TECHNOLOGY TIMES

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

"As a business owner, you don't have time to waste on technical and operational issues. That's where we come in! Call us and put an end to your IT problems finally and forever!"

Will Nobles
Founder & CEO
Vector Choice

Want the benefits that you get from an IT company in the office at home?

New **Exclusive**

My Vector Tech
www.vectorchoice.com/my-vector-tech/

My Vector Tech offers expert support for your residential computer needs! By providing business grade proactive support to your home environment we are able to reduce many common issues and security flaws that you may encounter. Common home problems that we support and help to eliminate include virus removal, error resolution, re-installation or upgrades to your operating system, and many more.

We are also introducing Mobile Device Management (MDM). MDM is the administration of mobile smart devices such as smart phones or tablets, which allows businesses or individuals to control the content on the device as well as access to the device. It allows for automation of certain settings, content filtering and restrictions for downloading applications, password enforcement, and location tracking, among other capabilities. This can be perfect for a parent who is interesting in monitoring a child's device or having more control of the content that is allowed on the device.

Content filtering is another service we are introducing on home devices. Content filtering is the act of enforcing restrictions on workstations or laptops, denying access content that is inappropriate or unwanted. This can be internet control, application control or data protection

If you are unsure if we can help gives us a call at (877) 404-4140 or send us an email at info@myvectortech.com

Inside This Issue...

How To Keep Your Employees From Leaking Confidential Information

Back in 2014, Code Spaces was murdered. The company offered tools for source code management, but they didn't have solid control over sensitive information — including their backups. One cyberattack later, and Code Spaces was out of business. Their killer had used some standard techniques, but the most effective was getting an unwitting Code Space employee to help — likely via a phishing attack.

When it comes to cybercrime that targets businesses, employees are the largest risks. Sure, your IT guys and gals are trained to recognize phishing attempts, funky websites, and other things that just don't seem right. But can you say the same thing about the people in reception, or the folks over in sales?

Sure, those employees might know that clicking on links or opening attachments in strange emails can cause issues. But things have become pretty sophisticated; cybercriminals can make it look like someone in your office is sending the email, even if the content looks funny. It only takes a click to compromise the system. It also only takes a click to Google a funny-looking link or ask IT about a weird download you don't recognize.
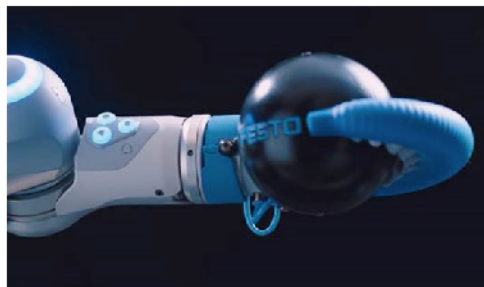
Just as you can't trust people to be email-savvy, you also can't trust them to come up with good passcodes. People still use birthdays, pet names, or even "password" as their passcodes — or they meet the bare-minimum standards for required passcode complexity. Randomly generated passcodes are always better, and requiring multiple levels of authentication for secure data access is a must-do.

Remember, that's just for the office. Once employees start working outside of your network, even more issues crop up. It's not always possible to keep them from working from home, or from a coffee shop on the road. But it is possible to invest in security tools, like email encryption, that keep data more secure if they have to work outside your network. And if people are working remotely, remind them that walking away from the computer is a no-no. Anybody could lean over and see what they're working on, download malware or spyware, or even swipe the entire device and walk out — all of which are cybersecurity disasters.

Last but not least, you need to consider the possibility of a deliberate security compromise. Whether they're setting themselves up for a future job or setting you up for a vengeful fall, this common occurrence is hard to prevent. It's possible that Code Space's demise was the result of malice, so let it be a warning to you as well! Whenever an employee leaves the company for any reason, remove their accounts and access to your data. And make it clear to employees that this behavior is considered stealing, or worse, and will be treated as such in criminal and civil court.

You really have your work cut out for you, huh? Fortunately, it's still possible to run a secure-enough company in today's world. Keep an eye on your data and on your employees. And foster an open communication that allows you to spot potential — or developing — compromises as soon as possible.

Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:

OctoGripper
Octopus-Inspired Robotic Arm

The animal kingdom is a reliable place to turn for mechanical inspiration. The German automation company Festo just made a robotic arm that takes its cue from an octopus. Meet the OctoGripper!

Festo figured it's hard to beat the octopus' flexibility. Built with a soft silicone structure that can be pneumatically controlled, the device bends inward to grip an item with two rows of suction cups. These create a vacuum, allowing the gripper to hold onto objects tightly while moving quickly — a common challenge in robotics.

This isn't the only thing Festo is taking from nature. They want to see the OctoGripper incorporated into their BionicMotion Robot, which is inspired by an elephant's trunk. These could work side by side with humans, perhaps speeding up work.

Or they could pair up with Boston Dynamics and start the best robotic zoo this side of "Horizon: Zero Dawn."

Should You Have A Mobile App For Your Business?

One of the great things about apps is that you don't need to be a big developer or company to build one. In fact, according to smallbusinesscomputing.com, 42 percent of small business in the United States have their own mobile app. By the end of the year, that figure is expected to hit 67 percent! Somewhat unsurprisingly, the most cited reason SMBs said they decided to build mobile apps is to increase sales (39 percent), followed by improving customers service (30 percent). Others turn to mobile apps as a competitive advantage in specific markets (22 percent) while for some organizations, their parent company suggested an app (10 percent). But with apps becoming more affordable than ever, there are lots of reasons to invest in your own app — and lots of ways to recoup that investment. What would your ideal app do?

Where Have Tablet Sales Gone?

Remember when they said tablets would outsell desktop and laptop computers? That now seems a tad optimistic. In March, Techcrunch.com reported that tablet sales are going down. But why? It turns out that folks treat tablets like computers — meaning they don't upgrade them nearly as often as smartphones. "The iPad 2 is still in use today," IDC Senior Analyst Jitesh Ubrani tells TechCrunch. "The [original] iPad Minis and Air are all still in use today. They were being supported by Apple until very recently. People have been hanging onto these devices and they're finding that they work just as well as they did when they were released.". That's bad news for the tablet giants, who are still releasing new versions of tablets at least once a year. In the future, don't expect big releases or online unveilings for slates.

The Lighter Side: June Facts

1. June is the FIRST month of the summer season

2. Most popular month to get married or attend weddings

3. June is celebrated as National Smile Month in the UK and National Oceans Month in the USA.

4. In any year, no month begins on the same day of the week as June.

5. Birthstone is Pearl or Alexandrite, Flower is Pose or Honeysuckle

6. June is adopt a Cat month

7. First weekend in June is National Doughnut Weekend

8. June is named for Juno, Roman queen of the gods

9. The longest day of the year is in June, Summer Solstice

10. Several countries celebrate Flag Day in June, including the U.S.

HOLIDAYS:

6th - D Day WWII
14th - Flag Day
18th - Father's Day
20th - Summer Solstice

Use This App: Pinpoint Dangerous Drivers

The open road is full of jerks and road rages, and a new app is taking them on. Nexar asks you to mount your phone to your dashboard, and it will monitor surrounding traffic. If someone starts driving dangerously, it will ask if you want to record what's going on with a 30-second video. The goal is to capture license plates of bad or hostile drivers. This is useful if you witness a crash or a criminal offense. According to trafficsafetystore.com, Nexar also uploads data to a central database. It will let you know if someone with a bad driving history enters the camera's field of vision, helping you spot potential bad drivers. In the future, Nexar plans to use GPS to identify dangerous cars to the side and behind them, too.

Airport Jacket Cargo Jacket for Travel

If you always find yourself forking out for excess baggage every time you take a flight, then an Aussie-based startup has come up with an ingenious solution that'll have you confidently packing the kitchen sink for your next trip. The "Airport Jacket" is, for all intents and purposes, a wearable suitcase. With a whopping 14 pockets and two detachable pocket panels capable of taking up to 15 kgs. (about 33 lbs.) of stuff, your only concern will be ensuring your legs don't give way as you stagger toward the check-in desk. The jacket — with all the stuff inside — can be quickly transformed into a small bag so you only need to put it on when you arrive at the airport. Once you're through check-in and on the plane, you can fold it back up again before throwing it into one of the overhead bins.