



COMPUTER DEPOT INC.

BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

Tech Bits and Bytes to Help You with Your Business

Computer Depot Inc. Business Solutions Newsletter

October 2019



Thomas Hill, President & Founder

*"Customers are individual and their needs are specific to their business. We are in the listening business because **Listening** is the best defense against bad or flat out wrong assumptions."*



Employees Keeping Your Data Safe?

... Don't Count On It

In any business, big or small, employees can be your biggest IT threat, and they might not even realize it. Businesses already face countless cyberthreats, like data breaches, cyber-attacks, online viruses and malicious e-mails. But despite all these outside threats, the real problem can come from the inside.

One of the biggest threats to your business's security is simply a lack of awareness on the part of your employees. It comes down to this: your employees just aren't aware of current threats or how to safely navigate e-mails and the web. They might not be aware when they connect to an unsecured WiFi network or if they're using a firewall. They may be haphazard in all things IT. *There are a lot of variables.*

Your best defense, in this case, is training. Get all of your employees on the same page. Look at your current training and find the

gaps, or start putting together training if you don't have it. You want a training program that covers all your bases and gives your employees the knowledge and tools they need to keep themselves and your business secure. (Don't know where to begin? Work with professional IT specialists. They know what your employees NEED to know!)

Another major security threat is phishing e-mails. On any given day, you and your employees can be on the receiving end of dozens, if not hundreds, of fraudulent e-mails. Data from Symantec shows that 71% of targeted cyber-attacks stem from phishing e-mails. While awareness regarding phishing scams is better than ever, it's still far from perfect. And it doesn't help that phishing e-mails have gotten more advanced.

Phishing e-mails are typically disguised as messages from a legitimate source, such as a

Continued on pg.2



TRIVIA

Congratulations
Caleb Urban from
**EXIT 122 OUTDOOR
POWER EQUIPMENT**
who knew that Bulldogs is
the most commonly used
mascot in Division I
football.

**TURN TO PAGE 3 FOR
THIS MONTHS TRIVIA**



colleague, a bank or an online retailer. They try to trick recipients into clicking a link or opening a file (which you should NEVER do if you are not 100% sure about the source). But there are easy ways to identify scam e-mails:



easily set up a "fake" network to divert traffic to their hot spot to circulate malware and steal data.

Another WiFi threat might be right at home. If you have employees who work from home, you need to make sure their home WiFi connection is secure. Too often, homeowners leave their WiFi wide-open because it's home. They think no one's going to sneak onto their WiFi or they keep it unsecure because it's easier to connect a lot of devices.

1. **They're impersonal.** They may be addressed to "customer," "to whom it may concern" or "my friend." But be careful – sometimes they are addressed properly and use your name.
2. **They're full of spelling and grammar errors.** Not every phishing e-mail will have these errors, but it's good to read e-mails word for word rather than just glancing over them. Unusual errors often mean a scam is lurking.
3. **The "from" e-mail address is unfamiliar.** This is one of the easiest ways to pinpoint a scam e-mail. Look at the sender, and if the address is filled with numbers, letters, misspelled words or is weirdly long, there's a good chance it's from a scammer.

While it might be easier to connect to, it can cause *huge* problems. For one, WiFi signals can reach hundreds of feet. It's easy to sit outside of an apartment or out on the street and find dozens of WiFi signals. If any of these signals are unsecure, a hacker can sit outside undisturbed and go to work accessing data and planting malware.

It all comes back to this: Work with your employees to establish IT best practices. Educate them on threats and how to protect themselves and your company. Help them develop a positive IT security mindset at the office, at home or anywhere they work, whether they're using company equipment or their own.

• **"71% of targeted cyber-attacks stem from phishing e-mails."**

The other major issue facing your business is your employees connecting to unsecured WiFi hot spots. It is such an easy mistake to make. Whether it's a remote employee or an employee working during lunch at a corner café, you never know when they might connect to unsecured WiFi (it doesn't help that it's everywhere these days). One Spiceworks study found that upward of 61% of employees connect to unsecured public WiFi while working remotely.

The problem is, you never know who is watching or if the public WiFi is really the network you intend to connect to. Hackers can



Don't know where to start? Start right here - 865-909-7676 – one phone call and we can help get you started. Don't wait. Let's secure your business today.

"Computer Depot built all the computers that we are using. They delivered them timely and made sure that they were set up on our network. They take care of any problems which are very few."

**Axon Minihinnett,
Pimberton Truck Lines**

**Pemberton
TRUCK LINES, INC.**

**Jokes To Make
You Say Boooo**

- Q: What do owls say when they go trick or treating?
A: Happy Owl-oween!
Q: Which type of pants do ghosts wear?
A: Boo-Jeans.
Q: What do they teach in witching school?
A: Spelling.
Q: Which musical instrument do skeletons play?
A: Trom-Bone.
Q: What's a ghost's favorite dessert?
A: Boo-berry pie.
Q: Why did Dracula take cold medicine?
A: To stop his coffin.
Q: What do the skeletons say before eating?
A: Bone appetite.
Q: What do ghosts call their girlfriends?
A: Their ghoul friends.
Q: When is it bad luck to meet a black cat?
A: When you are a mouse.
Q: Do you know how to make a witch itch?
A: You take away the w!

Free Cyber Security Assessment Will Reveal Where Your Computer Network Is Exposed And How To Protect Your Company Now

At no cost or obligation, our highly skilled team of IT pros will come to your office and conduct a comprehensive cyber security assessment to uncover loopholes in your company's IT security.



After this is done, we'll prepare a customized "Report Of Findings" that will reveal specific vulnerabilities and provide a Prioritized Action Plan for getting these security problems addressed fast. This report and action plan should be a real eye-opener for you, since almost all of the businesses we've done this for discover they are completely exposed to various threats in a number of areas.

**To get started and claim your free assessment now, call 865-909-7606.
www.ComputerDepotBusiness.com/ITsurvey**

CYBERSECURITY PACKAGE

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Monthly Phishing Attack Test

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"Wait, someone just sent me a hex message."

3 Ways To Make Your Business Grow

Invest In Advertising: Look at what's available and what makes sense for your niche. Need to go local? Newspapers combined with Facebook ads may make sense. Online advertising through Google and Facebook are a crucial way to reach customers, local, regional or global. It can take some experimenting to get it just right.

Invest In Training: As the world changes, so does business. Ensure your employees are at the top of their game when it comes to both industry standards and the way you do business. Keep them educated on best practices and make sure training is consistent across the board.

Invest In Your Team: Your employees make your business work. You want to make sure they're operating at their best. Offer a healthy work environment that promotes their well-being. It can be as simple as offering great perks like flexible hours, remote work, professional development, catered lunches - the list goes on. Happy employees are the best employees. Smallbiz Technology, 2/12/2019

Join Thomas On October 8th for the Powell Business an Professional Association (PBPA) monthly meeting. He will be discussing Cyber Security for you personally and for your business. The meeting begins at noon at Jubilee Banquet Facility . 6700 Jubilee Center Way Knoxville, TN 37912

This Month's

TRIVIA

Here is your next chance to WIN Lunch on us!

Email your answer to
RHill@ComputerDepotOnline.com

80% of what US crop is harvested in a single month of the year, October?

Dead-fully Creepy

Getting buried alive used to be a world-wide phobia. You could pass out or go into a coma and everyone would just rush you into a really early grave.

It wasn't an unreasonable fear.

Christine Quigley, author of *The Corpse: A History*, writes that in the early 1900s, a case of premature burial was discovered an average of once a week.

Measures were taken to prevent such a thing. Coffins were invented that provided an airway. Others were easy-open devices and some had flag signals.



Too Smart or Not Smart Enough?



One security researcher had a brilliant idea. He would take out a vanity license plate reading NULL. To everyone around him, it would be a joke. To the California DMV, it would give him a free pass.

The idea was that if the DMV computer system saw a plate called NULL, it would assign all tickets to the waste bin.

The exact opposite happened. He was immediately assigned every ticket for an unplatd car, he told the conference Def Con. Pretty soon he had about \$15,000 in traffic tickets.

The police and the DMV told the snarky researcher to change his plate. He refused. So, the private company that administers the database removed the fines, but fines are still showing up.

HIPAA

Do you worry about compliance? Get HIPAA Facts that might just save you thousands of dollars and a few headaches too !

Visit

www.ComputerDepotBusiness.com



October 2019



Look What's Inside...

- **Are Employees Keeping Your Data Safe?**
- **3 Ways To Make Your Business Grow**
- **Hurry-You could WIN this month's Trivia and this** 
- **Weird, Cool, or Funny-You Decide**
- **Jokes To Make You Say Boooo**
- **You can make the Perfect Pumpkin Pie using a real pumpkin**



COMPUTER DEPOT BUSINESS SOLUTIONS - WE ARE BIG TECHNOLOGY FOR YOUR GLITCH-FREE SMALL BUSINESS

Perfect Pumpkin Pie Using Fresh Pumpkin

Well it's that time of year again. Pumpkin Spice Lattes, pumpkin spice scented EVERYTHING, pumpkin soup, roasted pumpkin seeds, pumpkin muffins, pumpkin facial mask, painted pumpkins, pumpkin butter, pumpkin yogurt and ice cream, pumpkin cheesecake, pumpkin dip, pumpkin pancakes... Welcome back O Great Pumpkin Obsession. This Pumpkin Pie recipe is for people who don't really like pumpkin pie. It's easier than you think and you'll never go back to the thick pasty can stuff.

Ingredients

- 1 sugar pumpkin, that's right, a small to medium ACTUAL REAL PUMPKIN
- 1 pastry for a 9 inch single crust pie
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 1/2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
- 1 (12 oz) can evaporated milk

Directions

1. Cut pumpkin in half and remove seeds. Place cut side down on a cookie sheet lined with sprayed foil. Bake at 325°F for 30 to 40 minutes, or until the flesh is tender when poked with a fork. Cool until just warm. Scrape the pumpkin flesh from the peel. Either mash, or puree.
2. Increase oven temperature to 450°F
3. Slightly beat eggs. Add brown sugar, flour, salt, 2 cups of the pumpkin puree, pumpkin pie spice, and evaporated milk. Stir well after each addition.
4. Pour mixture into the unbaked pastry shell. Place a strip of aluminum foil around the edge of the crust to prevent over browning.
5. Bake 10 minutes at 450°F, then reduce to 350°F. Bake an additional 40 to 50 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Remove the foil about 20 minutes before the pie is done so that the edge of the crust will be a light golden brown. Cool pie, and refrigerate overnight for best flavor.
6. There will be too much filling for 1 pie but not enough for 2. Good luck with that.

Contact Us

**Computer Depot
Business Solutions**
For over two decades
Serving Knox and
Sevier Counties

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