

Spring Has Sprung, Tax Season Deadline Looms and New Viruses That Can Wipe You Out

While the first full day of spring brought us our biggest snow storm of the year, Spring also brings us Tax Season and it's not just the Government looking for your money. Criminals pull out all the stops leveraging tax season to try and separate you from your money. Fake emails, scam phone calls, and bogus letter mail highlight some of the avenues they use to try and "snow" you. This month we take a hard look at Backups and Business Continuity. In 2016 we've already seen an escalation in the sophistication of Ransomware viruses, viruses that lock access to all your files and demand payment to get the key to unlock them. The only REAL protection is a ROCK SOLID backup solution that features at least the last three versions of your files. If you are not 100% sure your existing backup system will protect you from such a virus or the hundreds of other events that could cause data loss—give us a call to discuss.

Wishing You A Happy Spring!!

April 2016



This monthly publication provided courtesy of Scott Beck, President of BeckTek.

“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 once and for all!”



Will Your Backups Be There When You Need Them?

When the livelihood of your business depends on data stored in your computer network, you simply cannot afford to leave anything to chance. Data preservation and the ability to retrieve it at any point in time is the foundation of business continuity.

Yet the facts about backup failures are shocking:

- According to the Boston Computing Network, 31% of PC users have lost data due to events “beyond their control.”
- Analysts at the Hughes Marketing Group found that 40% of businesses that experience a critical IT failure go out of business within one year.
- In a recent Gartner study, only 35% of backup tests were successful.

Some of the more common reasons for backup failures include unintentional formatting of a hard drive, accidental data deletion, malware or virus attack, firmware

corruption, natural disasters, logical errors and continued computer operation when the hard drive is starting to fail.

So how certain are you that your backup system is 100% reliable? Could a false sense of security be preventing you from taking actions that will insure your backups will really be there when you need them?

7 Ways to Avoid Data Disaster Due To Backup Failure

Without proactive measures in place – and Murphy's Law being what it is – the odds of a successful restoration when you need it most may not be as great as you'd like to think... So what can you do? Here are seven ways to avoid a damaging loss of data due to backup failure.

1. **Insist on regular, remote and redundant processes.**

A good rule of thumb is 3-2-1. That means three copies of your data stored in two off-site locations,

Continued pg.2

Backed up a minimum of one time per day.

2. Don't go too cheap.

Less expensive options like USB Drives or antiquated tape backup systems leave your data at risk due to the high rate of media failure.

3. Guard against human error.

Make sure people performing backups and restores know exactly what to do – and what not to do. Take people out of the loop and automate wherever possible. And be especially cautious in situations where backups aren't a part of someone's regular duties.

4. Are your backup software settings being checked routinely?

When new software or updates are put into service, a change in the way the settings are configured can cause incomplete backups, or back-

ups that fail completely. Do the people who maintain your backups include this on their regular to-do list?

5. Could some files be getting left out?

As resources are added and priorities shift, files and folders can get misplaced or accidentally left off the backup list. Insist on a quarterly or annual meeting with your backup management team to make sure all mission-critical files are included in your organization's data recovery systems.

6. Address network issues immediately.

Any component in your network that isn't working properly can introduce another point of failure in your backup process. Every juncture in your network, from a misconfigured switch to a flaky host bus adapter, can hurt your backups.

7. Ask for help with your data backup and recovery system.

You cannot be expected to be an expert in all things. Yet data is the

back bone of your business – its protection and recovery should not be left to chance. Why not leverage the knowledge, skill and experience of an expert in the field?

Even with all these measures in place, the best way to keep your organization safe from harm due to data loss is to verify your backup system by performing regular test restores. This will help identify any problems in advance so they can be fixed – allowing you to avoid getting hit with an ugly surprise when you least need it.

The Smart Way To Assure Backup Success

Unless your team has all the time and expertise required to consistently close all open loops in your backup system, your organization may be at risk of serious harm due to data loss.

We strongly recommend that you let us perform a **Backup Audit** for you as soon as possible. Contact us today at (506) 799-2100 schedule this highly valuable free service – before disaster strikes.

“...leverage the knowledge, skill and experience of an expert.”

FREE Report: 12 Little-Known Facts Every Business Owner Must Know About Data Backup And Disaster Recovery

PROTECT YOUR DATA

“12 Little-Known Facts Every Business Owner Must Know About Data Backup, Security And Disaster Recovery”



Discover What Most IT Consultants Don't Know Or Won't Tell You About Backing Up Your Data And Recovering It After A Disaster

You will learn:

- The only way to know for SURE your data can be recovered if lost, corrupted or deleted—yet fewer than 10% of businesses have this in place.
- 7 things you should absolutely demand from any off-site backup service.
- Where many backups fail and give you a false sense of security.
- The No. 1 cause of data loss that businesses don't even think about until their data is erased.

Claim Your FREE Copy Today at <http://www.becktek.ca/12-little-known-facts-about-data-backup/>

Shiny New Gadget Of The Month



New Printer Fits In Your Pocket

So what's about the size of a deck of cards and prints instant photos from your smartphone – with no ink needed?

Yes, there is such a thing, and if you guessed the new Polaroid Zip, you'd be right.

Selling for \$129.99, it prints full-color 2x3-inch prints with an optional peel-off sticky backing. Each print costs about 25 cents and they look okay, all things considered – just don't expect ink-jet print quality.

How does it not need ink? It uses Polaroid's Zink zero-ink paper, embedded with cyan, yellow and magenta crystals. They turn into the appropriate colors when activated by a heat process. And since there's no ink, there's no stickiness, smearing or waiting for photos to dry.

Connect to your smartphone via Bluetooth, then just shoot and print!

An Army Of Lions

In my book *You Don't Need a Title to be a Leader: How Anyone, Anywhere, Can Make a Positive Difference*, I quote Philip of Macedonia (father of Alexander the Great), who said, "An army of deer led by a lion is more to be feared than an army of lions led by a deer."

His insight is valuable – however, I think he misses the bigger point: an army of lions led by a lion is to be feared most of all. So why not recruit and hire an army of lions? Think of the competitive advantage of having not just good formal leadership at the top of your organization, but also having leaders at every level of your organization.

An army of lions is an organization where everyone knows two things: 1. When is it appropriate for me to lead in my role? 2. How do I do it?

Those two questions are simple, but the process requires effort. And, you're thinking, "before I can help my lions answer those two questions, I need to find the lions!"

Your point is well-taken. And, believe it or not, it's not that difficult to find the lions.

The Principles

Here are some important guidelines to use when looking for potential leaders:

1. Look for people who are just as interested in making a difference as they are in making money. Unless you're interviewing someone for a volunteer position, they expect to be paid. While pay should be fair, it's an incomplete motivator for a job candidate with leadership potential.

Potential leaders want to do work that matters. It isn't unusual to find people pursuing success, but leaders also pursue significance. Look for the latter.

2. Find candidates who have proven that they have influence with people and they'll be able to get results even if they never have "power" over people. The ability to positively influence others is essential for a leader. If someone can't motivate, inspire or move others without a title, then the only way they'll get results with people once they have a title is through absolute compliance. True leaders have the ability to create commitment in others with or without authority over them.

3. Potential leaders are looking for more than perks and benefits; they're looking for opportunities. The benefits a potential leader desires should be more than economic. Getting to learn new things, develop new skills, be challenged, participate in a variety of experiences and explore true potential are usually the types of benefits that rev up potential leaders. Look for people who light up when you mention these types of opportunities.

4. Spend time inquiring into the candidate's desired legacy, and not just their stated résumé. Any hire has long-term consequences for both employer and employee, regardless of the length of the employee's tenure. Understanding a candidate's values can be complex, but your most valuable insights will come from finding out what his or her endgame is.



Mark Sanborn, CSP, CPAE, is president of Sanborn & Associates, Inc., an idea studio dedicated to developing leaders in business and in life. Mark is an international best-selling author and noted authority on leadership, team-building, customer service and change. Mark is the author of eight books, including the best seller *The Fred Factor: How Passion in Your Work and Life Can Turn the Ordinary into the Extraordinary*, which has sold more than 1.6 million copies internationally. Learn more about Mark at www.marksanborn.com

BeckTek Trivia Win a \$25 Gift Card !!

April 1 is known as:

- A) April Joke Day
- B) April Prank Day
- C) April Fools Day

Email your answer to:
wendy@becktek.ca

**Winner determined by random draw on the third Friday of the month and announced in next months newsletter. **

Last month's winner was:

Esther Mah
St. George's Anglican Church

She correctly answered the question from last month:

What Holiday does not occur during Spring?

- A. St. Patrick's Day

Could these tech tools help grow your business in 2016?

How about a 14x higher conversion rate on your advertising? Oomph Adomatic converts static images into video ads that tell the story of your brand, highlight key features and even provide viewers with an easy-to-follow map to your office or showroom. WeWork, a pioneer in co-working spaces, allows SMBs to grow and contract with the ebbs and flows of business. With features like pool tables and friendly common areas, they foster water-cooler networking and a sense of community. Trinet offers a way to off-load virtually all HR functions, including payroll, benefits, management and compliance. With this tool, the need for in-house HR staff goes away. *-Inc.com*

Are you making any of these three mistakes on LinkedIn?

Forget LinkedIn as a place to build an audience. Instead, focus on media like Facebook, Twitter or your blog to attract consumers.

1. Don't help competitors. It's great to connect with colleagues, but when you link with people who work for your competitors, you're exposing your entire network to the competition. Be selective about

who you connect with.

3. Unless you work for a big brand, it's pointless to sell yourself without first selling your company. As a principal or executive, you need to tell a story that's bigger than your own career. Show how your company brings value, and then how you've contributed to that effort.

-Wall Street Journal

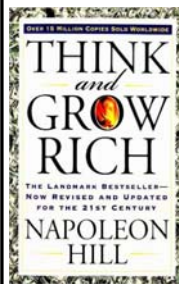
New earbuds pack amazing sound – with no strings attached.

On-the-go music lovers have pretty much been limited to Bluetooth earphones or earbuds with wires attached, or over-the-ear holders. That's about to change. Both Earin and Kanoa earbuds offer a great sound experience without wires or holders. Small enough to slip into your ear, they fit comfortably in your ear canal. And, according to CNET reviewer Xiomara Blanco, they stayed securely in place even when she shook her head. She said the Earin earbuds have better sound and are smaller, but don't stay charged as long as the Kanoas, which offer a sporty look, and with their slightly larger size retain a charge for longer. Yet both deliver amazingly rich sound for such a tiny device. *-CNET*



"They're smaller and cheaper than cubicles, plus we get naptime."

What We Are Reading



I read the original version a couple years ago and found it dry, hard to read and hard to follow because many of the terms and phrases haven't existed... well since the 30's. when the book was first released.

In this updated version, I'm happy to report, it's much easier to follow along and understand the lessons being taught, including the 13 steps required to achieve your goals. Along with the stories of successful people in the early 1900's, this updated versions include modern successes such as Bill Gates. While the original version was released in 1937, Mr Hill's lessons still ring true today and this modernized updated version makes it easier than ever to digest them. If you are SERIOUS about succeeding, this book is for you.

Be the first to email the title of the book to me scott@becktek.ca and I will send you a free copy.