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TECHNOLOGY TIMES

Mid-Year IT Planning: Set Your Technology Up for a Stronger Second Half

We're halfway through 2026, and it's the perfect time to take stock of your technology. In this month's issue, we're focusing on mid-year IT planning, smart technology investments, and practical ways to reduce costs without cutting corners.

You'll also find a helpful tech gadget recommendation, our favorite tech tips from the last month, and a reminder about our recent HIPAA webinar if you missed it.

Is Your IT Ready for the Second Half of 2026?



June is more than just the midpoint of the year. It's your chance to catch what slipped through the cracks, address what's been frustrating your team, and set your technology up to support growth instead of slow it down.

Most businesses start the year with good intentions. Then the daily work takes over. IT projects get pushed back. Security updates wait. Backup tests never happen. The team keeps working around the same technical problems instead of fixing them.

By mid-year, those small delays start to add up. Systems run slower. Frustration grows. Risk increases. And when something breaks, it feels bigger than it should because the foundation wasn't as strong as you thought.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Employee of the Month:
Gabby Seitz



This past month, Gabby kept everything running smoothly during a particularly busy financial cycle, ensured accuracy across the board, and stepped in to support cross-functional needs without hesitation.

Tech Genius of the Month
Marshall Williams Jr.



Marshall has improved documentation, adding significant value to SecOps and project workflows. He is building automation scripts to supplement that documentation, increasing efficiency and drastically improving audit processes.

Gadget of the Month

Sharge Disk Pro

The Sharge Disk Pro is a portable storage device that does multiple jobs in one small package.

It stores files, connects to monitors, and has extra USB ports. Instead of carrying several different devices when you travel, you can use just this one for backups, file transfers, and connecting extra equipment to your laptop.

It's a practical tool for anyone who works away from the office and needs simple, reliable storage and connections.



What a Mid-Year IT Check-In Should Include:

- **System Health and Performance Review:** Are your servers, workstations, and network infrastructure running efficiently, or are they showing signs of strain?
- **Security Posture Assessment:** When was the last time you reviewed user access, tested your backups, updated security policies, or checked for unpatched vulnerabilities?
- **Compliance Documentation Review:** If you're in a regulated industry, are your controls documented, tested, and ready for an audit or insurance review?
- **Technology Refresh Planning:** What hardware or software is approaching end-of-life, and what's your plan to replace it before it fails?
- **User Feedback and Pain Points:** What's frustrating your team? Slow logins? Unreliable systems? Poor communication tools? Mid-year is the time to listen and act.

The second half of the year should feel more prepared than the first. A mid-year IT review helps you prioritize what matters, address what's been ignored, and move into Q3 and Q4 with a clearer technology plan.

3 Technology Projects to Prioritize Before Year-End

If you're like most businesses, you started the year with a list of technology goals. Some of them happened. Others are still sitting on the back burner.

The good news is that you still have time. The second half of the year is often less chaotic than the first, which makes it the right window to tackle the projects that improve security, reduce downtime, and set your business up for a stronger 2027.

Here are three technology projects worth prioritizing now:

1. Migrate to a Modern Cloud Backup and Disaster Recovery Solution

If your current backup system has not been tested in months, or if you're still relying on outdated on-premise-only backups, this is the project that protects everything else.

A modern backup and disaster recovery solution should include:

- Automated daily backups with offsite redundancy
- Fast recovery times that get your team back to work quickly
- Regular testing to confirm your backups actually work
- Protection for users, systems, and critical business files

The goal is not just to have backups. The goal is to know that if something goes wrong, you can recover quickly without losing days of work or critical data.

2. Implement Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) Across Your Organization

Passwords alone are not enough anymore. Even strong passwords can be compromised through phishing, credential stuffing, or social engineering.

Multi-Factor Authentication adds a second layer of verification that makes it significantly harder for attackers to gain access, even if they have a user's password. It's one of the most effective security improvements you can make, and it's easier to roll out than most businesses expect.

Prioritize MFA for:

- Email accounts
- Cloud applications
- Remote access and VPN connections
- Financial and sensitive business systems

If your team is not using MFA yet, this should move to the top of your priority list.



Tech Tips You Can Use Right Now: May Recap

Protect Cloud Data with MFA, Strong Passwords, and Backups

- 1 Most cloud breaches happen because of user error. Protect your accounts with strong passwords, multi-factor authentication, secure devices, and regular backups of critical data.

Small Businesses Need Advanced Monitoring to Stop Ransomware

- 2 Hackers monitor small businesses for months before striking because they know you're busy, often lack enterprise security, and are more likely to pay quickly to avoid downtime.

Enable Automatic Updates to Prevent 60% of Breaches

- 3 Delayed updates are responsible for 60% of recent breaches. Hackers exploit known vulnerabilities in businesses that haven't patched their systems, so enable automatic updates and schedule monthly reviews.

Train Your Employees to Spot Security Threats

- 4 Human error invites most security incidents, so create an acceptable use policy, provide ongoing security training, and run phishing tests to help your team recognize threats before they click.

Want the June tech tips before next month's recap?

Sign up for our weekly tech tip emails now by scanning the QR code below:



3. Upgrade End-of-Life Hardware Before It Fails

Aging computers, servers, and network equipment don't just slow your team down. They create security risks, increase downtime, and cost more to maintain than they're worth.

If you have devices running Windows 10 (which reaches end of support in October 2025), servers that are more than five years old, or network equipment that can't support your growing security needs, now is the time to plan replacements.

Proactive upgrades are always less disruptive and less expensive than emergency replacements. You get to control the timeline, budget for the investment, and roll out new technology in a way that works for your team instead of reacting to a crisis.

Not sure where to start? Schedule a Discovery Call, and we'll help you identify which projects will make the biggest impact for your business before year-end.

How to Reduce IT Costs Without Cutting Corners

When budgets tighten, IT is often one of the first places businesses look to cut costs. But cutting the wrong things can backfire quickly. Skipping security updates, delaying replacements, or reducing support can lead to downtime, security incidents, and bigger expenses down the road.

The smarter approach is to reduce waste, eliminate inefficiencies, and make sure every dollar you spend on technology delivers clear value.

Here's how to reduce IT costs the right way:

Eliminate software and subscriptions you're not using. Most businesses are paying for software licenses, cloud storage, and SaaS subscriptions that no one is actively using. A mid-year software audit can help you identify and eliminate these unnecessary expenses.

Consolidate tools and vendors. Using too many disconnected tools increases costs, creates complexity, and makes it harder to manage security. Look for opportunities to consolidate systems and reduce vendor sprawl. Move to predictable IT budgeting with managed services. Reactive IT support often costs more than proactive support because you're paying premium rates to fix emergencies instead of preventing them. A flat-rate managed IT model gives you predictable monthly costs, proactive monitoring, and a team that helps you avoid expensive downtime.

Prioritize preventive maintenance and monitoring. Small issues caught early are almost always cheaper to fix than major failures that disrupt your entire business. Proactive monitoring, regular maintenance, and timely updates reduce the risk of costly outages.

Plan technology refreshes strategically. Replacing equipment before it fails lets you budget for it, negotiate better pricing, and avoid the premium costs of emergency replacements. A multi-year technology refresh plan turns large, unexpected expenses into smaller, planned investments.

Missed the HIPAA Webinar?



If you missed our recent HIPAA webinar, you can still catch up. We covered the most common compliance gaps businesses face, practical steps to improve documentation and controls, and how to prepare for audits with confidence. This session is valuable for anyone in healthcare, legal, finance, or any industry that handles sensitive data and needs to stay compliant.

Watch the full webinar:
<https://vectorchoice.com/webinars>



FREE Report: IT Buyers Guide



Small businesses need reliable technology, strong cybersecurity, and fast support, but hiring a full in-house IT team can be expensive.

With the right partner, your business can spend less time reacting to IT problems and more time focusing on growth.

Want to know what to look for in an IT partner? Download our free IT Buyer's Guide.

<https://vectorchoice.com/it-buyers-guide>

Invest in security that prevents costly incidents. A single ransomware attack, data breach, or compliance violation can cost far more than the security tools and support that would have prevented it. Strong cybersecurity is not an expense to cut. It's an investment that protects everything else.

The goal is not to spend less on IT. The goal is to spend smarter on technology, security, and support that reduces risk, improves productivity, and protects the business from costly disruptions.

Want help identifying where you can reduce IT waste and improve efficiency? Schedule a Discovery Call, and we'll walk through a practical cost review with you.

Finish the Year Strong...

We hope this issue helps you finish the year stronger than you started it. June is the perfect time to pause, take stock of where your technology stands, and make a plan for the second half of 2026.

Whether you are thinking about upgrading aging equipment, improving your security posture, or making sure your IT is keeping up with your business growth, now is the time to act. The projects you prioritize today will determine how prepared your business is for what comes next.

If you have questions about your IT, cybersecurity, compliance, or technology planning, we are here to help. Our team is responsive, reliable, and ready to support your goals.

