NeoLore NETWORKS INC.

TECH**LORE**

"Insider Tips to Make Your Business Run Faster, Easier and More Profitable"

"As a business owner, you don't have time to waste on technical and operational issues. That's where we shine! Call us and put an end to your IT problems finally and forever!"
- Jim Stackhouse
NeoLore Networks Inc.

Onboarding Remote Workers to Build a Successful Workplace

Remote workers are becoming a large percentage of the current economy. In the near future, we could potentially see up to fifty percent of full-time employees become remote workers. The drawback to this process has been the lack of technology that can grant business owners oversight of their employees. However, it is almost impossible to compete with the amount of savings a remote staff workforce can offer, and with technology improving and business costs climbing, remote workers have become more and more common in today's businesses.

Determining Factors, In-House vs Remote Workers

Expertise is the first factor. Cost remains an integral part of the decision, but the need for a specific set of skills is typically the first reason a business considers bring on remote workers.

Cost is the other factor. The logistics and finances involved in setting up a physical office, paying rent, running the network, buying hardware and other expenses involved can take a massive toll your businesses finances. By reducing capital cost as well as operational costs – you can invest the additional capital into the business, or channel it into your vacation savings.

Hiring remote employees often involve a wide variety of different variables. To start, your hires will cost less, and you can gain more capital. Also, your new team will appreciate the opportunity to work from home. Research shows that people who have the chance to work from their homes often have a greater positive outlook on their job. Finally. combining employee happiness and saving money on office expenses will drastically improve employee turnover in a significant fashion.

Bringing on Remote Workers

Once you have identified a potential new hire that you want to add to your staff, but distance and time constraints won't allow the individual to commit to your business, then specific guidelines must be documented and

implemented. One of the best, quick, and successful ways to hire remote workers is to make sure you have a plan in place to cover this process.

One point to be considered is to be sure that your business has the means to make working remotely successful. Your company must have standard solutions in place. Typically, an organization should have management applications, cloud-based communication, and productivity applications that will make it easier for employees that are not working locally. Tools like VoIP (Voice over IP) phones, productivity suites, and other cloud-based options are precious and are a must-have for any business before conducting an interview.

While going through the interview phase, be more inclined to have the interview in person. Doing so will lead to a first name basis relationship that will help you pinpoint your new hires professional goals and working experience. If a face-to-face

meeting cannot be conducted, a video conferencing solution should be utilized in cases like this. Once you have completed the interview process, create a stock email to welcome the new team member, and also provide the employee handbook including all legal paperwork. Logistically, this might be a tad difficult. However in the long run, if the hire is a good fit, you will be happy at your attention to detail.

Once you have completed the procedural tasks, the next step is to introduce the newest member to the team. This is an essential step designed to make the new hire feel at home with the existing staff. Once the new hire feels comfortable, the collaboration with other staff members will yield higher productivity. The surest way to accomplish this is to use an instant messaging system, the company email, or an online platform that integrates messaging and productivity.

A structured training system should be a priority for your organization. Staff members working locally find it easier to learn because they have the opportunity to ask others if they are executing a task correctly. The remote worker, on the other hand, does not have access to this resource, hence splitting up the critical training they need into levels can boost the attention and skills of the remote worker. Once that is accomplished, assign a supervisor to the new hire until they understand the basics of CRM and other management software. This way, the worker isn't swimming against the tide when they start to log in time remotely.

All of this combined will help the new hire to focus on the primary task: Providing expertise your business requires.

Shiny New Gadget Of The Month: WeMo Mini Smart Plug

The WeMo Mini Smart Plug gives you control of your lights and small appliances wherever you are, whenever you want. It also offers many different options for automation. This device can be paired with Amazon Alexa, Google Home and Apple Homekit to control your appliances and lights with just your voice. It also works with Nest Thermostat. You can set it up to turn off all your lights to turn off whenever you leave your home and when you return. There is no need for a hub or subscription, all you have to do is plug it into an outlet, connect a device to it and you'll be able to control it from your phone or tablet. The WeMo app is free, once downloaded and installed start controlling your devices from anywhere. To learn more visit: https://bit.ly/2DxAGOd

Your Google Accounts Security Should Be A Top Priority

Almost everyone on the planet has a Google account, for either personal or business purposes. Nowadays, it is easily accessible and provides you with a platform to access several essential features and accounts. With the number of activities that can be performed through a single Google account, it is alarming that many users forget about the personal data and security risks that a compromised account can cause.

Why Protecting Your Google Account Matters?

The principal tool used to stay connected in the 21st century is the internet, and it is used to share sensitive data across several platforms. However, just like anything that evolves, the purpose and usage of the internet have changed over time. Initially, the idea of the internet was proposed by J.C.R Licklider in 1962, who planned on the tool being a system of computers connected to gather to share programs and information spanning the entire planet.

This idea was cultivated and became what we now know as the World Wide Web, a name coined by Sir Tim Berners-Lee, who famously said:

"Had the technology been proprietary, and in my total control, it would probably not have taken off. You can't propose that something be a universal space and at the same time keep control of it."
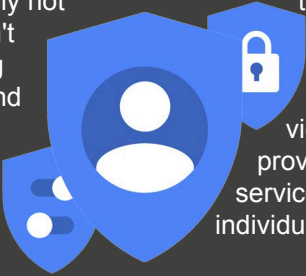
Network collaboration and the use of social media has reached an all-time high, uncontrolled by any singular entity. This has created a demand for open-access information and preservation of net neutrality. Despite these ideals, there are exceptions in certain circumstances.

The internet has grown in both utility and capability since its inception and these utilities are dependent on privacy and security. Due to the increasing number of users who share sensitive and confidential information via the internet, there is increased importance regarding security measures from the perspectives of businesses and the everyday user. Google is one of the organization's that fueled this point of view, a company that provides an assortment of services for business and individual use.

When it comes to businesses, the demand and importance of the services Google offers cannot be overemphasized, especially with applications like Gmail and G Suite. As well, on a basic consumer level, Google services continue to cater for personal use and contribute to a productive daily routine, at the very least. As you now understand, Google security is paramount. Hence, you should be asking yourself how many devices have access to your Google account. Do you know how much is at risk if your Google password is acquired by hackers seeking a portion of your hard-earned money?

What's at Risk?

Your Google account can be used to create additional accounts on other platforms, by linking it directly or using an associated Gmail address. So what does that mean for security measures? It is important that you remember that any online account that is linked to your Google account will suffer from possible attacks if at any point your account is comprimised.

Losing Your Phone Is More Common Than Theft

With an app seemingly for anything these days, having a cellphone has almost become a necessity for many people to operate their day to day lives. The sheer dread and panic that overcomes you when your phone goes missing are like nothing else. However, did you know that the most likely threat to your phone is yourself?

In 2018 Prey, a mobile device anti-theft solutions company, revealed their Theft and Loss report. They gathered data from these six different categories: Misplaced, Pickpocket, Home Invasion, Robbery, Car Break-In, and Business Break-In.

The data presented by Prey shows that 69% of the time your phone goes missing is because you misplaced it. The other categories had much lower numbers with pickpocketing coming in second at 11%.

Windows 10 Reaches 800 Million Devices

Microsoft has confirmed that Windows 10 has now reached over 800 million devices, with 100 million of them coming in the past 6 months. Windows has come up short on their plan of reaching 1 billion devices in the first 3 years of launch, but it still remains the fastest-growing Windows operating system of all time.

The 1 billion mark won't be far off with Windows 7 end of support coming in January 2020, as support will no longer be available. This will result in a huge surge of new devices switching over from the older operating system to Windows 10 since many corporate organizations still run off Windows 7.
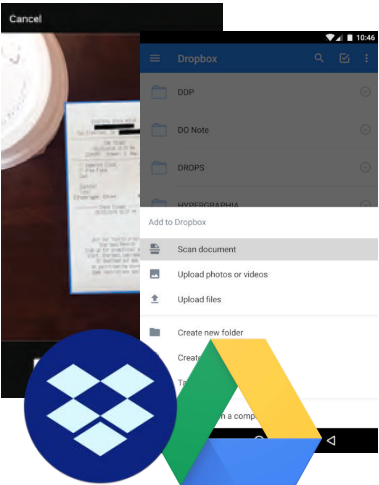
Is Your Smart Phone Eavesdropping on You?

Two friends sat down for dinner, one had placed her iPhone on the table as per usual and noticed her friend struggling to read the menu and asked, "I thought you had laser eye surgery?" Which her friend replied "Yes, but it only works at long distance." Hours after she had her dinner with her friend, she was scrolling through her Facebook account and started noticing all the adverts were for laser eye surgery and various other glasses makers. She doesn't even wear glasses and the timing was unsettling. Is it possible that our phones are capable of listening to everything we say? Are certain key words being logged and used to send us targeted ads? If true, the implications are truly worrisome. Just remember that every app you download, you let it access your personal information on your phone and open yourself up to be a target. There's no such thing as a free app.

NeoTip: Scan Documents From Your Phone

Did you know your mobile device can act as a portable scanner? There are many apps for Android and iOS but you probably have one already installed and didn't know it. If you use Google Drive or Dropbox it's simple, all you do is go into the app and select the "+" sign button in the bottom right hand corner to create a new document and select the scan option. After that point your camera and scan away!

Windows 7 End of Life is Coming, Are You Prepared?

As of January 14th, 2020, Microsoft will no longer be providing support or patches for the following software platforms: Windows 7, Office 2010, Exchange 2010, Windows Server 2008/R2 and Small Business Server 2011.

We Can Help.
https://neolore.com/2020countdown/

Who Else Wants To Win A $25 Tim's Card?

The Prize Winner of last month's Trivia Challenge Quiz is Joanne T! Joanne correctly answered last month's quiz question:

Question: What is 1 of the many ways your employees will invite hackers into your network?

Answer: Social engineering. Circumventing incorrectly implemented security measures. Insiders with malicious intent.

Now, here's this month's trivia question. The winner will receive a $25 Tim's Card!

Question: How many devices has Windows 10 reached?

Call (613) 594-9199 right now with your answer! Or email trivia@neolore.com.

Why was the IT guy in the hospital? He touched the firewall.