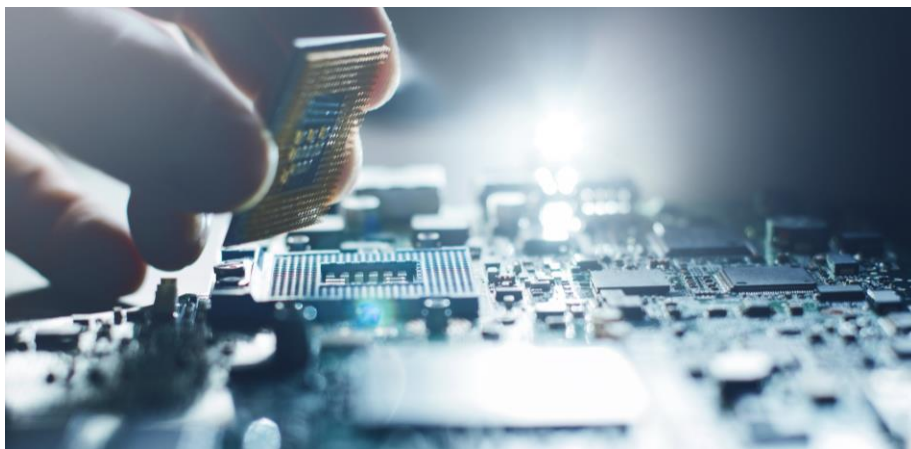


360IT PARTNERS

"We build lasting partnerships with our clients based on trust, communication, and consistency"



Do You Really Want the Cheapest Computer Technician Working on Your Company's Network?

These days, small businesses are more dependent on IT systems than at any other time in history. Because of this, even the slightest technological hiccups in our cyberspace-centered workflow can have expensive, lasting consequences. Perhaps the most dramatic illustration of this occurred back in 2013, when Amazon went dark for half an hour. Sure, it was a paltry 30 minutes, no big deal, until you consider the mega-giant was theoretically hemorrhaging \$66,240 every 60 seconds, based on their quarterly revenue.

Of course, your company probably isn't a staple of international commerce like Jeff Bezos' beloved brainchild. Because of this, many small business owners think that a downed server or small security breach here and there won't matter too much for their bottom line. For these unlucky few, IT takes a backseat to more "pressing" issues, and they go the cheap route with their technicians. This cost-cutting solution seems like the idea of the year, and will undoubtedly work great for the business — until it doesn't.

**December 2017
Virginia Beach, VA**

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**Happy Holidays
From
360IT Partners!**



Franklin, Isle of Wight, Southampton, Surry, and Sussex
www.blackwaterlib.org

Client Spotlight: Blackwater Regional Library

Blackwater Regional Library is a 10-branch library system that covers Surry, Sussex, Southampton and Isle of Wight Counties, as well as the City of Franklin. While providing the classic library offerings of print books and journals, Blackwater is also proud to offer a variety of online resources, including e-books, e-audiobooks, digital magazines and streaming movies. The branches are also the only point of free internet connectivity in

many of the communities we serve, which allows the staff to assist with hundreds of job applications, research projects and database searches every year. Our vision is to create a safe and attractive space that promotes creativity, literacy, community enrichment and life-long learning for everyone in our communities. For more information, please visit www.blackwaterlib.org

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Continued...

Maybe your long-time technicians fail to notice a piece of outdated equipment, and your server gives up the ghost during peak business hours. Virtually all work grinds to a halt, and your employees are forced to waste away the two hours shooting three-pointers into the trash bins. Add up the two hours of wasted wages for your entire team, the financial cost of missed business, and the much more intangible loss of customer goodwill as they struggle with diminished service on a workday, and you'll come up with a sum that disabuses any business owner of their illusions about "cheap" IT.

And that's not even close to the worst-case scenario. Imagine, for a minute, that your technicians assure you, despite the lack of regular monitoring and maintenance, your network is secure. These words of comfort sound nice until the day a team of expert hackers actually attempt to access your systems, and find outdated, ramshackle security solutions in place — basically, a front door left wide open. At that moment, your business becomes a criminal's playground. They're free to access financial information and personal data of your customers and employees, hijack your business to send out floods of malicious software and spam, hold nearly every aspect of the company ransom for thousands of dollars, and cause chaos to their hearts' content.

"These words of comfort sound nice until the day a team of expert hackers actually attempt to access your systems, and find outdated, ramshackle security solutions in place — basically, a front door left wide open."

The fact is, fixing problems is a lot more expensive than preventing them. When you cut corners and utilize subpar IT professionals (if any at all), you're paying for an array of shoddy, Band-Aid solutions that will be applied piecemeal, and usually too late, like a finger plugging a hole in a dam. But when you make a substantial investment in your IT support, you're investing in the most basic aspects of the future of your company.

Robust network security, dependable computers and servers, consistent internet access, and other fundamental components of your company network are far from luxury items. These days, technology forms the scaffolding upon which businesses run. If any piece of the operation fails, the whole system suffers, usually accompanied by a fat financial penalty.

There is an ever-growing, endless list of potential technological pitfalls that can have permanent consequences for your business: teams of hackers zeroing in on vulnerable small businesses, rogue employees with a grudge, lost laptops, aging and unreliable hardware, fire, natural disasters, and IT "professionals" that have no idea what they're doing, to name just a few. As technology progresses, and companies depend increasingly more on it to stay competitive, it simply doesn't make sense to relegate IT to the neglected corners of your budget.

When it comes to business, there's a lot to worry about these days. A total collapse of your company's technological infrastructure doesn't need to be one of them. Invest in a robust, managed IT package from tried-and-tested professionals, and leave the worrying to the experts. You can rest assured that our IT team of experts truly has you covered.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Earl Fitchett, On-Site Network Administrator

Earl has worked in IT since Windows 3.1. After retiring from AT&T as an IT Manager for the Business Call Center in Conyers, GA in 1998, Earl has worked for many diverse companies until joining 360IT Partners in 2015. Earl is an avid cyclist and has ridden many miles, to include crossing Iowa, Massachusetts and participating in various annual fundraisers, such as Tour de Cure. He is also very active as an audio tech at his church. Earl and his family enjoy spending time at the beach and traveling, where he enjoys scuba diving. He is a Pop-Pop to his granddaughter Everly Gray, and has another on the way in 2018.

Shiny New Gadget of the Month:



Air Selfie: The New Way to Take a Selfie

Move over, selfie sticks — it's time to take photo tech to the skies. The new Air Selfie, a pocket-sized camera equipped with four rotating fan propellers that allow it to take flight, aims to revolutionize the way we take pictures. The palm-sized device promises to take 5-megapixel, HD photos from up to 65 feet in the sky, steadied by an anti-vibration shock absorber that ensures images stay crisp and clear.

The hovering camera is the product by Air Selfie Holdings, an international team of developers and engineers, and is designed from the ground up to integrate seamlessly with your phone. To use it, all you do is slip it out from its charging case (which attaches directly to your smartphone), use the app to direct it to the desired height and orientation, and snap an aerial picture or video. The tech is available now, and with a \$320 price tag, is comparable to many other modern cameras. Check it out at AirSelfieCamera.com.

The No. 1 Most Important Word in Business, Which You Rarely Hear

Recently, a video podcaster named Nina asked me a simple question with complicated implications: "What's the most important mindset for success in business?"

At first, I doubted that I'd be able to identify a single mindset that was key to success. Ordinarily, my team and I emphasize the importance of context. Usually, it depends on a leader fitting a given situation, which has many variables that are difficult to reduce to a single answer.

That said, I realized there was one common mindset that I had observed in the many successful clients I've advised over the years — one severely lacking in those that continuously struggled. And not just casually, either. My firm has formally conducted over 17,000 in-depth interviews of leaders from all over the world, so we get to see which behaviors work in a variety of situations and which don't. I realized the single most important word in business, a word that you rarely ever hear, is *generosity*.

No, not honesty, kindness, respect, learning, empathy or even abundance. None of those things actually force you to be a proactive agent of change. Leaders who succeed are generous, and they treat people — whether they're customers, employees, shareholders or members of the community — with a fundamental mindset centered around that generosity. Those that lack the spirit of generosity never succeed in the long term.

Once when I was speaking with the CEO of a mortgage company, I almost immediately got a bad feeling about his character. He implied that his business succeeded by "tricking" low-income homeowners into signing up for mortgages that had hidden terms unfavorable to them. Well, of course, that mindset backfired. When the housing crisis hit in '08, his company and career were snuffed out under a pile of lawsuits.

In contrast, I remember being impressed early in my career by the mindset of a self-made billionaire named Ted Waitt — the owner of Gateway, that old computer company. When asked about his success, Ted talked about making computers, which were scary for most people at the time, friendlier and fun. Ted loved making technology less stressful for customers, giving good people good value for their dollar, an enjoyable buying experience and just generally being eager to make lives better through his products.

There are dozens of such examples, both of selfish business owners getting their comeuppance, and generous ones being rewarded with abundant success and positivity. If you can spread a spirit of generosity throughout your team, you'll see the benefits immediately.



Geoff Smart is Chairman and Founder of ghSMART. Geoff is co-author, with his colleague Randy Street, of the New York Times best-selling book *Who: The A Method for Hiring* and the author of the #1 Wall Street Journal best-seller *Leadocracy: Hiring More Great Leaders (Like You) into Government*. Geoff co-created the Topgrading brand of talent management. Geoff is the Founder of two 501c3 not-for-profit organizations. SMARTKids Leadership Program™ provides 10 years of leadership tutoring and the Leaders Initiative™ seeks to deploy society's greatest leaders into government. Geoff earned a BA in Economics with Honors from Northwestern University, an MA, and a PhD. in Psychology from Claremont Graduate University.

Want to Win A \$25 Gift Card?

Here's this month's question:

"Phishing" is an odd-looking word, but its origins aren't very mysterious. The perpetrators of these attacks are fishing for sensitive information and account logons, and substituting a "ph" for a good, honest "f" is classic hacker lingo. That "ph" substitution came from phone phreaking, a popular hacker pastime in the 1980s. What did phone phreaking entail?

- A) Destroying telephone-company infrastructure B) Making prank telephone calls to authority figures
C) Getting access to unlisted telephone numbers D) Hacking telephone services to make free calls

E-mail Haley at haley@360itpartners.com right now with your name, company, and answer!

She will put all correct answers in a hat and draw the winner at the end of the month.

Are Your Kids Careless with Online Passwords?

With corporations taking hits left and right from cybercriminals, security on the Internet has become more important than ever. Still, even as many of us step up the security of our online presence, stragglers who believe they're immune to such attacks abound. Based on a recent survey from Statista, young people are more careless with passwords. Thirty-four percent of people aged 18 to 34 years use the same password for "most online logins," compared to only 20% of the 35 to 54 demographic, and only 13% for those older than 55. In addition, a whopping 10% of 18- to 34- year-olds use the same password for all their online keys.

It goes without saying that this is bad practice. It can be all too easy to hack into a single, less secure account, but if different passwords are used for separate logins, it becomes much more difficult to access more important files in, say, a Gmail account or bank login. Not so if the passwords are identical.

- *BusinessInsider.com* 10/18/2017

Apps That Make Our Lives Easier, All Under \$10.

With new apps flooding the market every day, it can be difficult to pick out the ones that will assist you instead of just inspiring buyer's remorse. But there are dozens of apps that, despite their miniscule price tag, can have a small but lasting impact on your day-to-day. Take Dark Sky (\$4) for example. An up-to-the-minute accurate forecasting app that will break down weather information for exactly where you are at any given moment, down to when the expected rain or snowstorm will start and stop.

You can also check out Notability (\$9.99), which Business Insider calls "one of the best things to ever happen to note-taking." The app allows you to markup PDFs and photos, take voice recordings, and a number of other functions, with everything stored in the cloud. Those young people mentioned above who have trouble keeping more than one password might appreciate 1Password (Free), a dedicated place to guard all your passwords behind one difficult-to-hack password.

-*BusinessInsider.com* 10/26/2017

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