



“The NerdLetter”

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

You May Be Taking Your Business’s Most Important Asset For Granted

“As a business owner, you don’t have time to waste on technical and operational issues. That’s where we *shine!* Call us and put an end to your IT problems finally and forever!”

Willy Mangual
Nerds “R” Us
Computers – Networks - IT Consulting

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You hear it all the time from us – back up your data, keep your virus protection current and maintain your firewall to protect yourself from hackers and other online threats. However, while these precautions will certainly help you avoid problems, they CAN’T do anything if you don’t have a good backup and disaster recovery plan in place.

Have you ever lost an hour or two of work on your computer because it crashed? Now imagine if you lost days or weeks of work – of imagine losing your client database, financial records, and all of the work files your computer has ever produced or compiled. Imagine what would happen if your network went down for days and you couldn’t access email or the information on your PC. How frustrating would that be?



Most small business owners have no idea about the importance of disaster recovery planning – or don’t have the time to learn – because they are already swamped with more immediate day-to-day fires demanding their attention. If your network is working fine today, it goes to the bottom of the pile of things to worry about for another day. In most cases, no one is really watching to make sure the backups are being done correctly, if at all.

But ignoring backup and disaster recovery planning for these reasons is like saying that you’re too busy driving your car on the highway to put your seatbelt on. The true value of that simple preventative step isn’t appreciated until you’re in an accident; at that point you’re either extremely relieved that you planned ahead or incredibly sorry that you didn’t.

The same holds true with your business’s most important asset – data. Obviously, the information on your network is far more valuable than the server it lives on, but if you depend on having access to that data, then it’s time you get serious about protecting it from damage or loss.

During the month of September, we’re offering to give you a Backup Check to review your backup procedure and uncover any problems or failures you might not be aware of. If we find anything amiss, we’ll let you know and make a few recommendations on how to remedy the problem.

Don’t wait for a disaster to find out how important your data is! Contact us now at (717) 984-2343 and gain peace of mind.



Let's face it: in today's day and age, everybody gets viruses on their computers.

Even if you don't frequent any illicit or questionable sites, it's still extremely easy to collect all sorts of viruses and malware on your computer, even from sites you would believe to be safe. This drastic increase in the number of viruses and malware found "out in the wild" has led us to create our Managed Antivirus solution.

So, for less than the cost of one in-store Virus Removal incident (a \$129 value), for \$10 per month (per desktop computer) you can have unlimited in-shop and remote virus removal, 24/7 anti-virus monitoring, and up to date and always on anti-virus protection.

Keep your computer safe with our Managed Antivirus solution.

To sign up give us a call at (717) 984-2343.

What You Should Know About Microsoft Office 2007 End of Support

While it's great to hold onto software as long as it works for your business, there comes a time where every tool reaches its end of life. We discussed in prior newsletters this year what the Windows 7 end of life meant to you, but that isn't the only Microsoft product to expire this year.

Microsoft Office 2007 will no longer be supported by Microsoft after October 10, 2017. This is ten years after its initial release in January 2007.

If you're using Office 2007 in your company or at home, let's review what this means for you and your options for upgrading.

End of Life for Office 2007

When Microsoft software reaches the end of its life, it's effectively a dead product. Thus, after October 10, Office 2007 won't receive any further updates or security patches. In addition, Microsoft won't provide support for questions about Office 2007 or update its online documentation for the product.

While this isn't as bad as using an unsupported operating system, it still comes with risks. Malware can indeed find its way onto your computer via Office exploits. Once Microsoft isn't providing security patches, hackers can use vulnerabilities without fear of them being fixed. Those still using Office 2007 after October 10 could fall victim to attacks since the software won't be safe.

In addition, as of October 31, 2017, Outlook 2007 will be unable to connect to Office 365 mailboxes. Exchange mailboxes in Office 365 will require connections from Outlook for Windows to use MAPI over HTTP.

What Are Your Options

Microsoft has released several new versions of Office since 2007, so you have multiple choices. Office 2010, 2013, and 2016 are all available and will have longer support than Office 2007. Office 2010, for instance, will receive support until October 13, 2020. It doesn't make much sense to purchase Office 2010, since it won't be supported for much longer. Office 2013 could be purchased outright if you wanted to save money, as it carries a similar feature set to Office 2016.

The latest version, Office 2016, will see mainstream support until October 13, 2020 but won't reach its end of life until October 14, 2025, though. If you want to have the cutting-edge version of Office, look into Office 365.

Office 365 is Microsoft's subscription plan which has several tiers. For a set, per user per month, low-cost, you can purchase a subscription that includes access to all the latest Office apps. You're guaranteed to always have the latest Office version, whereas if you purchased Office outright, you would have to pay for the next version of Office when it becomes available.

While Office might not be as important of an upgrade as Windows, it's still vital that you don't have old, insecure versions of the program on your computer. Any weak link like this could be targeted by hackers and used against you – just as we saw with the end of life with Windows XP and Office 2003.

If you know that you have an Office 2007 environment, we can help you upgrade before it's too late. Contact us at (717) 984-2343 and let's talk about the best upgrade path for your needs.

Shiny Gadget of the Month:

Samsung Galaxy Note 8



The Galaxy Note 8 is probably one of the most hyped smartphones of 2017. Probably the only comparable phone in this regard is one that's set to arrive very soon, the Apple iPhone 8. Apple's 10th anniversary iPhone will be launched in September, around the same time the Galaxy Note 8 is to hit shelves.

The Samsung Galaxy Note 8 comes with a 6.30-inch touchscreen display with a resolution of 1440 pixels by 2960 pixels.

It's powered by 1.6GHz octa-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 835 processor and it comes with 6GB of RAM. The phone packs 64GB of internal storage that can be expanded up to 256GB via a microSD card. As far as the cameras are concerned, the Samsung Galaxy Note 8 packs a 12-megapixel primary camera on the rear and an 8-megapixel front camera.

It's running Android 7.1.1 and is powered by a 3300-mAh non-removable battery. It measures 162.50 height x 74.80 width x 8.60 thickness and weighs in at less than half a pound.

The phone is a single SIM (GSM) smartphone that accepts a Nano-SIM. Connectivity options include Wi-Fi, GPS, Bluetooth, NFC, USB OTG, Headphones, 3G and 4G. Sensors on the phone include Compass Magnetometer, Proximity, Accelerometer, Ambient Light, Gyroscope and Barometer.

You can now pre-order the Samsung Galaxy Note 8 at www.samsung.com for a starting price of \$929.99.

REAL ID Act: What You Need To Know

The REAL ID Act, passed by the U.S. Congress in 2005, requires changes to state standards, procedures and requirements for the issuance of driver's licenses and ID cards, if they are to be accepted as identity documents by the federal government.

Implemented after the 9/11 terror attacks, the REAL ID Act sets security standards for identification accepted by the federal government. Starting in 2018, the REAL ID Act will go into effect, administered by the Department of Homeland Security.

PA residents are starting to see changes in their driver's licenses, which include a larger primary photo, a special laminate and the removal of the magnetic strip. But one thing remains the same: it still does not meet federal requirements.

On May 26, 2017, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf signed SB 133 (Act 3 of 2017), which will allow PA to issue REAL ID compliant driver licenses and ID cards, which can be used to access airports and federal facilities.

Under the federal REAL ID Act, beginning January 22, 2018, residents in states which have not come into compliance with federal requirements or obtained an extension (PA is under a REAL ID enforcement extension until October 10, 2017), will need to show an alternative form of identification such as a passport at airports and when accessing federal buildings and military bases.

Unless the Department of Homeland Security grants the state continued extensions to become compliant, PA residents flying domestically will no longer be able to use their driver's licenses as identification at the airport after January 22.

Anyone who has a license issued by a state that is compliant or that has an extension to become compliant with REAL ID requirements may continue to use their license as usual.

Note: The REAL ID Act does not affect state privileges such as driving and voter eligibility, and will not be required by minors traveling domestically.

Do I Need To Get A REAL ID?

No, REAL ID is optional for PA residents. You will be able to get either a REAL ID driver's license or ID card, or a standard driver's license or ID card. If you have a valid U.S. passport or U.S. passport card, military ID, or another federally approved ID, you may use this as your form of identification to pass a TSA checkpoint at airports nationwide and visit a secure federal building or military installation at any time. If you know you will not be boarding a commercial flight or visiting a secure federal facility or military base, you do not have to get a REAL ID.

The REAL ID license and ID card will be available to PA residents early 2019. At this point, PennDOT says it's still too early to know how much a REAL ID-compliant card would cost or what the process would be to obtain one.

For more information on the REAL ID Act, go to: www.dhs.gov/real-id

For more information about PA and the REAL ID Act, go to: www.dmv.pa.gov/Information-Centers/Identity-Security/Pages/Real-ID-Act.aspx

The Lighter Side:

Labor Day History



Labor Day, an annual celebration of workers and their achievements, originated during one of American labor history's most dismal chapters. In the late 1800s, at the height of the Industrial Revolution in the United States, the average American worked 12-hour days and seven-day weeks in order to survive. Despite restrictions in some states, children as young as 5 or 6 toiled in mills, factories and mines across the country, earning a fraction of their adult counterparts' wages. People of all ages, particularly the poor and recent immigrants, often faced extremely unsafe working conditions, with insufficient access to fresh air, sanitary facilities and breaks.

As manufacturing increasingly succeeded agriculture as the wellspring of American employment, labor unions grew more prominent and vocal. They began organizing strikes and rallies to protest poor conditions and compel employers to renegotiate hours and pay. Many of these events turned violent during this period, including the infamous Haymarket Riot, in which several Chicago policemen and workers were killed.

The idea of a "workingmen's holiday," celebrated on the first Monday of September, caught on in other industrial centers across the country, and many states passed legislation recognizing it. Congress would not legalize the holiday until 12 years later, when a watershed moment in American labor history brought workers' rights squarely into the public view. Employees of the Pullman Palace Car Company in Chicago went on strike to protest wage cuts and the firing of union representatives.

In the wake of this massive unrest – and in an attempt to repair ties with American workers – Congress passed an act making Labor Day a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories. More than a century later, the true founder of Labor Day has yet to be identified.

Many credit Peter J. McGuire, cofounder of the American Federation of Labor, while others have suggested that Matthew McGuire, a secretary of the Central Labor Union, first proposed the holiday. Labor Day is still celebrated in cities and towns across the United States with parades, picnics, BBQs, fireworks displays and other public gatherings. For many Americans, particularly children and young adults, it represents the end of summer and the start of the back-to-school season.

Who Wants To Win a \$20 Gas Gift Card?

The Grand Prize Winner of last month's Trivia Challenge Quiz was Laurie Meiskey from Earl R. Martin located in New Holland, PA.



She was the first person to correctly answer our quiz question from last month:

Why was it that the Doors didn't play at Woodstock?

The correct answer was: B) They believed it would be a second-class festival

Now, here's this month's trivia question. The winner will receive a \$20 Gas Gift Card!

What year did Labor Day become an official federal holiday?

- A) 1882
- B) 1887
- C) 1894
- D) 1909

Call us right now with your answer! (717) 984-2343 or email info@callthenerds.com