



# COMPUTER DEPOT INC.

## BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

### Tech Bits and Bytes to Help You with Your Business

Computer Depot Inc. Business Solutions Newsletter

May 2020



Thomas Hill, President & Founder

*"We will always strive to proactively contribute to our clients success."*



## Cybercriminals Are Out In Full Force In Today's Crazy Times – Here's How To Stop Them

# TRIVIA

### CONGRATULATIONS

#### WINNER

**Andrea Disney**  
Vaughn Pharmacy

So here's the deal. There is no one right answer to "How long is the federal tax code?" There are so many answers and it depend on who you ask and how you define what is actually the tax code verses what are pages explaining the code. A report from the Taxpayer Advocate Service to Congress said, "The Code has grown so long that it has become challenging even to figure out how long it is," The best answers are from our US Congressional representatives, check out <http://www.trygve.com/taxcode.html>.

Thank you to everyone who submitted responses.



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



In the past couple of months, just about everyone has been forced to shift priorities. If you're like many business owners, you are intently focused on pivoting your business to accommodate today's "new normal." In fact, you are probably investing so much of your time in trying to retain your customers and generate new cash flow that you barely have time to even *think* about cyber security.

The problem is that cybercriminals and hackers know there's no better time to strike than during a global crisis. In fact, they are working overtime to craft new malware while the rest of us are trying to manage how our lives have been turned upside down. While you are so focused on your business, these cyber thugs are finding new ways into your IT network so they can steal data and passwords, compromise your clients' private information and even

demand large ransoms. Not to mention, trying to get their hands on stimulus money.

Cybercrime is already on the rise and is expected to cause \$6 trillion in damages by 2021! But, if history repeats itself, you can bet hackers are already out in full force right now. We've already seen how headlines are changing from stories about COVID-19 to accounts of a frenzy of cyber-attacks on corporations and small businesses.

Here are solutions you can implement during these crazy times to help protect your business data, money and productivity:

**1. Be more suspicious of incoming e-mails.** Because people have been scared, confused and not really focused for a while now, it's the perfect time for hackers to send e-mails with dangerous malware and viruses.

*Continued on page 2*

Continued from page 1

You probably have received a bunch of COVID-19-focused emails. Always carefully inspect the e-mail and make sure you know the sender. There has already been a CDC-gov e-mail address out there that's not legitimate and has spammed inboxes across the country.

Avoid clicking links in the e-mail unless it's clear where they go. And you should never download an attachment unless you know who sent it and what it is. Communicate these safeguards to everyone on your team, especially if they are working from home.

**2. Ensure your work-from-home computers are secure.**

Another reason to expect a rise in cyber-attacks during these times is the dramatic increase in employees working from home. Far too many employers won't think about security as their team starts working at the kitchen table. That's a dangerous precedent.

First, make sure your employees and contractors are not using their home computers or devices when working. Second, ensure your work-at-home computers have a firewall that's turned on. Finally, your network and data are not truly secure unless your employees utilize a virtual private network (VPN). If you need help in arranging or improving your new work-from-home environment, we would be happy to get your entire team set up. Our goal is always to help your business to thrive with greater cyber security and superior technology that improves efficiency.

**3. Improve your password strategy.**

During crises like this one, your passwords could mean the difference between spending your time working to grow your business and trying to recoup



finances and private data that's been hacked. Make a point now to reevaluate your passwords and direct your team to create stronger passwords.

Also, while it's so convenient to save your passwords in your web browser, it also lessens your security. Because web browsers simply require their own password or PIN to access saved passwords, a skilled hacker can bypass this hurdle. Once they access your saved passwords, they can steal as much as they want - credit card information, customers' private data and more!

Instead, you should consider a password manager to keep all of your passwords in one place. These password managers feature robust security.

You, your team and your family have enough to concern yourselves with at the moment. There's no need to invite in more problems by letting your computer and network security slide during these times.

While this coronavirus scare has negatively affected countless businesses, we are proud to say we are open and continuously servicing our customers. If you need additional security advice or would like to have a consultation to discuss how to keep your data safe or how we can help you work more effectively, simply connect with us today.

*"Computer Depot Business is just a phone call away and are quick to respond. They updated our network infrastructure providing a reliable consistent network service that has not gone down yet! They stand by what they say they will do.*

*No empty promises.*

*Computer Depot Business gave us reliability with our network that we didn't have before."*

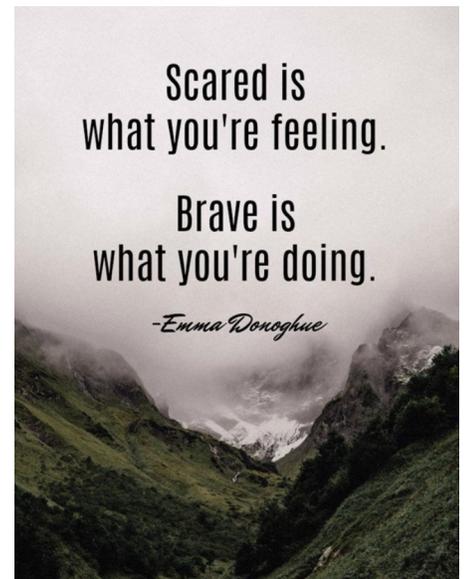
**Patrick Koster**  
Principal,  
**Seymour Community Church and School**



**Scared is what you're feeling.**

**Brave is what you're doing.**

*-Emma Donoghue*



**MEMORIAL DAY**  
The day set aside to remember with gratitude and pride all those who died in service of our country and for our freedom.  
**God Bless America**

**Use These Apps To Get More Done Each Day**

**Time Tracking: RescueTime** - It gives you a breakdown of how you use your time on every app and website. It also allows you to set productivity goals. The premium version (\$6/month) even lets you block sites during certain times.

**Project Management: Asana** - Create task lists, prioritize tasks, assign due dates and monitor progress. Asana even integrates with other apps, like Evernote and Google Drive.

**Communication: Slack** - Communicate with individuals, teams or other specific groups. Everything is saved, so you'll never lose a key piece of info.  
*The Simple Dollar, Feb. 3, 2020*

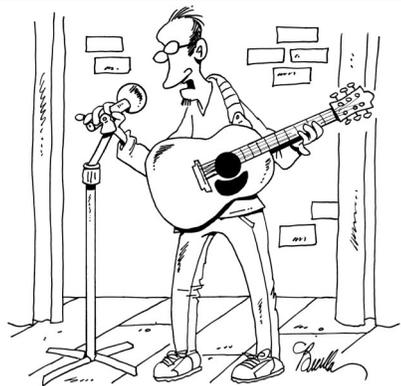


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  - Cytracom Business



“Here’s a blues number written about my inability to remember computer passwords.”



Maybe you have heard him on the radio, read an article, or even attended a cyber security seminar. Thomas Hill has become a respected voice for all things

“tech.” He is a sought after speaker for a range of technology topics. Right now he has been hosting weekly live webinars on important and relevant topics. He is determined to help clients and other small business succeed in navigating the temporary chaos we are in. Past webinars can be found on our blog at ComputerDepotBusiness.com and topics include:

- Cyber Security Training While Working From Home
- Distancing Without Disconnecting: 4 essential tools to stay connected with your team.
- 4 Things You Can Do Right Now While Trying To Survive This Crisis: Marketing fundamentals worth looking at again
- Do’s & Don’ts of Social Media Marketing During the Pandemic: what every business should be doing right now to stay connected and be a positive voice in the mist of this mess.
- Insurance Q & A For Small Businesses and Professionals Working From Home: All your questions answered and some that you’ve probably not even thought about - but should.

Thomas plans to continue webinars each third Friday at 10am. You can find the link to register for upcoming webinars at the above website, through our Facebook page, or watch for future emails. This month, on May 15th, he and Wes will cover Mistakes You Cannot Afford to Make With Your Company’s Critical Data.

**The One Group That Loves People Forced To Work At Home: Hackers**

During the current crisis, with employees working at home, many companies have issued employees guidance on how to establish home internet security. It’s guidance worth following. Remember these three things:

**1 Change the locks.** That means update your software. You might have noticed that software frequently has security updates. That’s because smart hackers figured out how to break the software. But what you may not know is that there is a second wave of dumb hackers who just read the security update for tips on how to get the folks who don’t update. It’s like they have a key. Your mission is to change the locks and update.

**2 Use a secret code.** Implement two-factor identification. Yes, it is a second step. You will have to put in a new secret code every time you do certain tasks. But it is better than a hacker walking out with your briefcase.

**3 Use a mask.** Meaning, mask your internet activity with a personal VPN. It protects your privacy. It doesn’t protect you from phishing, malicious software, or digital viruses, but at least you aren’t accessing your company website in cyber-public.



This Month’s

**TRIVIA**

Here is your next chance to WIN!  
**When this game/toy was first released (back before government safety regulations for toys was a thing) it required an item from the garden or kitchen.**  
**What is it?**

Email your answer to  
 RHill@ComputerDepotOnline.com



May 2020



## Look What's Inside...

- **Cybercriminals Are Out In Full Force In Today's Crazy Times — Here's How To Stop Them**
- Hurry-You could WIN this month's Trivia and this 
- [Apps To Help You Get More Done](#)
- Join Us for Webinars Packed With Valuable Information To Help You Succeed
- Stear Clear of Hackers with These 3 Tips?
- Have Fun Playing Games Indoors

COMPUTER DEPOT BUSINESS SOLUTIONS - AFFORDABLE IT HELPDESK AND CYBER SECURITY SUPPORT IN 20 MINUTES OR LESS

## Games to Play Indoors At Home

Cabin fever has taken on new meaning this year, as so many have been forced to stay home well beyond the winter months. That means getting creative to keep our spirits up - and our families occupied.

Enter family game time. You don't need a closet full of board games to entertain the troops; imagination can go a long way (and save some bucks). Consider these game ideas from around the web:

- **Minute To Win It.** Based on the TV show of the same name, participants compete in a variety of challenges with a minute to finish. This can be stacking pennies or plastic cups, barreling through obstacle courses, balancing head or face. We like ones that can be adapted for teams. We're all very competitive so we love these.
- **Drawing games** like this one: one person starts by drawing a shape on a piece of paper, then passes it to the next person, who adds to the sketch. Keep going until everyone's had a turn or for a pre-determined amount of turns. Or DIY Pictionary is fun too, especially if you have a large family.
- **Sock toss.** Ball up clean socks and set up laundry baskets or other receptacles at varying distances, then assign points - a longer toss gets more points, a closer toss gets fewer. Beware that this may quickly turn into sock dodgeball.
- **Ring toss.** Use upright paper towel rolls and rings made from plastic plates or in our house there is ALWAYS mason jar rings lying around!

Pinterest is a great place to find ideas, from indoor cornhole to Bingo, Mad Libs, hangman, hot potato, fort-building, crafts like making a bird feeder, indoor (or outdoor) scavenger hunts, and more. Do the stuff that makes you laugh!



## Contact Us

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