How Is Wearable Technology Changing Halloween?

Halloween is around the corner and with it the scares and excitement. Over the last few years, we have seen how technology has influenced the frightening season with decorations that jump, and candy bowls that shake. But, what about what we are wearing? Is there any new tech that can put your costume over the top this year?

Wearable tech has come a long way; it can prevent sports injuries, and detect asthma attacks. While your tech still cannot tell you how much candy you are going to eat Halloween night, there are some fun new ideas in what to wear. It may depend on your creativity; a smartwatch makes a decent start to a James Bond costume. Or, you may be looking to invest in a winning outfit.

Workable tech costumes:

Nothing says high tech like robots. Today, there are many options for a complete robot look, including a robot with an LED screen built in the chest. If you have money to invest then becoming a robot is the most tech-savvy choice. You can even become the legendary tech hero, Iron Man!

Wearable LED lights are making Halloween night come to life. Now, you can become a glow-in-the-dark stick man. For a more classy look, you can trim your finest clothing with bright light strings. There are also hats and t-shirts available for working video games built right in.

Smartphone tricks:

It wasn't until a few years ago when tech really started to change the costume game. We were all blown away a few years ago with the YouTube video of a man that seemingly had a hole through his abdomen. The trick is performed using two iPads on either side of his body that would simultaneously record and share what the opposing camera was viewing, creating a see-through image. The mastermind behind this high tech costume is former NASA engineer, Mark Rober. Over the years that followed his popular Halloween trick, Rober has created many new tech-savvy designs.

Rober began by perfecting his first trick by designing shirts that would hold your phone. With a downloadable app, the screen would become a moving eyeball or pulsating guts that would show through a window at the front of your clothing. Rober went further, building masks and prosthetics that would depend on the same app, launched through his company Digital Dudz.

Halloween safety:

Although tech is doing a great job at scaring us, it can also be used for more practical means. Wearable tech is helping to keep our little trick-or-treaters safe. LED bracelets are helping to keep children viewable in the night. Parents can feel more assured by giving their children GPS trackers and know where there goblins and ghouls are headed all night long.

It is hard to find any aspect of our lives that isn't impacted by technological developments. And, Halloween is no different. You can keep an eye on your kids, make sure your home isn't being egged, all while winning the costume party with your high tech outfit.

Source: prescouter.com

Your Computer Network Is Being Haunted

Your small business is under attack. Right now, extremely dangerous and well-funded cybercrime rings are using sophisticated techniques to hack into thousands of small businesses to steal credit cards, blackmail you to recover data and swindle money directly out of your bank account.

82,000 NEW malware threats are being released every single day and HALF of the cyber-attacks occurring are aimed at small businesses just like yours. You don't just hear about it because it's kept quiet for fear of bad PR, lawsuits and sheer embarrassment.

The National Cyber Security Alliance reports that 1 in 5 small businesses have been victims of cybercrime in the last year and this number is growing rapidly as businesses continue to move to cloud computing and mobile device, and to store more information online.

Here are 7 critical security measures your business must have in place to have any chance of fending off these criminals:

1. *Train Employees On Security Best Practices.* The #1 vulnerability for business networks is the employees using them. If they don't know how to spot infected emails or online scams, they could infect your entire network.

2. *Create An Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) And Enforce It!* An AUP outlines how employees are permitted to use company-owned PCs, devices, software, Internet access, and email. Having this type of policy is critical if your employees are using

their own devices to access company email and data.

3. *Require STRONG Passwords Throughout Your Company.* Passwords should be at least 8 characters and contain lowercase and uppercase letters, symbols, and at least one number.

4. *Keep Your Network Up-To-Date.* New vulnerabilities are found almost daily on common software programs you use all the time; therefore it's critical you patch and update systems frequently.

5. *Have An Excellent Backup*. A quality backup can foil even the most aggressive ransomware attacks, where a hacker locks up your files and holds them ransom until you pay up. If your files are backed up, you don't have to pay to get your data back.

6. *Don't Allow Employees To Download Unauthorized Software.* One of the fastest ways to access your network is by embedding malicious code in seemingly harmless apps.

7. *Don't Scimp On A Good Firewall.* Your firewall is the frontline defense against hackers, so you need a really good one, with monitoring and maintenance done regularly.

Want Help In Implementing These 7 Essentials?

Contact us today about a FREE network assessment!

BEFORE THE BREACH

HACKERS ARE HERE!

NEW SKILLS FOR A NEW FIGHT

- 1 in 5 businesses will suffer a cyber breach
- this year
- 81% of all breaches happen to small/medium sized businesses
- 66% of companies do NOT test their backups
- 60% of companies that lose their data will go out of business within 6 months
- 92% of malware is delivered via email
- 97% of breaches could have been prevented with today's technology

Want to learn more about how to protect your business?

Stay tuned for our next lunch and learn date!

www.preferreditgroup.com/beforethebreach

talk nerdy to me

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

This month is Gabrielle Rex's 10 year anniversary with Preferred IT Group! She started out as a receptionist and dispatch when the company was still in Columbia City.

Fast forward to today, she is the Technology Alignment Manager for all of our managed customers. She works hand in hand with our vCIO Jason Horne to propose solutions and recommendations based on her years of knowledge for those customer environments.

If you see her, wish her a Happy Anniversary!

SOCKTOBER

OCTOBER 1st - OCTOBER 31st

HELP US COLLECT FOR FORT WAYNE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS CLOTHING BANK

We are collecting NEW socks of all colors, sizes, and patterns for the whole month of October and donating to Fort Wayne Community Schools Clothing Bank.

Socks are the most needed and least donated, so help us do our part for the community!

We need socks for boys and girls of all ages!
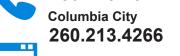If you would like to do a little more, we are also accepting gloves, hats, and scarves!

FUN FACT!

PITG's CEO, Jason Horne Engineer, Scott Diehl, and Amy Horne all went to high school together!

preferred IT group

CONTACT US

Fort Wayne
260.440.7377

Warsaw
574.306.4288

Columbia City
260.213.4266

Indianapolis
317.426.8180

www.preferreditgroup.com

6333 Constitution Drive
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

Subscribe to our blog and follow us on social media.