# **TECHSAGE TECH TALK**

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

## What's New

For All The Mothers Happy Mother's Day

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## **May 2017**



This Monthly Publication provided courtesy of John Hill, President of TechSage Solutions.

We are Business Consultants with a

Technology Focus and have Leveraged Technology to Propel Our Clients Toward Competitive Success in the San Antonio area for sixteen years. Our goal is to Simplify the use of Information Technology for our Clients so that they can focus on managing and growing their businesses.



stroll in the park... softball...
fishing... a few rounds of golf...
Yet how could you possibly relax
if some random bit of malware, software
glitch or cyber-attack catches you off
guard just as you're walking out the door?
A well-designed secure computer network
gives you the confidence that "all systems
are go," whether you're having fun in the
sun, or just getting things done with your
team.

ummer is upon us... Time for a

Here's a quick nine-step checklist we use to ensure that a company's computer network, and the data for that business, is safe and secure from disruption, if not absolute devastation:

 A written recovery plan. Simply thinking through what needs to happen when things go south, and documenting it all IN ADVANCE, can go a long way toward getting your network back up and running quickly if it gets hacked, impacted by natural disaster or compromised by human error.

- 2. Have a clear communication plan.

  What if your employees can't access your office, e-mail or phone system?

  How will they communicate with you? Make sure your communications plan details every alternative, including MULTIPLE ways to stay in touch in the event of a disaster.
- a. Automate your data backups. THE #1 cause of data loss is human error. If your backup system depends on a human being always doing something right, it's a recipe for disaster. Automate your backups wherever possible so they run like clockwork.
- 4. Have redundant off-site backups. 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.

Continued pg.2

5. Enable remote network access.

> Without remote access to your network, you and your staff won't be able to keep working in the event that you can't get into your office. To keep your business going, at the very minimum, you need a way for your IT specialist

THE #1 cause of data loss is human error. If your backup system depends on a human being always doing something right, it's a recipe for disaster. Automate your backups wherever possible so they run like clockwork."

all your preferences, configurations, favorites and more.

Maintain an upto-date network "blueprint." To rebuild all or part of your network, you'll need a blueprint of the software, data, systems and hardware that comprise your company's network. An IT professional can create this for

Be certain that you have all 9 steps fully covered with our FREE **Disaster Recovery Audit.** 

wipe you out. Replace and update

threat.

the plane.

them as needed to steer clear of this

Test, Test! If you're going to go

to the trouble of setting up a plan, at

least make sure it works! An IT

make sure your systems work

professional can check monthly to

properly and your data is secure.

After all, the worst time to test your

parachute is AFTER you jump out of

Contact us at (210)582-5814 or info@techsagesolutions.com to schedule our Disaster Recovery Audit FREE of charge, now through May 31. Contact us TODAY to get scheduled!

to quickly step in when needed.

6. System images are critical. Storing your data off-site is a good first step. But if your system is compromised, the software and architecture that handles all that data MUST be restored for it to be useful. 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, should the need arise. Without it, you risk losing

you. It could save you a huge amount of time and money in the event your network needs to be restored.

Don't ignore routine maintenance. While fires, flooding and other natural disasters are always a risk, it's more likely that you'll have downtime due to a software or hardware glitch or cyber-attack. That's why it's critical to keep your network patched, secure and up-to-date. Deteriorating hardware and corrupted software can

BUSINESS OWNER MUST KNOW ABOUT HIRING AN HONEST, COMPETENT, RESPONSIVE AND FAIRLY PRICED CONSULTANT

21 Revealing Questions You Should Ask Any Computer Consultant Before Giving Them Access To Your Company's Network

WHAT EVERY

COMPUTER

Free Report Download: What Every Business Owner Must Know About Hiring An Honest, Competent, Responsive and Fairly Priced Computer Consultant

#### You will learn:

- The "Dirty Little Secret" of the computer repair industry that most people don't know and will never be told by their IT Guy.
- 21 Revealing Questions that will help you instantly spot an unethical or grossly incompetent computer repair/support technician in minutes.
- 4 costly misconceptions most business owners have about computer maintenance and repair, on of which you will need to know about BEFORE even picking up the phone.
- Why "Cheap" or "Lowest Price" computer repair shops aren't the bargain they initially appear.

Claim Your FREE Copy Today at www.techsagesolutions.com/21questions/

TechSage is exhibiting in the San Antonio Manufacturing Association Tradeshow May 10th at Freeman Coliseum Exposition Hall B

Every year, SAMA puts on a fantastic tradeshow and you are invited to attend as our guest. This year's theme is Texas Reshoring: Made in the USA.

If you would like to attend, be our guest by going to www.itsuperhero.rocks and register.



IT Security Tip #9: If you install it, you must update it!

There are thousands of hackers who get up every morning with ONE goal in mind: to find a new vulnerability in a commonly installed software (like Adobe, Flash or QuickTime) to access your computer. That's why these companies frequently issue patches and updates for KNOWN security bugs; and once a KNOWN vulnerability is announced via a patch, hackers get to work like crazy trying to figure out how to use the vulnerability and access those users who are lazy about installing updates. That's why it's important to update installed software programs as soon as possible.

Of course, if you're a client of ours, we're monitoring your network for these updates and handling them for you; but your home computers, smartphone and other devices that may NOT be under our protection probably need a little attention.

Sign up for our weekly Security Tips www.techsagesolutions.com/cybersecuritytips/

## **EntreLeadership**

"the process of leading to cause a venture to grow and prosper"

Dave Ramsey

Who has not heard of Dave Ramsey, the money advisor money man? I read this book several years ago, and I decided to revisit the book by listening to the audiobook. If forgot how excellent this book is and was entertained by Mr. Ramsey since he narrated the book.

Dave shares his champion playbook and lessons learned through the years. If you are familiar with Financial Peace University, you know Dave's story when he went from being a successful real estate agent to losing everything to having a very successful business again.

Below are some of the take-aways Dave share are:

- Hire and create your team, not employees.
- Manage and spend your time well by prioritizing the to-do list.
- Schedule and assign deadlines for all important activities.
- Track the businesses finances and manage them well.
- Pay cash for everything (this is a given coming from Dave Ramsey).
- There are more, but you have to read the book to discover them.

Interested in this book? For the first person that e-mails me at <a href="ehill@techsagesolutions.com">ehill@techsagesolutions.com</a>, I will send you a copy of the book. Put in the Subject Line: EntreLeadership.



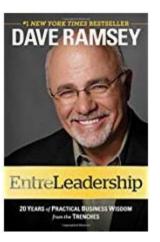
## **Referral Contest!!**

Refer a friend to TechSage Solutions between January 1, 2017 - June 30, 2017 for a chance to win a Amazon Tap—Alexa Enabled Portable Bluetooth Speaker. A qualified lead places your name in the drawing.

#### **How the Contest Works:**

- 1) Call or email us with your referral information.
- 2) We will call to schedule an appointment.
- 3) We will pay you or donate \$25 to your favorite charity for anyone that you refer to us, who we get an appointment with.
- 4) When your referral becomes a client (and spends \$1,000 or more), we will pay you \$75 more or donate \$75 more to your favorite charity. Plus, we will give your referral \$100 off the purchase.
- 5) What makes a good referral for TechSage Solutions? A business owner who has 10 or more PC's and needs help with their network, data backups, email server or is just interested in having a second opinion on how they are doing things now. We provide service to the San Antonio area and surrounding cities.

Send an email to ehill@techSagesolutions.com or call (210) 582-5814.



### Shiny New Gadget of The Month:



## Surface Studio: All **Beauty, A Little Brains**

"We want to move from people needing Windows...to loving Windows."

So said CEO Satya Nadella after taking over Microsoft. And their new Surface Studio takes a bold step in that direction.

In a bid to win over creative types, they designed the Studio with a gorgeous desktop screen that easily glides from vertical to almost horizontal, like an artist's sketchpad. With its Apple Computer-like brushed aluminum finish and ultra-thin screen, it's feels right at home in an open-plan office with microbrews on tap.

The guts of the machine are stuffed into a nine-inch-long base that's joined to the screen with an überslick hinge design, allowing it to fold nearly flat for stylusor touch-driven design work.

Downsides? Well, you'll pay at least \$3,000. And it's a bit underpowered to be in that price range. But all in all, even the graphically challenged will find this machine tantalizing.

## **Believe You Can Be Extraordinary**

I left my home some 7,000 miles away with little money in my pocket. I was eager - and

My father died when I was six, and I came to America for college with the words of my mother still ringing in my ears: "If you want to be a great person, you have to walk side by side, hand in hand, with great people."

She was right. I have been blessed. And so many people have helped. Before coming to High Point College, I lived off campus at Mt. Olive College, and the housemother slipped into my bank account enough money for me to buy my first car - a used car. She told me she'd rather invest her money in a promising young man than park it somewhere in a bank. What an angel.

In 1993, two years after High Point College became High Point University, the school elected me to its board of trustees. Eleven years later, my fellow board members asked a question that would change my future forever.

Nido, they asked, will you lead HPU? In January 2005, HPU appointed me as its seventh president, and I saw my alma mater to be a God, family and country school that could emphasize the values and fundamentals that built America.

No apologies for that. As a patriot to the core, I remember what this country and campus did for me - and what higher education needs to do for others in the 21st century.

Students come to campus armed with iPhones loaded with apps, and they've gotten used accessing anything in the world with a tou their screen. Good for them - and us. But must not confuse accessing information w obtaining knowledge. The two are not the same.

An education must be holistic, impacting t mind, heart and soul. And that includes

understanding not just the how, but the why.

Couple that with an entrepreneurial spirit and an awareness of what built America in the first place, and I believe an education like this will set students on a trajectory of achievement and stewardship.

At High Point University, in the seminars I teach for freshmen and seniors, we cover all kinds of topics, from time management to fiscal literacy.

But the timeless principles I focus on pertain to all of us. Who you spend time with is who you become. Be a job creator, not a job taker. Stand for something or you will fall for anything. Change your words and change your

They need to hear someone say, "You can make it. You are created in God's image."

They need to remember the words of Scottish theologian William Barclay: "Always give without remembering. Always receive without forgetting."

They need to know we are the by-products of the beliefs we keep close.

They need to believe they can be... extraordinary.

It is a choice, after all. And the best is yet to

Dr. Nido Qubein is president of High Point University, an undergraduate and graduate institution with 4.300 students from 40 countries. He has authored two dozen books and audio programs distributed worldwide. As a



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Security Audits • HIPPA Compliance • I www.TechSageSolutions.com

The Cloudflare Screw-up: Have your passwords been

compromised? Little bugs can cause huge problems. Like when web performance and security company Cloudflare's code upgrade leaked sensitive data to 3,438 unique domains this past February. Everything from API keys to personal data was exposed. And scariest of all is that any bot could have accessed every bit of it. The good news is that Cloudflare was alerted to the tiny leak before hackers discovered it. The bad news is, a more moderatesized leak could bring down the web. It just brings home the point that you need to be more vigilant than ever. Change passwords routinely. Use strong passwords that hackers can't easily break. Upgrade to two-factor authentication. Gizmodo, 02.17.17

Big Red is still the big dog...but T-Mobile is nipping at its heels.

In the battle to claim best mobile network, the winner is arguable. RootMetrics says it's Verizon. OpenSignal says T-Mobile. Digging into their reports, you'll find that

geographical factors determine the winner. OpenSignal's crowdsourced data comes mostly from city dwellers. So their finding that T-Mobile wins most likely applies to urban areas. But that data doesn't apply if you're out in the sticks. RootMetrics reports more on overall coverage, and they find Verizon at the top. So who's got the best network for you? At this point, it boils down to where you live and work. But stay tuned...this race is getting close. AndroidCentral, 02.24.17

anymore? Smartphones offer turn-by turn navigation, satellite-tracked speed readings, voice guidance and real-time, crowdsourced traffic alerts. So why dish out another 300 bucks for your own on-dash, in-car system? Well, those in-car systems have come a long way too... Having voice-command capability, Bluetooth connectivity, geo-based recommendations and a large fixed screen might be reason enough. But if your phone's monthly data

allotment and battery life concern you at all, that in-car GPS, with its own data and power sources, starts looking pretty good. And with features like a streaming dash cam and sensor that warns you if you're following a car too closely, in-car GPS is definitely worth a second look. *DigitalTrends*, 02.24.17

Get totally weird with new Virtual Reality (VR) tools. You may not have a clue about how to draw at all, much less in 3-D. Doesn't matter... Whereas VR used to be a tool for techies, now amateurs can get in on the act. A-Frame by Mozilla, for instance, lets you easily type in commands that place 3-D objects like blocks, balls and more into a VR scene you create. Tilt Brush lets you paint in the air wearing a Google Vive headset. And Second Life inventor Philip Rosedale is building software that lets you invite friends into a VR world you design. Most of what any amateur creates will likely be grotesque, ugly or flat-out lame, but somewhere in all that mess, amazing new products will be born. Wired, 02.24.17

86,400

Imagine if an anonymous person deposited 86,400 pennies in your bank account daily. The only condition, you had to spend the money by midnight each day, or you would lose it. Would you plan and carefully spend and invest the money in a wise way?

Do you realize there are 86,400 seconds in a 24 - hour day? Are you spending and investing your time wisely? You can't get time back after it is spent.

