



BeckTek Journal

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“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!” - **Scott Beck, BeckTek**

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Are You Paying 80% Of Your Employees To “Cyberloaf” On The Internet, Watching Cat Videos, Searching For A Better Job Or Accidentally Downloading A Virus On Your Network?

Recently, we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of local businesses suffering significant financial and productivity losses due to employees inappropriately using their Internet access during work hours – and much of this is fueled by social media sites such as Facebook and YouTube. Studies have shown that between 60 and 80 percent of people’s time on the Internet at work has nothing to do with work!

What makes this situation so dangerous is that the majority of business owners don’t even realize that it’s going on until it’s too late. By then they have found themselves in the middle of a costly and embarrassing lawsuit because an employee posted something inappropriate online OR downloaded a virus.

In other cases, the owner NEVER finds out, but is inadvertently losing THOUSANDS of dollars because employees are spending 2-3 hours a day to goof off online – and you’re footing the bill.

And age of the employee doesn’t affect an employee’s ability to waste time on the Internet. Older employees do things like managing their finances while younger employees check social media.

A Company Internet Policy Is NOT Enough

A recent study showed that the presence of a strong Internet policy at work was not enough to curb activity, as many employees don’t think it’s wrong to surf the web and a policy was not going to change their minds. Unfortunately, the only way to curb this activity is not only to threaten consequences, but to actually take action and reprimand employees.

If you have questions or need assistance in developing an Acceptable User Policy or wish to look at ways to regain lost productivity hours, call the office at 383-2895



Is there an article you want to comment on? A topic you want me to research? Have a funny story or a resource you want to share with others?

Send it to me - We are always looking for new and useful content to add to the BeckTek Journal

scott.becktekjournal@becktek.ca



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Win With BeckTek Trivia



The Winner of last month's Trivia Challenge Quiz is:

Linda Surette
Enterprise Greater Moncton

She correctly answered the question from last month: **According to Hallmark, the No. 1 card-giving holiday is**

The correct answer was :
b) Christmas,

Now, here's this month's trivia question. The winner will receive a Night at the Movies.

What was first introduced on March 29, 1886?

- a) Daily weather forecasts
- b) English football
- c) Coca-Cola

Email newsletter@becktek.ca right now with your answer!

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

Another Reminder Of Why You Can't Use Home Routers In Your Business

This past Christmas, a hacker reportedly stumbled upon a back door to Linksys and Netgear DSL modems that allow an attacker to reset the router's configuration and gain Admin access. Not good!

Some routers have this "back door" open to the local computer network while others are open to the Internet side of things, opening up users of these devices to remote Internet attacks. This essentially means that someone could easily gain access to the network and all files located on it.

In the past, this may have taken weeks or months to get out, leaving plenty of time for the manufacturer to get in contact with their clients, right? Not so anymore. In this instance, the exploit was promptly posted up to GitHub in a PowerPoint explaining all of the details and how to exploit the devices. Many others started trying this out (just for fun, of course), and confirmations started flooding in immediately for all to see.

The Bottom Line: If you are concerned at all about the security of the data on your network, you need to have a real, business-class firewall and router in your office. These days, it doesn't pay to go cheap on IT security.

Password Tip! Want an easy-to-remember password that's super-secure? Try mixed-entry passwords. While JohnSmith12345 could fairly easily be broken, J1o2h3n4S5mith (inserting the same numbers between each letter in the password) would take about 1,800 years to crack, and is almost as easy to remember!

We're Looking To Give You \$100*

(Or \$100 to A Charity of Your Choice)

By recommending partners, vendors, associates or professional contacts; you can help then enjoy worry-free IT AND reap some rewards for yourself or a charity of your choice.

Get the full details at: <http://www.becktek.ca/about-us/referral-program/>



Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:



Nest Protect

The Nest Protect Motto: Safety shouldn't be annoying.

We have all experience it. That annoying low-battery chirp that 9 times out of 10 wakes you from a dead sleep. Why is it that the smoke alarm battery inevitably runs low in the middle of the night? Then it happens...in your half-awake stupor, you rip it from the wall with intentions of re-hanging it in the morning. More times than not, you forget to replace the batteries and re-hang it and then there you are with no warning system should a fire break out in your home. This annoyance has now become a safety issue.

The Nest Protect smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarm comes without that annoying chirp or the threat of false alarms. It's unique structure and settings give you quiet, visual low-battery reminders and allow you to relay to the alarm when the smoke is from that burning grilled cheese versus an actual fire. Its remote features also allow you to manage your alarm and receive alerts via your smartphone.

This innovative device gives you all the protection and security you need, without the annoyances. Get yours today at: <https://nest.com/>

If We Knew A Dozen Or More Ways That Cyber-Criminals Could Steal Thousands Of Dollars From Your Company's Bank Account, Damage Your Reputation And Cripple Your Operations



Wouldn't You Want Us To Tell You About It?

Imagine walking into your office one morning to discover your computer network was breached by a hacker, exposing not only YOUR company's data, but also your clients'. Imagine the embarrassment of having to notify your clients that, because of you, their personal information may now be in the hands of cyber-criminals. And hopefully that's the only damage done...

Operations could be halted or severely limited for days, possibly weeks. Your data corrupt to the point of being useless. Clients lost. Potential lawsuits and government fines for violating data-breach laws. The exorbitant emergency IT fees to get everything restored to working order fast. Then there's the risk of your bank account being drained dry – and because you're a business, you are NOT protected by the banks in the same way individual consumers are.

You're At Greater Risk Than You Think

With St. Patrick's Day this month, I want to take a moment to remind you that just because you've been "lucky" enough to avoid an incident like this in the past doesn't mean you're not at risk – in fact, that's exactly what cyber-criminals want you to think.

That's why I'd like to offer you a FREE comprehensive Cyber-Security IT Audit that will reveal your exact risk score on over 29 common security loopholes cyber-criminals use on a regular basis to get around firewalls and antivirus software to gain entry to your computer network. Normally we charge \$350 for this service, but we've decided to give it away to the first 5 companies who request it before March 30th. All you have to do is call our office at 506-383-2895 or go online to www.becktek.ca/cybersecurityaudit to find out more details.

The Business Owners' Guide To IT Support Services And Fees

You will learn:

The 3 most common ways IT services companies charge for their services, and the pros and cons of each approach.

A common billing model that puts ALL THE RISK on you, the customer, when buying IT services; you'll learn what it is and why you need to avoid agreeing to it.

Exclusions, hidden fees and other "gotcha" clauses IT companies put in their contracts that you DON'T want to agree to.

How to make sure you know exactly what you're getting to avoid disappointment, frustration and added costs later on that you didn't anticipate.

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IT BUYERS GUIDE

What Every Business
Owner MUST
Know About IT
Support Services
And Fees



What You Should Expect To
Pay For IT Support For Your
Business And How To Get
Exactly What You Need

The Lighter Side: Fun Facts about St. Patrick's Day

- ◆ **St. Patrick's Day is observed on March 17 because that is the feast day of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. It is believed that he died on March 17 in the year 461 AD. It is also a worldwide celebration of Irish culture and history. St. Patrick's Day is a national holiday in Ireland, and a provincial holiday in the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador.**
- ◆ **The actual color of St. Patrick is blue. Green became associated with St. Patrick's Day during the 19th century. Green, in Irish legends, was worn by fairies and immortals, and also by people to encourage their crops to grow.**
- ◆ **The very first St. Patrick's Day parade was not in Ireland. It was in Boston in 1737.**
- ◆ **Shamrocks are worn on the lapel on this day.**
- ◆ **In Ireland on St. Patrick's Day, people traditionally wear a small bunch of shamrocks on their jackets or caps. Children wear orange, white and green badges, and women and girls wear green ribbons in their hair**
- ◆ **Many people wear green on this holiday to avoid being pinched.**
- ◆ **The phrase, "Drowning The Shamrock" is from the custom of floating the shamrock on the top of whiskey before drinking it. The Irish believe that if you keep the custom, then you will have a prosperous year.**

Knock Down The Walls That Block Communication

To be a successful executive you must know how to knock down walls. I don't mean the walls of brick and steel that hold up buildings; I mean the bureaucratic barriers that hold up communication. In many companies, communication flows through narrow channels, usually from the top down — chimneys of power, they're called. People walled off from these chimneys are left to work in an information vacuum.

Today's successful corporations have demolished the walls that prevent the lateral flow of communication. With the walls gone, information permeates the organization.

Such organizations find it easier to achieve the "Four F's" that management expert Rosabeth Moss Kanter tells us are essential to business success. A successful company, she says, must be focused, flexible, fast and friendly.

You can't focus the efforts of your entire workforce if your organization is crisscrossed with walls that impede the flow of information.

You can't be flexible if you have a rigid corporate structure in which every division and department is a closed information loop.

You can't be fast if information has to seep slowly through layer after layer of management.

And you can't be friendly if your people don't talk to other people inside and outside your organization.

If you look around, you may see plenty of boundaries in your own company that need to be removed. One of them may be the door to your office that remains closed to input from your employees. Another might be a rigid boundary between hourly and salaried employees that keeps people in one category from talking freely with people in another. Or it could be a boundary that shuts out ideas that don't originate in your own organization.

Other boundaries might be the lines that run between divisions of a corporation. If one division develops a new method or a new technology, does it keep it to itself or does it share it with other divisions? Among the toughest boundaries to dismantle are the ones individual managers erect around the borders of their turf.

In the old days, corporations became overpopulated with people who were promoted to their "levels of incompetence." Armed with the word "manager" in their titles, they staked out their own little turfs and guarded them jealously.

In a corporation without boundaries, advancement means moving into positions in which knowledge can be put to productive use as coaches, advisors or knowledge workers; where expertise is interchanged throughout the organization.



Dr. Nido Qubein is president of High Point University, an undergraduate and graduate institution with 4,300 students from 40 countries. He has authored two dozen books and audio programs distributed worldwide. As a business leader, he is chairman of the Great Harvest Bread Company, with 220 stores in 43 states. He serves on the boards of several national organizations, including BB&T (a Fortune 500 company with \$185 billion in assets), the La-Z-Boy Corporation (one of the largest and most recognized furniture brands worldwide) and Dots Stores (a chain of fashion boutiques with more than 400 locations across the country). As a professional speaker, Dr. Qubein has received many distinctions, including the Golden Gavel Medal, induction into the International Speaker Hall of Fame and as the founder of the NSA Foundation in Arizona.

To learn more about Dr. Qubein, go to: <http://www.nidoqubein.com/>