral joins Office Solutions, you get a FREE Tablet!

What is Killing Your Productivity?



With so much technology being utilized in the workspace today, it's obvious that it has become a source of distraction for some employees, and is having a negative impact on productivity in the process. But is technology really all to blame? A new survey of 2,175 hiring and human resource managers released by CareerBuilder uncovers the real source of today's most notorious productivity killers – and it's not all technology. The results are a mix of both obvious distractions and surprising discoveries. Here are the top 10 productivity busters of 2015:

1. 52% – Cellphones & texting
2. 44% – Internet
3. 37% – Gossip
4. 36% – Social media
5. 31% – Email
6. 27% – Coworkers chatting
7. 26% – Meetings
8. 27% – Snack and/or smoke breaks
9. 17% – Loud coworkers
10. 10% – Sitting in a cubicle

According to the managers who took the survey, the consequences of these distractions can be pretty severe. A few examples were a lower quality of work, dissatisfied employees who have to pick up the slack of lower performers, missed deadlines, and even loss of revenue. The chief human resources officer at CareerBuilder mentioned that one of the most effective ways to increase productivity is to simply take a break, which may come as quite a surprise since "Snack and/or smoke breaks" is listed as number 8 for productivity killers. However, it should be noted that not all breaks are created equal.

Listening to loud music or getting caught up on gossip may not actually give employees the sense of rejuvenation they need when they return to work. The key is for staff members to take a break that will re-energize and give them a fresh focus. Some suggestions are to simply take a walk or perform some form of light exercise or stretching away from their desk.

Want to cut back on some of these distractions? Get in touch with us about website blocking and how you can take control of your internet usage.

Kickin' Back



Riddle Me This?

Feed me and I live, give me a drink and I die. What am I?

(Answer at Bottom of Page)

Joke of the Month



Our society will never go entirely paperless. There's always the bathroom.

Contest Time!

Looking to score a \$25 Amazon Gift Card but don't have anyone to refer to us? That's OK, we got you covered.

How to Enter:

Submit a review via Facebook, Google + or Yelp. As long as we can see who you are, you will be entered into a random drawing for this month's prize.

Visit:

www.snecsllc.com/review
for links to our pages!

Riddle Answer: Fire

Don't Make a Fatal Mistake



Electronic Medical Records (EMR) digitize your paper medical records and improve organizational efficiency. The major drawbacks of physical paperwork are that it hinders the ability to treat patients, makes medical operations slower, and decreases overall efficiency. EMR reduces time required to record a patient's information and ensures accurate information which could have been misinterpreted due to poor handwriting in the past. Here are just a few reasons to switch from paper records to EMR.

Better communication

Fast and accurate communication between medical departments is key to providing a quality healthcare service. EMR software enables frontline staff to quickly transfer a patient's medical records to other departments in real time and can provide treatment in a timely manner.

Lower costs

When it comes to paper medical records, a hospital could be using over 250,000 sheets of paper each year. When EMR is implemented, hospitals can reduce the labor behind record keeping and cut down on printing costs.

Scalable record keeping

When a hospital grows, the number of patients increases with it, and more space is required for physical data storage. EMR software allows for an efficient data storage system on a virtualized platform. This allows for more physical space for additional exam rooms and offices.

Efficient treatment

With EMR, patient checkups and other visits take less time since doctors are able to quickly access medical records and reference information needed. If further consultation or testing is required, physicians in another location can simultaneously view a patient's medical record on their computers, and get the latest test results and recommendations from the first doctor. EMR enables providers to collaborate more efficiently.

Any hospital's end goal is providing better patient care and EMR can greatly increase overall efficiency in providing fast and accurate care to patients. With today's technology, EMRs are the best route to go.



Customer Center Stage

This month, **Jeanne Hauser** of Creative Photography is in our Center Stage. Jeanne has a talent for capturing emotions through her pictures. She frequently works with the local schools for senior yearbook pictures and many families looking to preserve the memories of their family as they grow. A picture is worth a thousand words and Jeanne has the unique ability to get even the most camera shy people to open up.

Thank you for capturing and bringing out the best side of our community!

To read or share the digital copy of our newsletter, visit: www.snecsllc.com/newsletter