



COMPUTER DEPOT INC.

BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

Tech Bits and Bytes to Help You with Your Business

Computer Depot Inc. Business Solutions Newsletter

March 2020



Thomas Hill, President & Founder

"Prompt response means faster resolution and less down time, now let's GO!"



Clear Signs You're About To Get Hacked ... And What To Do NOW To Prevent It

Do you use the same password for everything? If you do, you're not alone. We all have bad cyber habits, whether it's reusing passwords or connecting to unsecured WiFi. These habits can make it easy for hackers to steal our personal information and use it for their own purposes - or they can sell it on the dark web for an easy profit.

These are habits you have to stop right now - and habits your employees need to stop too. After all, good cyber security practices are a group effort! But using the same password for everything or using simple passwords aren't the only things that are going to get you into trouble. Here are three more clear signs you're setting yourself up for a breach.

Sharing Your E-mail

Countless websites want your e-mail address. Sometimes it's not a big deal if

you're sharing it with a vendor or e-commerce site. You want to ensure you receive invoices and shipping confirmation. But other websites just want you to sign up for special offers, notifications, e-mail newsletters and other inbox clutter. It sounds mostly harmless, but what they fail to tell you is the fact that they're going to sell your e-mail address to advertisers and other third parties.

To make matters worse, you have no idea where your e-mail address will end up - or if it will fall into the wrong hands. Hackers are constantly on the lookout for e-mail addresses they can take advantage of. They use e-mail for several different kinds of cyberscams - most notably phishing scams. Hackers can even make it look like an e-mail is coming from a legitimate source to get you to open it.

Whenever possible, avoid using your work or personal e-mail. If you need to

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Daylight-Savings Time



begins March 8th

TRIVIA

CONGRATULATIONS

Brittney Fleetwood,
Admissions and Human Resources

The Nursing Center at Little Creek

Who knew that the literary character Alice from Alice in Wonderland uttered the phrase "curiouser and curiouser"?

TURN TO PAGE 2 FOR
THIS MONTHS TRIVIA



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sign up for something and you don't completely trust the source (or just want to avoid spam), create a "burner" e-mail address you can use. It should be something different from your work or personal e-mail and not associated with business or banking.

Not Using HTTPS

Most of us are familiar with HTTP. It's short for Hypertext Transfer Protocol and is a part of every web address. These days, however, many websites are using HTTPS - the S standing for "secure." Some web browsers, like Google Chrome, even open HTTPS websites automatically, giving you a more secure connection. Of course, this only works if the website was made with an HTTPS option.

Why is visiting an unsecured HTTP website dangerous? Any data you share with an unsecured website, such as date of birth, passwords or any financial information, may not be securely stored. You have no way of knowing that your

"Many password managers are designed to suggest new passwords to you when it's time to update your old passwords."

private data won't end up in the hands of a third party, whether that's an advertiser or a hacker. It just isn't worth the risk.

When visiting any website, look in the address bar. There should be a little padlock. If the padlock is closed or green, you are on a secure website. If it's open or red, the website is not secure. You can also click the padlock to verify the website's security credentials. It's best practice to *immediately* leave any website that is not secured. And never share your personal information on a webpage that is not secure.

Saving Your Passwords In Your Web Browser

Web browsers make life easy. You can save your favorite websites at the click of a button. You can customize them using extensions and add-ons. And you can save usernames and passwords in one place! As convenient as it is, this comes with a price: low security.

If a hacker gets into your saved passwords, it's like opening a treasure chest full of gold. They have everything they could ever want. Sure, web browsers require a password or PIN to see saved passwords, but a skilled hacker can force their way past this hurdle if given the chance.

Use a password manager instead. These apps keep all of your passwords in one place, but they come with serious security. Even better, many password managers are designed to suggest new passwords to you when it's time to update your old passwords. LastPass, 1Password and Keeper Security Password Manager are all good options. Find one that suits your needs and the needs of your business.

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"For our practice, having Computer Depot Business means NOT having to worry about HIPAA compliance, IT issues, or software updates."

Dr. Krystal Barton, OD

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Natural Laws You Absolutely Know Are True

- Repairs: After your hands get coated with grease, your nose will itch.
- Probability: The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.
- Phone: When you pocket dial, you never get a busy signal.
- Phone: When someone pocket dials you, you listen like an FBI agent.
- Logical argument: Anything is possible if you don't know what you're talking about.
- Traffic: As soon as you change lanes, the other lane will go faster.
- Shopping: When you find a product you really like, they stop making it.
- Results: When you try to prove a car doesn't work, it will.
- Silence: A closed mouth gathers no feet.

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



At no cost or obligation, we will come to your office and conduct a comprehensive cyber security assessment to uncover loopholes in your company's IT security. Afterwards, we'll prepare a customized Report Of Findings and provide a Prioritized Action Plan. This report and action plan is likely to 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, call 865-909-7606.

HIPAA FACTS

Protect Your Practice from HIPAA Violations

Top 3 Causes of Data Breach



Employee Action

Third-Party Error



Lost or Stolen Devices

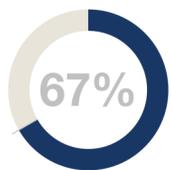
The average cost

per lost record:

\$401

HIPAA Fines Can Range From

\$100-\$50,000



of healthcare organizations plan to spend money on HIPAA audit services.

Want to avoid a data breach and validate your compliance?

Call us today: 909-7606



"Do they come with free tech support?"

Beware! Coronavirus used as bait in phishing attacks

Although the Wuhan coronavirus has not caused significant infections in the U.S., it is still being used in email phishing attacks to infect computers.

The infected emails contain links to pdfs or .doc files that purport to be a list of people in the area infected with the virus. The links may appear to come from the Centers for Disease Control, but in fact, redirect users to a page that appears to be Outlook. Or, it can offer 'safety measures' in the form of a pdf. Clicking on any of these links exposes users to malware designed to access bank accounts, financial data, and bitcoin wallets. It's worth noting that major events or holidays have also been used with these phishing attempts. It was infamously used to invite recipients to a demonstration by global warming activist Greta Thunberg. It has also been used in invitations to Christmas and Halloween parties.

Protect yourself by never opening attachments unless confirming over the phone with the sender.

This Month's

TRIVIA

Here is your next chance to WIN!
About how many black bears reside in the Great Smoky Mountain Park?

Email your answer to
RHill@ComputerDepotOnline.com

4 Ways To Improve Business In 2020

Automation – Boost efficiency with automation tools. Think accounting and financial management tools like FreshBooks and QuickBooks or project management tools like Trello. You can also use e-mail marketing apps like Mailchimp.

Accessibility – Make it easier than ever for customers to book your services. Online-scheduling software streamlines the process, allowing customers to schedule times that work for them and you. You can have customers book times on your website or Facebook page. We use AppointmentCore.

Employee Engagement – Delegate more, encourage more communication through apps like Slack and celebrate more achievements.

Customer Service – Chatbots and other types of similar customer service-based artificial intelligence are bigger than ever. Use them on your website or direct customers to Facebook Messenger. HubSpot's Chatbot Builder is a good tool to try when getting started. *Small Business Trends*

Planting Your Spring Garden for the Garden of Your Daily Living

PLANT PEAS:

- Peace of mind
- Peace of heart
- Peace of soul

PLANT SQUASH:

- Squash gossip
- Squash indifference
- Squash grumbling
- Squash selfishness

PLANT LETTUCE:

- Lettuce be faithful

Lettuce be kind

- Lettuce be patient
- Lettuce really love one another

PLANT TURNIPS:

- Turnip for meetings
- Turnip for service
- Turnip to help one another

PLANT THYME:

- Thyme for each other





March 2020



Look What's Inside...

- **3 Clear Signs You're About To Get Hacked ... And What To Do NOW To Prevent It**
- **4 Ways To Improve Business In 2020**
- Hurry-You could WIN this month's Trivia and this 
- **3 These 6 Hobbies Will Make You Smarter**
- **Beware! Coronavirus used as bait in phishing attacks**



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

These 6 Hobbies Will Make You Smarter

Play An Instrument - Learning to play an instrument - or playing an instrument you're already familiar with - keeps the brain sharp. It's an "active" hobby that creates new neural pathways in the brain, which is linked to good brain health, including improved memory and problem-solving.

Read Constantly - Reading helps reduce stress while boosting cognitive abilities, like interpreting data and emotions. Interestingly, it doesn't matter what you read as long as you read often.

Exercise Daily - Exercise promotes the release of brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) within the body, a protein that promotes healthy brain activity, including better mental acuity.

Learn A New Language - Like playing an instrument, learning a new language creates new neural pathways. Research shows that people who learn a second language are better at solving puzzles and problems.

Play "Brain Games" - Activities such as sudoku, puzzles, board games and problem-solving video games can be beneficial to the brain. These activities increase brain neuroplasticity, which improves cognitive ability and reduces anxiety.

Meditate - It's also important to quiet the brain. Meditation improves focus and can improve your mood significantly, which can boost confidence.

Contact Us

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