

Executive IT Insider

...The Exclusive Edge to Today's Technology

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March 2016



This monthly publication provided courtesy of Paul Riendeau, CEO of Southern New England Computer Services.

"The topic is Cyber Security this month. With so many new threats emerging, we want to make sure everyone is securing their network, inside and out. There is no reason to take unnecessary chances. Backups, firewalls and anti-virus is just the beginning. User awareness is also critical."



Your Luckiest Move This Year

Do your employees bring their own smartphones, tablets or laptops to work?

If your company is like most these days, they do. And that raises a whole new security risk to your computer network. One of the best strategies your company can employ to defend against this emerging threat is what's known as "web content filtering."

Here's a quick but essential guide to what you need to know about web content filtering. It might even prompt you to make a move so lucky, it would turn a leprechaun green with envy...

New Gaps In Your Network's Firewall

It used to be, when your employees needed a desktop computer to get work done, locking cyberthreats out of your network was relatively simple.

However, now when employees work on a mobile device, the boundaries of your firewall can walk out the door

and into a "Wild West" of unknown security risks at any minute of the day.

At the same time, threats to your network from malware, hackers, cybergangs and even foreign governments show no signs of abating.

The best way to bolster your network's defenses against this emerging threat is through web content filtering. Older "in-line" filtering programs just filter at the network level. For complete protection as workers become more mobile, you need an "endpoint" web content filtering system that works at the device level.

So What Exactly Is "Web Content Filtering"?

Web content filtering restricts access to certain types of material delivered over the web or by e-mail. It blocks things like phishing e-mails, infected web sites, adult content, pop-up ads, spambots and other intrusions that can penetrate your network's defenses.

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The latest web content filtering programs protect your network even with a highly mobile workforce. Rather than just filtering content at the network level, they filter content on each employee's device.

Web content filtering is not just a great investment in your network's security – it's an absolute must in today's crime-ridden "cyberscape."

Questions To Ask

How can you tell if a proposed content filtering solution is a good one? Here are a few key features to look for:

Activity-Triggered Logging – Allows the filtering system to start logging events when suspect activities occur. Helps assure vigilance against new and emerging threats.

Password Release – Lets a user with the right password visit sites that would otherwise be off-limits. Gives your company added flexibility as needed for trusted employees.

Download Blocker – Keeps employees from downloading files from any but approved sites. Greatly reduces the risk that somebody will unwittingly unleash a vicious piece of code into your network.

BYOD Support – Accommodates the "Bring Your Own Device" trend so you can monitor and manage employee use or abuse while on the job.

Time Settings – Allows employees access to certain sites only during preselected times of day. Adds flexibility so employees can, for instance, visit Facebook only during off-hours.

There are others, and not every company needs all these features. But knowing what to look for gives you a head start on putting the best system in place.

Now It's Your Move...

As today's workforce becomes ever more mobile and interactive outside the company network, endpoint web

content filtering becomes a must-have weapon in your company's network security arsenal.

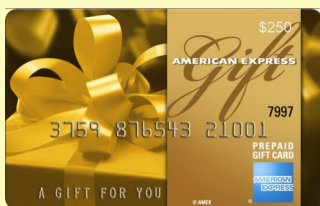
By understanding the emerging threat posed by mobile devices to your company's network, and gaining a basic grasp of how endpoint web content filtering works, you can allocate resources to button up this potential threat to your company's finances, data and efficiency.

Let Us Help!

Here at SNECS, our first priority is to keep your network safe and secure. Let us help you make sure your web content filtering system is on guard 24/7. Now through the end of March, we are offering a free Internet Usage Audit for the "lucky" first 10 companies who request this valuable service.

Contact us today at (401) 684-3036 or news@snecsllc.com and we'll get started for you right away. But don't delay – we can only serve the first 10 companies who take us up on this uncommon offer. Don't let your business be a hacker's "pot o' gold".

Refer-a-Friend and Get Free Gifts!



We **love** having customers like you and, quite honestly, wish we had more like you! So instead of just wishing, we are doing an ongoing "**Refer-a-friend**" event.

Refer any company with 5 or more computers to our office to receive a FREE Computer Network Assessment (a \$300 value). Once we've completed our initial appointment with your referral, we'll send you a **\$25 Amazon gift card**. As an ongoing promotion, for **every referral** that you send, you will receive a \$25 gift card as your referrals complete the Network Assessment. Just a small "Thank You" for thinking of us.

As an added bonus, if they join and become a client of ours, **we will send you a \$250 Prepaid Gift Card** for introducing your friend to us.

Simply call us at **401-684-3036** or e-mail us at news@snecsllc.com with your referral's name and contact information today!

Technology Spotlight: The Vertical Mouse

"Wow, that's weird looking. What is it?" That's what I hear after a customer walks over and they see my mouse. "That's a vertical mouse." I explain. "They're fairly new and have made it mainstream just recently."

The mouse does look strange. At 3 inches tall with a point on one end, rounded edges, and buttons on the right side, it's no wonder I get questioned about it a lot. This mouse has single-handedly made my day to day life more comfortable. Gone are the days of the padded mouse pads.

The mouse features an ergonomic grip that stops wrist pain in its tracks. It features a smooth matte black finish and a size that feels just right in your hands. With additional features that include 3 DPI settings, 2 back and forward buttons, and a smooth as silk scroll wheel, this mouse will not let you down.

You can find them on Amazon starting at \$19.99. After a few hours, you'll forget how it feels to use a "traditional" mouse.

-By Joe Choiniere



Hospital Targeted for Ransom

On February 5th, the Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center paid a \$17,000 ransom in bitcoins to a hacker. The hacker locked down the hospital's computer systems and would only give the access back when the ransom was paid.

With the hospital put into this position, they paid the ransom as it was the quickest and most effective way for them to restore their administrative functions back to normal. After paying the ransom, they obtained a decryption key and they were able to restore the business back to normal in 48 hours.

"I have never heard of this kind of attack trying to shut down a hospital. This puts lives at risk, and it is sickening to see such an act," says Phil Lieberman, a cybersecurity expert. "Ransomware attacks are common. Health management systems are beginning to tighten their security."

Under federal law, hospitals are required to report potential medical data breaches involving more than 500 people. Since 2010, at least 158 institutions, including medical providers, insurers and hospitals, have reported being hacked or having information technology issues that compromised patient records, federal records show.

Ransom attacks are on the rise. Cyberattacks on hospitals have become more common in recent years as hackers pursue personal information they can use for fraud schemes. Last July, hackers may have accessed as many 4.5 million patient records in UCLA Health System's computer network.



With new variations of these ransomware viruses coming out each month, cyber security is quickly becoming the main focus on businesses across the country. New versions of these viruses include the infamous CryptoWall, TorrentLocker, and TeslaCrypt. With each new version, new files are targeted including emails and Photoshop & CAD files.

The most common way to become infected is to open an email attachment that is infected. You may receive something claiming to be from your bank or a shipping service like FedEx. However, the viruses are finding new ways to spread, some don't even require user interaction to become infected. This includes visiting infected sites with poor security. You can also become a victim by not practicing safe web-browsing habits.

We recommend using a security firewall on the entrance into your network, a strong anti-virus, ad-blocking software and keeping your browsers and plugins up to date.

Because of the severity of these attacks, we recommend all businesses to be using a security firewall such as a CheckPoint. If you are not using one of these devices, your network is at risk. These devices protect your network at it's source. If you aren't sure if you are secured, give us a call.

Expert of the Month: Jonathan Ucran, CPA

This month we are spotlighting Jonathan Ucran, Certified Public Accountant. Jonathan has been a CPA for over 19 years. He works with individuals and businesses. In November of 2012, he made a big decision to leave this corporate position to start his own practice because he wanted to spend more time with his wife and son.



“Having control over my life and my family time was key. I work hard and play hard. Building the business and working upwards of 80 hours a week is tough, but my family still comes first. I am very proud of them,” says Ucran. Outgoing, caring, devoted and dedicated to the financial well-being of his clients, Jonathan treats clients as if they were his family too. He delivers quality work that is so stellar, it earned him the Five Star Wealth Manager Award from RI Monthly. Because of his exceptional reputation, he has grown his business 5x in less than 4 years and yet Jonathan always makes room for new clients.

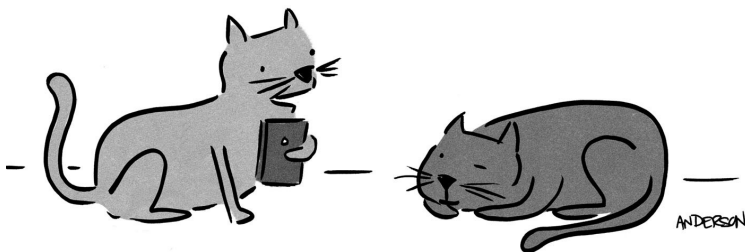
“No business is too small,” says Ucran. “I work with clients that gross up to \$500M and I also work with start-ups. Because of my broad background, I bring a unique perspective and I use my experience to help small business owners achieve the same success I have. I am able to apply that knowledge to those in need of financial help and guidance at a price they can afford. I also provide free consultations to prospective clients so they can get to know me and my style.” Jonathan strongly believes in creating a partnership network within his community. He loves connecting small businesses to each other. “I love to surround myself with good people, and I encourage others to do the same. I want people to connect so I created a wall of business cards for other small businesses in the area. If I think you’re good, you get a spot on the wall!”

If you are looking for peace of mind when it comes to your yearly tax returns or if you need someone all year-round to take your accounting troubles away, Jonathan and his team are there for you. Located at 651 Putnam Pike in Greenville, RI, you can contact his office at 401-349-5300 to setup a free consultation. You can also get more information about Jonathan at his website, www.ucrancpa.com. Like him on Facebook, check him out on Google+ and read his reviews on Yelp.

The revolution has begun – and it’s right on your wrist.

It began with the Apple Watch and its gentle “taps” for reminders. Now, a whole new wave of digital technology known as “haptics” lets you literally *feel* what you’re working with. Imagine an employee skillfully maneuvering a precision machine in a distant factory. Or a surgical resident actually feeling what it’s like to operate on a patient’s brain – with no real patient in danger. Lechal, for instance, makes footwear that works with a smartphone app to help with navigation. Set your destination and your left or right shoe vibrates when it’s time to turn in that direction – especially useful for the visually impaired. And this is just the beginning... *-Inc. magazine*

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“I just got an app that shows me all the invisible fences in the neighborhood. Wanna go have some fun?”

A healthy workforce starts – or stops – at the top.

Some programs foster real worker wellness. But going too far can backfire on you. For instance, a weight-loss contest can create a host of problems. First, not all workers need to lose weight. Plus, some already suffer from eating disorders. And weight loss doesn’t do anything to address high blood pressure, cholesterol or overall nutrition. Instead, replace candy, chips and soft drinks with healthy snacks and beverages. People will tend to eat what’s there, and you can make it easy for them to make healthy choices. Also, make it easier to exercise: install showers and offer standup desks. Just a few key changes could put a healthier, more productive team in your court. *-US News*