

3 “Techie” Reasons You Can Be Thankful This Season

Backup and Disaster Recovery can help you feel very thankful indeed!



1. Cyber Thieves Keep A-Knockin' But They Can't Come In. A study presented at the International Conference of Dependable Systems and Networks showed that small-business networks are attacked every 39 seconds by some type of hacker or malicious software. Thankfully, having the proper firewall and office network security tools can prevent even the most determined cyber hacker from getting his hands on your network. Are your systems covered?

2. Downtime Should Be A Thing Of The Past. Thanks to monitoring and maintenance tools that are openly available, any reputable computer company can now actually notice when things go awry and prevent your computers from having issues. Hot fixes, patches, and security updates are generally items that, when maintained on a regular basis, keep a network healthy and up and running. If, for some reason, your network still has some kind of downtime, cloud-based remote management tools allow your IT professional to access your system from anywhere, getting you up and running more quickly than ever before.

3. If Disaster Strikes, You Can Be Back Up And Running In Minutes Instead Of Days. In addition to lost data, many businesses' operations would be completely down for days or weeks if a major disaster like fire, flood, or theft ever occurred. Here's where Backup and Disaster Recovery solutions (BDR) can help you feel very thankful indeed. Most of today's BDR solutions include a "virtualization" component, which means an exact "picture" of your server and computers is taken throughout the day and stored elsewhere. If you ever need to get back up and running, your IT company simply restores that image... and you're back in business.

Want to feel thankful instead of frustrated with your computers? Give us a call today and ask about a free network discovery.

5 Online Shopping Tips To Stay Safe This Holiday Season



If Black Friday is the traditional holiday shopping kickoff for bricks (i.e., brick-and-mortar stores), then Cyber Monday is considered the kickoff for clicks. This term was coined for the phenomenon involving the Monday after Thanksgiving - the one day out of the year when people rush to work... so they can use their high-speed office computers to take advantage of fantastic online sales.

Though it's still a massive holiday sales day, thanks to huge deals and free shipping, Cyber Monday is really just the beginning of the online holiday shopping season.

Now, people shop all season long from the convenience of their couch, commuter train or local coffee shop, using phones, tablets and other mobile devices

There is no better time to shop online than the holidays, when the hoards of shoppers can sap your energy and holiday spirit. But the Grinch may be stealing more than the presents from Whoville; he might be stealing your personal information if you don't take precautions for safe online holiday shopping.

1. Ho-ho-hold on before you click on a link delivered to you in an email. Can't wait to buy that Chia Pet for 80 percent off? Beware clicking on links you receive from unfamiliar websites. It could be a "phishing" scheme, where shoppers who click through are led to a false site developed to steal their data. If the deal is too good to pass up, enter the website name by hand into your browser.

2. Santa's watching! And so are thieves unless you lock your device. Webroot found that a surprising 53 percent of respondents leave their devices unlocked, which can expose their personal information to prying eyes. Most devices request that you lock it with a password or code; take advantage of this feature to keep your information secure.

3. 'Appy holidays: For safe online shopping, make sure

your apps are downloaded from a trusted source, such as the Android Market, Apple App Store or the Amazon App Store. When you download the app, it will ask for various "permissions." Be sure to read through them and note whether they make sense... for example, does a shopping app need access to your contact list? Another way to check on the safety of apps is to read through the feedback in the comments section of the market and choose apps with a high rating.

4. There's no place like home for the holidays... for safe online holiday shopping. Remember, a secure network connection - like that in most homes or workplaces - is ideal. Public Wi-Fi can be hacked by someone with the right tools, exposing your passwords, billing information, and other sensitive data. Therefore, if you're using a public connection, it's best to limit yourself to window-shopping and price comparing, rather than buying.

5. Deck your halls: A security app is more than ornamental window dressing -it's vital for online shopping. Webroot found that only 40 percent of respondents have a security app installed on their smartphones and tablets, putting their devices and personal information at risk. Take a hint from older surfers: While younger users more often use their devices for shopping - to place orders, compare prices and download coupons - the survey found that users ages 50 and older were more likely to have security on their device.

Above all, to stay healthy and wealthy, you've got to be wise. Just as you would exercise caution with your wallet and belongings in a crowded store, remember to be as vigilant in the World Wide Mall. Keep your cyber information secure while enjoying safe holiday shopping online. The number one way to protect your device and data is to install mobile anti-virus software and make sure it is up to date. In fact, it just might be the perfect gift for everyone on your shopping list!

Source: Webroot.com

Preferred IT Group's Annual Halloween Costume Contest

Every year, we dress up for Halloween and let our followers on social media vote for the best costume! This year's winner was Matt Hart for his viking costume!



THEY'RE CERTIFIED!!



Technology is constantly changing and evolving so continuing education is very important to us. This quarter, we had not one, not two, but THREE of our wonderful technicians complete their Microsoft Fundamentals Certification!

Big shout out to Carter Baker, Cole Smith and Trevor Curry for being ROCKSTARS and working so hard to futher their education.



SOCKTOBER SUCCESS FOR FORT WAYNE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS CLOTHING BANK

Every year, we try to do our part for the Fort Wayne Community Schools Clothing Bank. The one item that is always needed but hardly donated is SOCKS! For the whole month of October, our employees and some very gracious customers, banded together to collect what we could.

I'm happy to say we did great! We collected a total of 1,018 pairs of socks!
We also collected 15 pairs of gloves, 7 hats, several coats and other clothing items!

A huge THANK YOU to everybody that participated!

FUN FACT!



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