



TECHSAGE TECH TALK

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



*Your monthly
newsletter provided
by John Hill,
President and CEO
of TechSage
Solutions*

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2 Places You Should Never Cut Corners With IT

Today's technology empowers business owners in ways that would have seemed incredible even 10 years ago. With a humming network connecting your team to the rest of the world, and with just a few simple keystrokes, your organization can complete tasks that used to take days.

However, the endless possibility that accompanies technological advancement comes with a catch: to be truly effective, IT requires investment – not just of capital, but of time and attention, resources all too dear to the harried entrepreneurs of the modern age. Perhaps this is why, everywhere you look, small to midsize business owners are not only failing to realize the full potential of their technology, but are unknowingly leaving massive gaps in their systems and processes for malicious entities to exploit. And so, budding companies that would otherwise dominate the market are prematurely stamped out by competitors with more tech savvy or are hamstrung by costly data breaches.

Even in the midst of this trend, we understand how easy it is to ignore your company's glaring technological gaps. You imagine that you don't have the time or money to address the issue, or that you'll do it down the road once your business is better established. But no matter how big or small your business may be, there are two foundational tech concerns that you should *never* cut corners on.

1. SECURITY

Pretty much every successful company today is intimately intertwined with the technology on which it depends. So it makes sense that your primary worry should be protecting what's yours from those who want to snatch it. Think of it this way: would you hire a \$5 locksmith to secure your office? Of course not. Then why do so many business owners put their livelihood behind a flimsy, \$5 firewall – or, even worse, a free antivirus? In 2018, it is more likely that your business will fall victim to a cyber-attack



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than it is that thieves will arrive at your office in the dead of night, according to a 2017 report from Kroll. In 2015, SEC Commissioner Luis A. Aguilar wrote, "Cyber security is clearly a concern that the entire business community shares, but it represents an especially pernicious threat to smaller businesses. The reason is simple: small and midsize businesses are not just targets of cybercrime; they are the principal targets." With this in mind, cyber security should always be one of your top priorities.

2. TECH SUPPORT THAT GOES BEYOND THE "BREAK-FIX" APPROACH

It's difficult to overestimate the money, time and stress it can cost you when your technology breaks down. Between server downtime, haywire software, connectivity issues and myriad other potential problems, when your stuff breaks, it can cause more than a massive headache – it can put you out of business.

Most business owners realize this, but many still opt for the classic "break-fix" strategy. Unfortunately, "If it isn't broke..." is a dangerous maxim by which to steer a ship. If you wait to address a problem until after it becomes an



issue, you're inviting a crisis into the equation that could easily have been avoided with a keen, proactive eye. And when your server fails, or your network experiences hiccups, or some other unforeseen issue rears its ugly head, an unfamiliar break-fix technician will take longer to fix the issue than an expert who's been working with your specific network from start to finish and already knows it inside out. It's just not worth it.

In addition, proactively managed service providers will consistently make recommendations to keep your company competitive. Whether it be a small upgrade to software here, a patch there or an overhaul of your server system, these moves can be invaluable in the breakneck marketplace. And, of course, since they're keeping tabs on your tech at all times, any potential problems get addressed long before they hit your bottom line.

By leveraging technology, you and your business can do amazing things. Partner with a team of IT professionals who are actively invested in your success and confidently push your company into 2019.

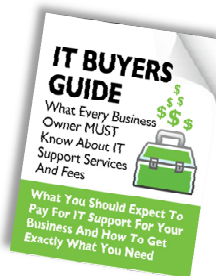
"... you're inviting a crisis into the equation that could easily have been avoided with a keen, proactive eye."

Free Report Download: The Business Owner's Guide To IT Support Services And Fees

You'll learn:

- The three most common ways IT companies charge for their services and the pros and cons of each approach.
- A common billing model that puts ALL THE RISK on you, the customer, when buying IT services; you'll learn what it is and why you need to avoid agreeing to it.
- Exclusions, hidden fees and other "gotcha" clauses IT companies put in their contracts that you DON'T want to agree to.
- How to make sure you know exactly what you're getting to avoid disappointment, frustration and added costs later on that you didn't anticipate.

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Cartoon Of The Month



"We haven't yet found what's causing the ringing in your ears, but we were able to set them to vibrate."

Shiny New Gadget Of The Month: The Casio Pro Trek Smart A Watch Built For Adventure

Today, a lover of the outdoors needs to demand more from their devices if they're going to get the most out of their adventures. The best tech boasts robust, easy-to-use features for when you need them but gets out of the way, leaving you to focus on the grandeur surrounding you.



Luckily, the Casio Pro Trek Smart WSD-F20ABU watch does exactly that in one attractive, intelligent package. Every capability you'd expect from an outdoors-focused device is overhauled here - from the altimeter to the barometer and even the feature-rich compass. Perhaps the best tool is the full-color map you can display on its face, which detects and displays changes in the atmosphere and weather up to the minute. If you're looking for a sturdy, powerful tool to bring along on your next excursion, it'd be tough to do better than this.

4 Resolutions To Carry You Into 2019



As we move into the New Year, business owners are scrambling to set up resolutions that will carry them into the future. It can be difficult to determine the best goals to set, but there are a few tried-and-tested resolutions that *every* entrepreneur should put into place. First and foremost, you should learn to put down on feast-or-famine cash flow. We can bet that your business could benefit from improving your online presence. The same goes for boosting your social-media strategy.

But you cannot just focus on the company the most powerful changes start from within. Start paying attention to factors that allow you to produce your best work. Determine what helps you focus, and cultivate it relentlessly. *TheBalanceSMB.com*, 8/13/2018

The Importance Of Pride The Key To Better Serving

The famous business guru Peter Drucker wrote more than 10,000 pages on the subject of management. Across 39 books translated into 36 languages, you can bet he learned a bit along the way. It's the reason he's widely considered the "founder of modern management." In his book *The Practice Of Management*, Drucker states, "There is only one valid definition of business purpose: to create a customer. The customer is the foundation of a business and keeps it in existence. He [the customer] alone gives employment."

Recently, I had the opportunity to work with Farm Credit Services of America, a customer-owned financial cooperative that finances and protects farmers and ranchers in Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming. Everywhere I turned and with every person I interviewed, it was obvious Mr. Drucker would be thrilled with their business philosophy. Their customer is truly their No. 1 priority. All policies, procedures, products and services are in place for the sole purpose of helping their customers.

Maybe we should all consider ourselves "customer-owned cooperatives." After all, every part of our existence is based upon our customers. They may not directly own our companies, as they do at Farm Credit Services, but, as Mr. Drucker wrote, they alone give us employment.

Farm Credit Services was having an Executive Summit with 70 senior directors to discuss what more they could do to better serve their customers. They allowed me the opportunity to interview 15 people, from senior management



to sales and field personnel, so I could dig down to find what really makes them tick. They didn't inquire as to what I would be asking their employees, nor did they give me any directions, concerns or restrictions as to what I could discuss. It doesn't get any more transparent than that.

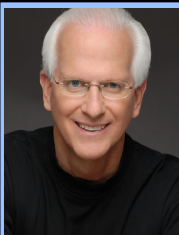
Did I uncover any complaints, concerns or frustrations? Sure I did - every company has them. But more importantly, I discovered how proud they were to be serving their customers. Their heartfelt dedication to doing everything they could to ensure their customers succeed in a competitive and volatile market was a pleasure to witness. If someone were to ask me how I would sum up Farm Credit Services, I would choose one word: proud.

You can't mandate proud. You can't force people to be proud. Pride is a culture, a foundation deeply rooted in the fabric of an organization. You can feel it whenever you're around a proud organization, see it in the actions of their entire team and hear it in their words. We could all learn from Farm Credit Services's example. If you want to succeed, both personally and as a business, then you need to:

Think proud - embody pride in your attitude.

Feel proud and show it in everything you do.

Be proud and be willing to stamp your name on the job you do for the people you serve.



Robert Stevenson is one of the most widely recognized professional speakers in the world. Author of the books How To Soar Like An Eagle In A World Full Of Turkeys and 52 Essential Habits For Success, he's shared the podium with esteemed figures from across the country, including former President George H. W. Bush, former Secretary of State Colin Powell, Anthony Robbins, Tom Peters and Steven Covey. Today, he travels the world, sharing powerful ideas for achieving excellence, both personally and professionally.

Wishing you a Very Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year!





4 Ways Your Employees Will Invite Hackers Into Your Network



Cyber security is a complicated issue, no matter how you slice it, but one of the surest ways to reduce your risk and strengthen your defenses against hackers is to educate your team. Forewarned is forearmed, so make sure they fully understand the risks associated with the most common social engineering strategies. **Phishing**, the most prevalent, uses e-mails, chats or web ads impersonating trusted enti-

ties to trick employees into clicking malicious links. **Baiting** is similar, but purports to offer something enticing, such as a music or movie download, to deliver malware onto your system. **Quid pro quo** hackers offer a "service" in exchange for access to private data, such as an employee's login credentials. **Tailgating** is when an unauthorized person physically follows one of your employees into a restricted area or asks to "borrow" their device for a bit and steals all the info they need directly.

Make sure your team is on the lookout for these malicious techniques, and you'll be that much more secure.
SmallBizTrends.com, 9/20/2018



Use These 3 Strategies To Break Your Bad Tech Habits

If you're trying to kick an addiction to your smartphone and other addictive tech, and you're tempted to turn to them whenever you feel uncomfortable or anxious, don't give up. Instead of seeking a distraction whenever you feel bored – for example, checking your e-mail for the 10th time or logging in to Facebook – learn to embrace silence, and yes, even boredom. If you find yourself checking your phone too much at work, set physical boundaries to restrict yourself. Put it in your desk or another place that adds an extra step to accessing it. The next time you have downtime, instead of whipping out your device right away, mull over a specific problem or idea on your own; you might be surprised what you discover. *Inc.com, 7/20/2018*

Refer a friend from now through December 31, 2018

Get a \$25 Gift Card & You'll Be Eligible to WIN a Sonos-PLAY:3 Wireless Speaker for Streaming Music

How the Contest Works:

- 1) Call or email us with your referral information and receive \$25 gift card.
- 2) We will call your friend to schedule an appointment. If an appointment is made, we will send you a \$50 gift card.
- 3) After the appointment we will add your name into the drawing for Sonos-PLAY:3: Wireless Speaker for Streaming Music.
- 4) If your friend becomes a client and spends \$1,000 or more, we'll send you a check for \$100. As a bonus, we'll also give your friend a \$100 discount off our services!



What makes a good referral for TechSage Solutions?

A business owner who has 5 or more PC's and needs help with their network, data backups, phones, email, data security, etc. 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 email to info@techsagesolutions.com or call (210)-582-5814



How To Win Friends And Influence People

By Dale Carnegie

Ask 50 business people to name a few books that have changed their lives, and dozens of them will have Dale Carnegie's *How To Win Friends and Influence People* on their lists.

Despite being written over 80 years ago, the seminal classic is one of the best-selling books of all time. At the time of writing, it's even No. 9 on Amazon's Most Read list.

Those who haven't been enlightened to Carnegie's approach to life may wonder what's so special about this modest volume. But of course, it's the principles within that resonate with so many people. If you want to learn how to be authentic, kind and honest and gain the admiration and trust of your colleagues, friends and prospects, this is an excellent place to start.

