

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

Go Mobile -Without Killing Your Data

What if you could tap into the top talent in your industry, no matter where in the world they are? With the power of the mobile web, your all-star team is now – literally – at your fingertips.



Consider this: 83% of workers report that they prefer using cloud apps over those deployed on-premise. Millennials, who will make up almost 50% of the available workforce by 2020, are "digital natives." And don't forget how much money remote workers allow you to save on real estate and office equipment.

Yet there are risks. Spreading your network around the world on a variety of devices you don't control can expose your data in more ways than ever before. The key is to find the right balance between protection and productivity. Here, then, are five ways to effectively "mobilize" your workforce – *without* endangering your data:

Collaborate In The Cloud – A plethora of online collaboration tools have sprung up that make it easy for a geographically dispersed team to access and share the same files in real time. These tools not only make sharing easy and instantaneous, they help your team communicate quickly and effectively.

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Worried about replacing your aging phone system?

Our partnership with Nextiva provides a concierge level of service and we will walk you through the process step by step! Call us today to schedule a consultation with our in-house expert.





Client Spotlight



THE CENTER FOR AGING

Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia is the regional not-for-profit organization that helps seniors and adults with disabilities live with choice and dignity in their communities. Its headquarters and satellite offices assist citizens in the cities of Chesapeake, Franklin, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach, and in Isle of Wight and Southampton counties. Programs and services include case management, in-home care, home-delivered meals, Care Transitions, wellness classes, I-Ride transportation, Medicare benefits counseling, and more. In 2015, more than 7,780 people throughout the Southeastern Virginia region were served. To learn more about Senior Services, please call 757-461-9481, connect with us on Facebook or Twitter, or visit ssseva.org.

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Tools like Slack, HipChat, Asana, Podio and Trello – to mention just a few of the most popular options – are proving to make teams more productive. And that includes keeping critical data safe and secure.

Expand Elastically – In-house investments in IT hardware, software and staff can lock you into a rigid structure that can't easily adapt to changes in demand. A cloud-based mobile workforce is able to contract and expand more easily as needs arise, and with very little loss of capital. Bottom line: use a VPN (virtual private network) and cloud-based collaboration tools to remain agile, flexible and competitive.

Cut Costs Dramatically – Physical work areas, equipment, software and on-site security expenses can add up. Instead of spending money on office space, equipment and infrastructure, invest it in innovation and refinement. Combine the power of the cloud with a well-designed workflow to reduce the number of people needed to get things done. That will free up your key players to focus on more important tasks – the ones that boost productivity and ROI.

Deal With BYOD – Let's face it, BYOD (bring your own device) can be your greatest IT security threat. Yet, like it or not, workers will use their own devices on the job. Foisting strict controls without buy-in will just backfire. Yet doing nothing simply makes you a sitting duck for a cyber-attack. Solution? First, audit how your employees use their devices. Note the data they access and the apps they rely on. Group them by the levels of security and compliance they need to be governed by. A CEO, for example, may need to abide by financial regulations. An HR manager must deal with employment laws. Armed with information from your audit, you can roll out new policies as well as technical and process controls. Train your team in safe practices. And be sure to contact us for help in getting all this done securely and effectively.

Go Remote Without Risk – Whether you want to cut commuting time for your team, tap into the talents of experts outside your locale or simply accommodate a worker caring for family members, mobilizing your workforce can have big benefits. The trick is defending it at all points. Make sure remote workers share files and communicate with other employees only via a secured network. Make sure they use adequate virus protection. And, if they are using WiFi, either at home or on the road, make sure they do it safely. For instance, ensure that their tablet isn't set to automatically connect to the default wireless network. That's often an easy access point for hackers.

Free Mobile Risk Assessment - Limited Time Only!

To help you manage a mobile workforce without endangering your data, we're giving away a Free Mobile Risk Assessment, normally valued at over \$300, to the first 10 companies who request it by September 30. E-mail **luke@360itpartners.com** or **call the office at 757-499-6761** to set yours up today. It's your best bet for keeping ahead of the competition – while keeping your company's data safe and secure.



Employee Spotlight

Bobby Keller, Systems Engineer

In his spare time Bobby likes to play, watch, and referee ice hockey. He also likes to play video games, dance, and paintball. Most of all, he enjoys spending time with his two dogs and lovely wife Lauren. Bobby is pursuing different certifications in his field.

Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:



FitBark Keeps You And Your Dog Healthy

Do you know how well your dog slept last night? How much nutrition – or exercise – your dog really needs? Whether your pup is being well-cared for at doggy day care?

With FitBark you would know all this, and more, about your favorite canine pal.

Doggy health monitors are nothing new. But, according to hundreds of verified reviews on Amazon, Best Buy, App Store and Google Play, FitBark leads the pack.

FitBark attaches to your dog's collar and shares data with FitBark Explore, a dog health data bank that collaborates with over 20 leading universities and research institutions in North America and Europe to gain a better understanding of dog health.

You benefit from all this data by tapping into what FitBark calls truly unprecedented insights into canine health and data. All toward keeping Fido – and you – on the path to health and happiness.

\$59.95 at Fitbark.com.

Dealing With The Dark Side Of Social Media

Social media has become a true amplifier, permeating every nook and cranny of the web, giving a megaphone to those who might have previously found themselves voiceless.

While the general belief is that the proliferation of the social web is a good thing, there is a dark side that is difficult, if not impossible, to ignore.

It's easy to get mad, get on your computer and allow emotions to run amok. And that can come back to bite you. Yet there are times you shouldn't acquiesce to digital bullies and you need to take a stand.

Here are a few tips on how to keep your social media actions in check, and how to react to others who just can't seem to control theirs:

How do I think through my social media actions in a heated moment?

If you wouldn't say it to your grandmother, don't write it on Facebook. It feels good to blast an opponent, but such outbursts can easily be used against you.

Remember that everything you say or do on the web is archived. Consider everything you write on the Internet to be permanent. Trolls may delete their comments, but they still leave a trail.

Still debating saying it? Sleep on it. If you really feel the need to say something that might be taken the wrong way, consider sitting on it overnight. Waiting until the next day will rarely hurt your point, and it may save huge amounts of embarrassment.

If you do say it...make sure you feel you could defend it in a court of law. Falsely accusing someone of something is a big deal, and the repercussions could amplify beyond your original intentions.

How do I react when I am targeted on social media?

Grab screenshots. If someone truly is going after you, the first move is to gather evidence. Make sure you have copies. Odds are that they will quickly realize what they have done and will try to erase their trail, so the best thing you can do is make sure you have a copy on hand.

Report them. Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook and most other platforms have guards against those who harass others. Don't hesitate to put in a report – that's why those guards are there!

We live in a world where unscrupulous people have migrated to online communities and live among the rest of us. I hope you never have to use the above actions, but when you do, I hope they serve you well.

Want To Win A \$25 Gift Card?

Ready to Play?

Here's this month's question:

Japanese computer-gaming company Nintendo was founded in which one of the following years?

a) 1929

b) 1962

c) 1889

d) 1971

E-mail Kirsten (<u>kirsten@360itpartners.com</u>) 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.

Are you addicted to your work?

To find out, rate yourself 1 to 5 on the following statements. Give yourself a 5 for "often" and 1 for "rarely":

- a) You think of how to free up more time to work. b) You spend more time working than initially intended.
- c) Your work helps you reduce feelings of guilt, anxiety, helplessness and depression. d) You get stressed when you can't work. e) You set aside hobbies, leisure pursuits and exercise in favor of work. If you averaged 4 to 5, then you may be at least mildly addicted to your work. Is that a bad thing? Not necessarily. While your well-being requires a certain amount of balance, having the drive, enthusiasm and energy to achieve impossible goals marks many of the most successful entrepreneurs. -Forbes

Did you know your iPhone could do this?

Respond to texts without unlocking the phone. When you get a notification, swipe left on the message and a blue "Reply" button appears. Just tap it and text away! Take a photo with the volume button. For that ultimate, one-handed selfie, open the camera app and press the "+" button for volume on the side of your phone. Have Siri read your texts out loud. This is a great tool for when your hands aren't free or you're on the road. Press the volume button and hold it. When the beep sounds, tell Siri, "Read my texts." When done reading, she'll ask you what to do with the messages. You can have her reply or read them again.

-Entrepreneur

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

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