

May 2017

# TECHNOLOGY TIMES

Insider Tips To Make Your Business  
Run Faster, Easier And More Profitably

## Use This 9-Step Checklist To Ensure Your Data Is Safe, Secure And Recoverable



*Summer is upon us... Time for  
a stroll in the park...softball...  
fishing... a few rounds of golf...*

Yet how could you possibly relax if some random bit of malware, software glitch or cyber-attack catches you off guard just as you're walking out the door? A well-designed secure computer network gives you the confidence that "all systems are go," whether you're having fun in the sun, or just getting things done with your team.

Here's a quick nine-step checklist we use to ensure that a company's computer network, and the data for that business, is safe and secure from disruption, if not absolute devastation:

**1 A written recovery plan.** Simply thinking through what needs to happen when things go south, and documenting it all IN ADVANCE,

can go a long way toward getting your network back up and running quickly if it gets hacked, impacted by natural disaster or compromised by human error.

**2 Have a clear communication plan.** What if your employees can't access your office, e-mail or phone system? How will they communicate with you? Make sure your communications plan details every alternative, including MULTIPLE ways to stay in touch in the event of a disaster.

**3 Automate your data backups.** THE #1 cause of data loss is human error. If your backup system depends on a human being always doing something right, it's a recipe for disaster. Automate your backups wherever possible so they run like clockwork.

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"Our Mission: To build a community of entrepreneurs that inspires excellence,

encourages collaboration and expands capacity of all members to achieve great things."



*Will Nohman*  
Founder & CEO  
Vector Choice

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**4 Have redundant off-site backups.** On-site backups are a good first step, but if they get flooded, burned or hacked along with your server, you're out of luck. ALWAYS maintain a recent copy of your data off-site.

**5 Enable remote network access.** Without remote access to your network, you and your staff won't be able to keep working in the event that you can't get into your office. To keep your business going, at the very minimum, you need a way for your IT specialist to quickly step in when needed.

**6 System images are critical.** Storing your data off-site is a good first step. But if your system is compromised, the software and architecture that handles all that data MUST be restored for it to be useful. Imaging your server creates a replica of the original, saving you an enormous amount of time and energy in getting your network back

in gear, should the need arise. Without it, you risk losing all your preferences, configurations, favorites and more.

**7 Maintain an up-to-date network "blueprint."** To rebuild all or part of your network, you'll need a blueprint of the software, data, systems and hardware that comprise your company's network. An IT professional can create this for you. It could save you a huge amount of time and money in the event your network needs to be restored.

**8 Don't ignore routine maintenance.** While fires, flooding and other natural disasters are always a risk, it's ever more likely that you'll have downtime due to a software or hardware glitch or cyber-attack. That's why it's critical to keep your network patched, secure and up-to-date. Deteriorating hardware and corrupted software can wipe you out. Replace and update them as needed to steer clear of this threat.

**9 Test, Test, Test!** If you're going to go to the trouble of setting up a plan, at least make sure it works! An IT professional can check monthly to make sure your systems work properly and your data is secure. After all, the worst time to test your parachute is AFTER you jump out of the plane.

**Be certain that you have all 9 steps fully covered with our FREE Disaster Recovery Audit.**

**Contact Us At**

**1-877-468-1230**

or

**support@vectorchoice.com**

or visit

**www.vectorchoice.com**

to schedule your

**Disaster Recovery Audit**

**FREE**

of charge, now through May 31.

**Contact us TODAY  
to get scheduled!**

## **The Ultimate Small Business Guide To Setting Up A Work-From-Home System For Your Staff**

### **WORK FROM HOME GAMEPLAN**

"The Ultimate Small Business Guide To Setting Up A 'Work From Home' System For Your Staff"



Secrets Every Business Owner Must Know Before Installing A 'Virtual Network' To Allow Employees To Work From Home, On The Road, Or From A Remote Office

#### **You will learn:**

- ✓ What telecommuting is and why so many small businesses are rapidly implementing work-from-home programs.
- ✓ The single most important thing you MUST have in place before starting any work-from-home or remote office initiative.
- ✓ How one company slashed its turnover rate from 33% to nearly 0% - and increased productivity by 18% - by implementing a "work from home" program.

**Claim Your FREE Copy Today at [www.vectorchoice.com/WorkFromHome](http://www.vectorchoice.com/WorkFromHome)**

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## Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:



### Surface Studio: All Beauty, A Little Brains

“We want to move from people needing Windows...to loving Windows.”

So said CEO Satya Nadella after taking over Microsoft. And their new Surface Studio takes a bold step in that direction.

In a bid to win over creative types, they designed the Studio with a gorgeous desktop screen that easily glides from vertical to almost horizontal, like an artist's sketchpad. With its Apple Computer-like brushed aluminum finish and ultra-thin screen, it's feels right at home in an open-plan office with microbrews on tap.

The guts of the machine are stuffed into a nine-inch-long base that's joined to the screen with an überslick hinge design, allowing it to fold nearly flat for stylus- or touch-driven design work.

Downsides? Well, you'll pay at least \$3,000. And it's a bit underpowered to be in that price range. But all in all, even the graphically challenged will find this machine tantalizing.

## The Cloudflare Screw-up: Have your passwords been compromised?

Little bugs can cause huge problems. Like when web performance and security company Cloudflare's code upgrade leaked sensitive data to 3,438 unique domains this past February. Everything from API keys to personal data was exposed. And scariest of all is that any bot could have accessed every bit of it. The good news is that Cloudflare was alerted to the tiny leak before hackers discovered it. The bad news is, a more moderate-sized leak could bring down the web. It just brings home the point that you need to be more vigilant than ever. Change passwords routinely. Use strong passwords that hackers can't easily break. Upgrade to two-factor authentication.

## Big Red is still the big dog... but T-Mobile is nipping at its heels.

In the battle to claim best mobile network, the winner is arguable. RootMetrics says it's Verizon. OpenSignal says T-Mobile. Digging into their reports, you'll find that geographical factors determine the winner. OpenSignal's crowdsourced data comes mostly from city dwellers. So their finding that T-Mobile wins most likely applies to urban areas. But that data doesn't apply if you're out in the sticks. RootMetrics reports more on overall coverage, and they find Verizon at the top. So who's got the best network for you? At this point, it boils down to where you live and work. But stay tuned...this race is getting close.

### Customer Spotlight:

# Hatteras®

Vector Choice would like to recognize one of our newest customers, Hatteras, for the month of May. Hatteras is located in New Bern, North Carolina. The company originated 55 years ago when Hatteras founder, Willis Slane, envisioned a new breed of fishing boats. One that would be strong enough to tame the waters of Cape Hatteras. That difference, for over half a century, has allowed Hatteras to stand as the benchmark of quality and innovation to which all others aspire. We are happy to welcome Hatteras to the Vector Choice family.



## Is your in-car GPS necessary anymore?

Smartphones offer turn-by-turn navigation, satellite-tracked speed readings, voice guidance and real-time, crowdsourced traffic alerts. So why dish out another 300 bucks for your own on-dash, in-car system? Well, those in-car systems have come a long way too... Having voice-command capability, Bluetooth connectivity, geo-based recommendations and a large fixed screen might be reason enough. But if your phone's monthly data allotment and battery life concern you at all, that in-car GPS, with its own data and power sources, starts looking pretty good. And with features like a streaming dash cam and sensor that warns you if you're following a car too closely, in-car GPS is definitely worth a second look.

## Get totally weird with new Virtual Reality (VR) tools

You may not have a clue about how to draw at all, much less in 3-D. Doesn't matter... Whereas VR used to be a tool for techies, now amateurs can get in on the act. A-Frame by Mozilla, for instance, lets you easily type in commands that place 3-D objects like blocks, balls and more into a VR scene you create. Tilt Brush lets you paint in the air wearing a Google Vive headset. And Second Life inventor Philip Rosedale is building software that lets you invite friends into a VR world you design. Most of what any amateur creates will likely be grotesque, ugly or flat-out lame, but somewhere in all that mess, amazing new products will be born.

### Who Else Wants To Win A \$25 Gift Card?

The Grand Prize Winner of last month's Trivia Challenge Quiz is Dana Atwood! She was the first person to correctly answer my quiz question from last month!

Now, here's this month's trivia question. The winner will receive a gift card to AMAZON!

**Which Technology, developed in the 1940s, was inspired by Morse code?**

- a) Zip code    b) Bar codes  
c) Braille       d) Tickertape

E-mail Us Right Now With Your Answer!

[info@vectorchoice.com](mailto:info@vectorchoice.com)

### The Lighter Side: May Facts

1. The United Kingdom celebrates May as the National Smile Month
2. National Physical Fitness & Sports Month
3. Flower: Lilly of the Valley
4. Named after Geek Goddess Maia, goddess of fertility
5. Birthstone: Emerald, symbolizes success and love
6. The Kentucky Derby & Indy 500 are both in the month of May

### HOLIDAYS:

- 1st - May Day  
5th - Cinco de Mayo  
6th - Kentucky Derby  
8th - VE Day, WWII  
9th - National Teacher's Day  
14th - Mother's Day  
20th - Armed Forces Day  
28th - Indianapolis 500  
29th - Memorial Day

