NEOLORE NETWORKS INC.

TECHLORE

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

"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.

The End Of An Era… Take Action By New Year's Eve 2013!

As you may have heard, Microsoft has long ago announced the retirement of its most successful software platform of all time, Windows XP. Effective April 8, 2014, Microsoft will no longer support the Windows XP platform in any way, shape or form.

"What does this mean if you are currently running XP?"

This means any computer with Windows XP installed will be completely exposed to serious hacker attacks aimed at taking control of your network, stealing data, crashing your system and inflicting a host of of other business-crippling problems you do NOT want to have to deal with.

This is such a serious threat that all companies housing financial and medical information are being required by law, to upgrade any and all computer systems running XP because firewalls and antivirus software will NOT be sufficient to completely protect them (or you).

Unless you don't care about cyber criminals running rampant in your company's equipment you MUST upgrade any servers or workstations running these programs no later than April 8, 2014.

The Time To Act Is Now

As Windows XP comes to the end of its life, businesses with software applications dependent on XP will stop support for these programs. The writing is on the wall and these companies will follow. Companies producing antivirus and firewall software will also have no reason to continue releasing updates for something considered to be dead.

**CONTACT NEOLORE NETWORKS TODAY TO FIND OUT HOW THE WINDOWS XP END OF OF LIFE WILL IMPACT YOUR BUSINESS, AND MAKE SURE YOUR COMPUTERS AND SERVERS ARE PREPARED
613 594 9199**

NEOLORE NETWORKS INC.

Backing Up Your Server Alone May Still Lead To Data Loss

Most business owners know that it is important for their server(s) to be backed up. But what about your computers (desktops, laptops, Macs)? Though it's true that quite a bit of your data is stored on your servers and backed up by your network, your computer itself (your icons, your background, all of your settings, your local files, music and pictures you have stored, and all of your software applications) is NOT being backed up.

If your computer were to crash, get a virus or simply die, all of that information could be lost. The company data that you've saved to your server would still be there IF you are saving everything to your server (a big if for many companies), but everything else would be gone. You would have to recreate that computer by reloading all of the software and settings. And if you've ever had this happen to you, you know it can take a significant amount of time to do. What a pain!

So, How Do You Solve This Problem?

Simple. You use imaging software on your computer that automatically takes periodic images of important, irreplaceable machines and sends them off-site or to your server for safekeeping. For travel laptops, this can often be done via the cloud. Imaging software takes a "picture" or "snapshot" of your computer, recording it exactly as it is, with all of the software, settings and local files you have on it. This way, if your computer ever crashes, there is no need to reload everything onto it and reconfigure the computer. Simply restore your last "image" from before the crash and your computer can be back to its old self again. This is a huge time-saver and can be a lifesaver when something goes wrong.

Workplace Lemons (and How Not to be One)

According the Wikipedia, "Lemon laws are American state laws that provide a remedy for purchasers of cars in order to compensate for cars that repeatedly fail to meet standards of quality and performance." In Canada we don't have a Lemon Law, we have CAMVAP (Canadian Motor Vehicle Arbitration Plan) but for the purpose of this article, let's imagine we do.

No one wants to spend money for a car or other product that is defective or doesn't meet expected standards. And no one likes to be disappointed by what they get for the money they spend. What if there were lemon laws for disappointing workplace performance?

As an employee who is paid by an employer to perform, what might get you disqualified as a "lemon"?

In the workplace, they're not called "lemon laws." They are called dismissal and termination. And they're bad for both the employer and the employee.

If you like your job, you don't want to be replaced for being defective in the results you deliver. Here are three ways to make sure your work won't invoke the spirit of the lemon law:

1. Know what is expected
Every employer has expectations when they do business with you. Unfortunately, some employees don't find out what those expectations are until after they're not met.

Meet with your manager to clarify your own job expectations. That includes where you should focus your attention, what gets priority and what skills you need to develop or improve.

Priorities change, so regularly schedule a brief meeting for feedback on your performance to make sure you're focused on doing the right things.

2. Meet standards and, if possible, exceed them
The most valued employees are those who know how to add value to their work. To earn more, contribute more. The worst thing you can do, for an employer or a customer, is to over-promise and under-deliver. That's a guaranteed strategy for disappointment.

Consider these questions: What are you doing to exceed expectations? Are you willing and able to do a little more than expected? Are you unique in a way that your company values, or are you interchangeable with anyone else who could do the job?

3. Commit to excellence
Excellence begins with a mind-set. It is the commitment to focus your attention and skills to create something worthy of you, valued by your employer and worthwhile to your customer. Those who do only "just enough" often get by but they never get ahead. Employers appreciate not just the work that is done, but the attitude of the person doing the work.

There is an old and familiar saying: "If life gives you lemons, make lemonade." That's great advice for dealing with adversity and setbacks. But if you want to be a valued employee and move ahead in your career, make sure your work doesn't qualify for any lemon laws of low performance. Instead, strive to be a positive example of superior performance.

4. Seek feedback
One way to assure that your performance is as expected or better is to ask for ongoing feedback. Don't just inquire about how you're doing; specifically ask about what you could do differently or better to improve your work. A rational employer will appreciate your efforts to assure quality and get better at what you do.
If there were lemon laws for workplace performance, neither you nor I would want to invoke them with substandard work. Aim to meet expectations, continually improve performance and become an encore performer in your organization.

The Lighter Side:

Things You Probably Didn't Know About December

The name December comes from the Latin decem for "ten," as it was the 10th month in the Roman calendar.

"Jingle Bells" was composed in 1857, and not for Christmas – it was meant to be a Thanksgiving song!

December 28th is considered by some to be the unluckiest day of the year.

The first artificial Christmas tree was made in Germany, fashioned out of goose feathers that were dyed green!

An almanac prediction states that if snow falls on Christmas Day, Easter will be warm, green and sunny.

Spiders and spiderwebs are considered good luck on Christmas.

Free Microsoft Office 365 Cloud Software For Non-Profits?

As part of its "Technology For Good" program, Microsoft has recently announced that it is giving away Microsoft Office 365 software licenses for free to qualified nonprofit organizations. Office 365 is Microsoft's cloud-based software solution that allows users to run office applications, e-mail, calendars, video conferencing and more all through the web.

The Office 365 donation program is part of Microsoft's larger giving program where it hands out $2 million worth of software each and every day to nonprofits around the world. This specific program donates the "cloud only" Web Apps version of Microsoft Office 365, including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, SharePoint, online cloud storage and more, to qualified organizations. Nonprofits can upgrade to the cloud/desktop hybrid version of Office 365 for a reduced rate of over 75% off the normal price.

See If You Qualify:
Eligible nonprofits must hold recognized charitable status and must have a mission to benefit the local community in areas such as providing relief to the poor, advancing education, improving social welfare, preserving culture, restoring the environment, promoting human rights and establishing a civil society.

NEED HELP GETTING SET UP WITH MICROSOFT OFFICE 365?

CONTACT NEOLORE NETWORKS TODAY TO GET SET UP QUICK AND EASY!
613 594 9199

NEOLORE NETWORKS INC.

Who Else Wants To Win A $25 Gas Card?

The Grand Prize Winner of last month's Trivia Challenge Quiz is Warren G! He was the first person to correctly answer last months quiz question: Name one of the three simple tricks to get more done every day.

Now, here's this month's trivia question (The answer can be found in this newsletter). The winner will receive a $25 gas card!

What is the date that Microsoft will no longer support Windows XP?

Call (613) 594-9199 right now with your answer!

NEOLORE NETWORKS INC

4

WWW.NEOLORE.COM