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Lunch & Learn: Is Cloud Computing Right for Your Business?



Join us for our upcoming lunch & learn!

Date: Thursday, September 19, 2019

Time: 11:45 am - 1:00 pm

Location: Firebirds Wood Fired Grill, Winston Salem, NC

Registration: Visit [tcsusa.com/calendar/](https://www.tcsusa.com/calendar/) or call us at 336.804.8449

Cost: Free

Presenters: Barry Utesch, President, Total Computer Solutions

Key Topics for Discussion:

- In-house server vs. the cloud
- Significant benefits for moving to the cloud
- Small to medium size businesses leveraging enterprise technology
- Assessing your cloud readiness



NSA Warns: Upgrade Your Outdated Windows OS Now!

The NSA has added their voice to the growing concern about the vulnerabilities in older Windows operating systems. While these systems are easier to use and occupy less space on your storage device, they will become obsolete starting January 14, 2020. Microsoft will officially stop releasing updates for Windows 7, Windows XP, Windows Vista as well as Windows Server 2003 and 2008.

What is the looming BlueKeep vulnerability?

While you may want to ignore the warnings - even from Microsoft themselves - you need to be aware that a potential loophole known as BlueKeep which exists in the remote desktop part of these operating systems. Cybercriminals can exploit this loophole to access your workstation, install malicious programs on it, gain access to data, and even seal it off from you.

BlueKeep technically referred to as CVE-2019-0708 by Microsoft, is a security vulnerability in Windows XP, Windows 7 and Windows Server 2003 and 2008 versions of the Remote Desktop Protocol application.

About 1 million PCs have these versions of the RDP and are connected to the internet; hence, the threat of a cyber attack.

Security patch release

Microsoft has since rushed to release a security update for devices with the old operating systems which it does not support any longer. However, from January 14, 2020, Microsoft will cease any support for these devices and, it will include:

- Security updates
- Feature updates
- Tech assistance
- Security patches

Why you should upgrade

Continued Microsoft support

As from January 14, 2020, Microsoft will discontinue any form of support for the older operating systems. If you are still using them, you will be on your own. One reason to upgrade to a new operating system is to be sure to enjoy continued Microsoft support. Switching to Windows 10 will enable you to utilize an operating system that is well within its life cycle.

Continuity of your business

Continued on inside

Upcoming Events

Webinar: Lean Six Sigma

August 15, 2019

Lunch & Learn: Is Cloud Computing Right for Your Business?

September 19, 2019

Lunch & Learn: Security Awareness

October 3, 2019

For more information on our upcoming events, please visit <https://www.tcsusa.com/calendar/>.

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Upgrading to a newer operating system may incur costs - but it will be nothing compared to the negative reputation your business might get if you do not. Without technical support from Microsoft, you are likely to experience complications in your old systems, such as programs freezing during video-conferencing, failure to complete transactions due to security lapses or a complete collapse of the entire system. Such issues would sound a death knell for your business.

Save on costs

You may incur considerable costs to upgrade to Windows 10 as it may require a complete overhaul of your hardware. However, you can find affordable Windows 10 compatible PCs at the stores so you can cut down on the expenditure. But in the long run, it will prove a worthwhile investment since you will be immune from vulnerabilities such as BlueKeep, which attackers can exploit to pulverize your business.

You will also enjoy enhanced security features with the latest operating system. Microsoft has included the Advanced Threat Protection in the system. All you need is an E5 license, and you will be able to check the system for potential threats yourself. This means that your data, as well as connections to the cloud services, will be secure.

How to upgrade

The best way forward in upgrading is to migrate to new devices compatible with Windows 10. Some older devices can be upgraded if they happen to meet the minimum requirements but may present problems soon. Besides, some new devices are even less expensive than the old machines.

If you need to ensure the smooth operations of your business will continue, you can contact us today for a no-obligation consultation to help you assess the security status of your computers. Our staff is on hand to help your business remain productive beyond the January 14, 2020 deadline.

Backing Up Your Data: Where Should You Store It?

If your business has never experienced data loss, then you might not fully understand the importance of data backup. However, you need to have reliable and efficient data backup systems in place as mitigation for any unfortunate eventuality. Here are some grim statistics on the disastrous nature of a possible data loss:

- 20% of small to medium business face the possibility of a critical data loss every 5 years, which often result in a disaster.

- 40% of the small to medium businesses using the internet will have their networks hacked by a cybercriminal. Worse still, 50% of them hardly realize their systems have been hacked.
- 93% of the businesses that suffered a data downtime of more than 10 days filed for bankruptcy in less than a year. 50% of these companies filed for bankruptcy on the spot.

How to store your data safely

Physical media

You may have to invest in alternative data storage hardware, ranging from solid-state drives, hard disks, and servers. Remember that a backup copy of your files on your PC may not amount to much if the PC gets compromised.

However, you need to be aware that these physical storage devices have their limitations. They may malfunction, crash, or get stolen altogether. Besides, the initial cost of setting them up can be too high. For these reasons, you have to consider another option - moving to the cloud.

Moving to the Cloud

You may already be in the cloud, if you are using Gmail, Microsoft's OneDrive, or Yahoo mail. If your business has access to a high-speed stable internet connection, consider investing in cloud storage. It involves storing and backing up your files on a virtual online location so you can access them whenever and wherever the need arises. It means that you have to sign up for cloud storage services so you can upload your data.

Cloud storage has the advantage of flexibility since you can access your information from any internet-enabled device connected to the network. Also, it is can be more secure since it has the security features of the cloud system which you can employ alongside those of your business.

Why you need to back up your data

Continuity of your business

Every business requires continuous, uninterrupted access to its data. When your servers crash or get hacked, several critical activities of your business may come to a halt. These important activities include communications with your clients and suppliers and filing of business records. Disrupted communications may give your clients and suppliers a bad impression thus, casting the image of your business into disrepute. Backing up data means you can

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restore everything within the shortest time and get back to business as usual.

Safety net against cybercriminals

The threat of data downtime is real. Cybercriminals have upped their game and are now targeting any business. You may fall victim to a ransomware attack, and whether you pay the bad actors or not, the harm on your business would be catastrophic. But storing your files in a safe and reliable backup would leave the hackers smacking their heads in dismay because you would only have to reconfigure your systems and retrieve your info within a short time.

Cutting costs of data recovery

Once you have secured your data in an efficient backup system, it would be cheaper to recover it in the event of a downtime. If you do not back up your data, you may have to overhaul the entire system to get your business back on track, which could be very costly.

Planning can go a long way to mitigate any possible interruption to the data flow in your business. Our team of professionals can offer assistance in the backup and disaster recovery assessment of the status of your valuable data. Contact us for further info.

TCS Spotlight: Angie Goodwin & Jody Byrd



Last month our Analyst, Jody and Service Coordinator, Angie attended IT Nation Explore in Orlando, Florida. Attendees were exposed to in-depth ConnectWise platform training and hands-on product training. The conference provided opportunities for seeing the latest industry trends and innovations while connecting with industry experts.

Digital Newsletter

If you would like to receive our newsletter digitally, please visit tinyurl.com/jcqv2r6.



Lean Six Sigma

Date: Thursday, August 15, 2019

Time: 10:00 am ET

Presenter: Zach Guthrie,
President, The Guthrie Group

Cost: Free

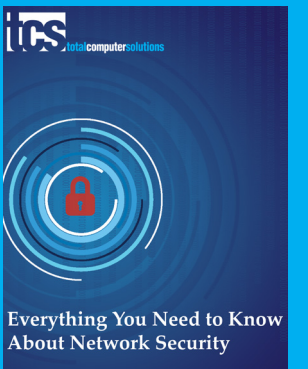
Registration: Visit
tcsusa.com/calendar/ or call
us at 336.804.8449.



If you are interested in attending our upcoming webinar, please visit tcsusa.com/calendar/ or call us at 336.804.8449. For more information about The Guthrie Group visit www.guthriegroup.com.

FREE Guide: Everything You Need to Know About Network Security

Every organization that has computers on the Internet needs to be concerned with network security. Neglecting it will lead, sooner or later, to malware infections or data breaches. Security involves many factors including hardware, software, and people. Understanding its basics is the first step toward having safer data. Throughout this guide, we will walk you through everything you need to know about network security and provide you with tips for creating a plan for securing your network.



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