360 IT PARTNERS

"Partnering With Us Makes Your Business Run Faster, Easier And Increases Profitability"

10 Things You Must Do Now To Prevent A Costly Data Disaster

In less than 60 seconds, you are about to learn 10 things that could save you days – or even weeks – of downtime, not to mention the undue stress on your company, and potentially thousands of dollars lost, due to a data disaster… Use this article as your checklist in a conversation with your IT company to assure that your business has the right plan in place to get back up and running quickly if and when disaster strikes.

1. **Keep a written plan.** Simply thinking through in ADVANCE what needs to happen when things go south on you, and documenting it, can go a long way toward getting your network back up and running quickly if it gets hacked, flooded or compromised by human error or equipment failure.

Outline the types of disasters that could happen, and a step-by-step recovery process. Be sure to include a budget, what to do, who should do it and how. Store printed copies along with key contact information and login details for essential websites 1) in a fireproof safe, 2) off-site at your home, 3) at each key employee's home and 4) with your IT consultant.

2. **Hire a trusted professional to help you.** Trying to recover data after a disaster without professional help is business suicide. One misstep can result in weeks of downtime, or permanent data loss.

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Inside This Issue…

Do you love your phones?

Our partner, Nextiva, delivers a phone and service that you will love! Call us today for a free demo.

Client Spotlight: Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport

The Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport (PHF) is located in the heart of Newport News, Virginia. The airport is served by: American Airlines and Delta Air Lines with non-stop domestic service to Atlanta, Charlotte and Philadelphia with connections throughout the world. PHF also offers passengers convenient and up close parking options, airport parking lot shuttles, courtesy skycap assistance, foreign currency exchange, free Wi-Fi throughout the terminal, food/beverage and gift concessions, as well as a USO. PHF is an easy drive to anywhere in Coastal Virginia via interstate 64 and is the closest airport to Colonial Williamsburg and historic Yorktown and Jamestown. For more information, visit us on the web at www.flyphf.com or follow us on www.facebook/FLYPHF.

Discover More Information About Our Dynamic Services and Team: www.360itpartners.com

Continued…

To improve your odds of a quick recovery, work with a pro who has experience in both setting up your plan and helping you recover when a loss occurs.

3. **Have a communications plan.** What if your employees can't access your office, e-mail or phone system – how should they communicate with you? Make sure your plan details the alternatives, including MULTIPLE ways to stay in touch.

4. **Automate your backups.** THE #1 cause of data loss is human error. If your backup system depends on a human being doing something, it's a recipe for disaster. ALWAYS automate your backups so they run like clockwork.

5. **Keep an off-site backup copy of your data.** On-site backups are a good first step, but if they get flooded, burned or hacked along with your server, you're out of luck. ALWAYS maintain a recent copy of your data off-site.

6. **Be able to access and manage your network remotely.** You and your staff will be able to keep working if they can't get into your office. Your IT manager or consultant can quickly handle an emergency or routine maintenance. And you'll love the convenience!

7. **Image your server.** Storing your *data* off-site is great – but bear in mind, if your *system* goes down, the software and architecture that handles all that data must be RESTORED for it to be of any use. Imaging your server creates a replica of the original, saving you an enormous amount of time and energy in getting your network back in gear. Best of all, you don't have to worry about losing your preferences, configurations or favorites.

8. **Document your network.** Network documentation is simply a blueprint of the software, data, systems and hardware that comprise your company's network. Let your IT manager or consultant create this for you. It'll save you time and money in the event your network needs to be restored.

It also speeds up everyday repairs and maintenance on your network when technicians don't have to waste time figuring out where things are and how they're configured. Plus, it may help with insurance claims in the event of losses due to a disaster.

9. **Maintain your system.** While fires, flooding and other natural disasters are certainly a risk, it's ever more likely that you'll experience downtime due to a virus, worm or hacker attack. That's why it's critical to keep your network patched, secure and up-to-date. And don't forget: deteriorating hardware and corrupted software can wipe you out. Replace and update them as needed to steer clear of this threat.

10. **Test, test, test!** If you're going to go to the trouble of setting up a plan, at least make sure it works! Hire an IT pro to test monthly to make sure your systems work properly and your data is secure. After all, the worst time to test your parachute is AFTER you jump out of the plane.

Need help getting this implemented? Contact us by June 15 at ***757-499-6761*** or

Luke@360itpartners.com for a FREE Backup And Disaster Recovery Audit.
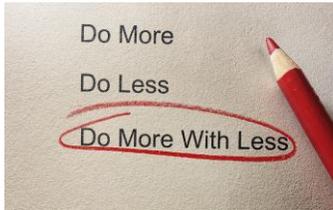

Employee Spotlight

Tanner Wood, Systems Engineer

Tanner was born and raised in Virginia Beach. When he is away from his passion of working with technology, he enjoys working on his custom water cooled PC, playing computer games, checking out local craft breweries, and of course spending time with his wife and daughter.

Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:

All This... For Just Five Bucks???

If you haven't tried Fiverr.com yet, you're in for a treat. Fiverr is a global online marketplace where freelancers offer to perform an amazing variety of tasks and services, starting at just $5.00.

Need a whiteboard-style video for your website? A new logo? Help creating a PowerPoint or Prezi presentation? Then you need to check out Fiverr.

To get started, just go to Fiverr.com. And for best results, follow these five rules:

1. **Steer clear of bad gigs** – Buying hundreds of backlinks for your website might sound cool... Then again, you might be in for a nasty surprise. If a gig *seems* fake, it just might be... Find another gig.
2. **Shop around** – Compare different sellers and use the "Favorites" feature to build a shopping list before you buy.
3. **Examine closely** – Check reviews, response time, number of gigs completed and gig details. Questions? Ask the seller *before* buying.
4. **Communicate clearly** – Save time by spelling out in exact detail what you want in your order.
5. **Accept nothing less than perfection** – Top sellers are often happy to make revisions until you're happy.

Okay? Ready, set...go save a boatload on your first Fiverr gig!

Announcement from the Help Desk

We are proud to announce that in the month of April, 360IT Partners brought on two new team members, Kevin Beaton and Ray Maalihan. Kevin and Ray will both serve our clients as Help Desk Analysts. They are both US Veterans and hold degrees from ECPI. We are excited to grow our fantastic team with these two additions and they are eager to get to know each of our clients.

Ubiquiti mPower Pro Power Outlet

Sick of manually restarting your cable modem? The Ubiquiti mPower Pro Power Outlet could be the perfect solution. This power strip is Wi-Fi and internet enabled and gives you access to Ubiquiti's management software. The software can be programmed to automatically reset any specific outlet that is not responding to pings. In other words, if your cable modem doesn't respond after a certain number of attempts, this device will reset the modem. This eliminates the need to manually check and reset your cable modem! Email Luke at Luke@360itpartners.com if you see a need for one in your company.

360IT Favorite!

Want To Win A $25 Gift Card?

Ready to Play?
Here's this month's question:

Amazon was not the name Jeff Bezos originally selected for his Internet start-up company in 1995. What name was his first pick?

a) Kagera   b) Bookmeister   c) Juggernaut   d) Cadabra

E-mail Kirsten Conti (kirsten@360itpartners.com) Right Now With Your Name, Company, and Answer!
She will put all the correct answers in a hat and draw the winner at the end of each month.

Hate waiting for pages to load on your smartphone? There's an "AMP" for that.
And no, that's not a misspelling of "app"…it's an acronym for *Accelerated Mobile Pages*. As you may have noticed, there's a little problem with the mobile web… You click a link on your smartphone, eager to consume the content… What shows up is a spastic jumble of jerky images, videos and ads as the page loads…eventually…if you care to wait. (40% of people bail after three seconds.) Google's new AMP Project aims to fix that. "AMPed" pages load almost instantly with a simple, easy-to-consume format. To see it for yourself, pull out your smartphone and visit g.co/ampdemo.   -*Copyblogger*

Virtual Reality - Useless gimmick, or valuable marketing tool for your business?
According to investment firm Piper Jaffray, there will be $5.4 billion worth of virtual reality devices on the market by 2025. The uses for small business are limited only by imagination. A roofing company, for instance, could, with this technology, give their prospective customers a live virtual tour of their roof, demonstrating its condition and places where they need to replace shingles – *without* having to climb up on it. A roofer could also show a prospective customer what various colored shingles would actually look like on the roof by placing a hologram on it. Think VR is some far-fetched future techno-dream? Pull out your smartphone and check out "Monocle" on the Yelp app.
-*MarketingLand.com*

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