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NEOLORE NETWORKS INC.

TECHLORE

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

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 Most Common Ways Hackers Access Your Network

You are under attack. Right now, cybercrime rings in China, Russia, and the Ukraine are hacking into small businesses like yours to steal credit cards, client information, and swindle money directly out of your bank account. Some are even being funded by their own government to attack American businesses, and half of all cyberattacks are aimed at small businesses. The National Cyber Security Alliance reports that one in five small businesses have been victims of cybercrime in the last year. It's critical that you protect yourself from the following 10 vulnerabilities.

1) Poorly trained employees are the biggest risk. It's common for an employee to infect an entire network by opening and clicking a phishing email designed to look like legitimate correspondence from a trusted source. If they don't know how to spot infected emails or online scams, employees can easily compromise your entire network.

2) We strongly recommend an acceptable use policy that limits the websites employees can access with work devices as well as work material they access with personal devices. We can easily set up permissions that regulate which websites your employees' access and what they do with company-owned devices, even granting certain users more freedom than others. You also need to detail what an employee can or cannot do with personal devices when taking work home.

3) Weak passwords are bad news; passcodes should be at least eight characters long with both lower and uppercase letters and include symbols and at least one number. On a company cellphone, requiring a passcode makes stolen devices harder to compromise. Again, this can be enforced by your network administrator so employees don't get lazy and put your organization at risk.

4) If your networks aren't patched, new vulnerabilities (which are common in programs you already use, such as Microsoft Office) can be exploited by hackers. It's critical that you patch and update your systems frequently. If you're under a managed IT plan, this can be automated so you never miss an important update.

5) Are you backed up in multiple places? Aggressive ransomware attacks, where a hacker holds files for ransom until you pay a fee, can be foiled by backing up your data. You won't have to pay a crook to get them back. A good backup will also protect you against accidental deletion and natural disasters, and it should be automated.

6) One of the fastest ways cybercriminals access networks is by duping employees to download malicious software by embedding it within downloadable files, games, or other innocent-looking apps. This can largely be prevented with a secure firewall and employee training and monitoring.

7) Not all firewalls are created equal. A firewall blocks everything you haven't specifically allowed to enter or leave your network. But all firewalls need monitoring and maintenance, just like all devices on your network, and a weak one does you little good. This, too, should be done by your IT person or company as part of their regular, routine maintenance.

8) Many hackers exploit your devices when you connect to public Wi-Fi, getting you to connect to their Wi-Fi instead of the legitimate public one. Always check with a store or restaurant employee to verify the name of the Wi-Fi they are providing. And never access financial or medical data or enter your credit card information when surfing public Wi-Fi.

9) It may be one of the oldest tricks in the book, but phishing emails still work. The goal is to get you to download a virus by clicking a link or getting you to enter your login information on a clone of a legitimate website.

10) In 2009, social engineers posed as Coca-Cola's CEO, persuading an executive to open an email with software that infiltrated the network. Social engineering is another old-school tactic, but, like phishing, it works well. Hackers pretend to be you, and people often fall for it.

If you are concerned about cybercriminals gaining access to your network, then call us to learn more about implementing a managed security plan for your business. You've spent a lifetime working hard to get where you are and have earned every penny and every client. Why risk losing it all? Get the facts and be certain your business, reputation, and data are protected.

Shiny New Gadget Of The Month: Wireless Bluetooth Light Bulb Speaker

Want ambient music that will keep guests wondering where the sound is coming from? Replace your light bulbs with a long lasting, ecofriendly light bulb that contains a Bluetooth speaker! This speaker is forward/backward compatible with all Bluetooth –enabled media players; Smartphone, iPhone, iPad, iPod, Mac, Macbook, Android, to name a few! The speaker also comes with a remote that changes the color of the light and can turn off the light while keeping the music flowing. To learn more, visit:

https://www.monavy.com/products/w-b-l

Are You in a State of Stuck? Here's How to Win the Battle against Inertia *By by Andy Bailey*

Momentum is key to business growth. When you're moving forward and good things are happening, it can feel almost effortless. One action leads to the next, and you're achieving results at a rapid pace.

But what if you had a good run, and you're now feeling a little stuck? It could be that you're suffering from inertia. It's very real and can be very destructive. I work with businesses every day, and even the most seasoned leaders experience inertia from time to time.

The good news is that there's always a way out — it depends on you. The key is to get moving. Shake things up and make choices that force you out of your state of stuck.

Take these five steps to break through inertia and get your wheels rolling again:

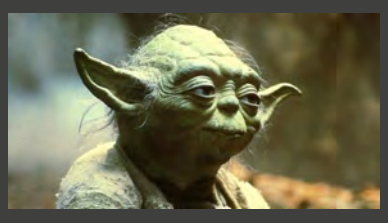
• Get specific about what you want to accomplish. What do you want to do, and what does success mean? In creating your goal, ask yourself, "What does that look like?" And be specific about your answer! Avoid using words like "less" or "more" —those terms mean nothing.

• Plan it out. What steps are necessary to reach your goal? How will you ensure your success? Write it all out and indicate when you plan to complete each step. Set dates for completion and stick to them.

• Ask what might get in your way. If you set a goal, but you don't think about potential obstacles, you're setting yourself up for failure. For example, if you want to go to the gym three times a week at 5 a.m., but haven't considered that you may be needed at home to help with child care, you're probably not going to the gym. Get real about any hurdles that might get in the way of achieving your goal, so you can work around those circumstances and find your best path to success.

• Make yourself accountable. It can be easy to tell yourself that you're going to do something, but if you make your intentions public, it's much tougher to make excuses and abandon your commitments.

• Do it now! There's no time to waste and there's a lot of power in the present moment. No matter how small the first step is, make every effort to take it immediately. Demonstrate to yourself and others that you're committed to the process and you're ready to move forward. In the words of Lao Tzu, "The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step." Take that step as soon as you can.



I'm a big Yoda fan, and I quote him a lot. Here's my favorite line of his: "There is no try … only do." Trying won't get you anywhere. Set your goal, figure out how to meet it, and really do it. Anything else will stop your momentum in its tracks and lead to inertia (or the Dark Side, as Yoda might put it).

A Vicious Microsoft Bug Left A Billion PCs Exposed.

Speaking of which, thank goodness security researchers in May found the exec bug in Windows that could have been used by hackers to gain entry without physical access or user action. The bug would have exploited Windows Defender, Microsoft's in-house antivirus software, and left anybody running Microsoft Windows vulnerable. As Google engineers note in a report on the bug, to pull off the attack a hacker would have only had to send a specialized email or trick a user into visiting a malicious website, or otherwise sneak an illicit file onto a device. This also isn't just a case of clicking the wrong link; because Microsoft's antivirus protection automatically inspects every incoming file, including unopened email attachments, all it takes to fall victim is an inbox. Microsoft has since patched the bug. *Wired.com – May 9, 2017*

Is Your Coffee Maker or Thermostat a Security Threat?

Internet-connected devices, including coffee makers and thermostats, are slated to hit 20 billion in number by 2020. That makes them ripe for hacking, as we saw last November with DDOS attacks that targeted smart devices in addition to regular laptops and computers. Standard security measures apply, including strong passwords and from home use policies. Get your IT people trained on smart device security, and only use those devices if totally necessary. SmallBusinessComputing.com – *November 30, 2016*

Phone Power Companies Are Here To Prevent You From Ever Letting Your Battery Die

Phone charging on the fly is a growing market in China, and one company, Anker, is trying out its platform in Seattle. Power-bank sharing is the way of the future, or so Anker believes, anyway. People use bike-sharing services because it provides for some convenience. People used to buy products, now they want a service. Today, people think that they need to bring a portable charger out with them. That might change with power bank-sharing. Whether people will pay $1.99/day so they don't have to bring a charger with them remains to be seen. *Mashable.com - May 9, 2017*

NEO-Tech Tip of the Month: TimeTune

Today, it seems that everyone tries to pack as many appointments and activities into their days as they can. Many of us use scheduling notebooks, sticky notes, and some use their smartphones. For the smartphone users that have Android phones, there is a free daily scheduler app called **TimeTune**. This app helps you manage your time based on routines and routine schedules that you create. It allows you the ability to design and send routine schedules to others, to create attractive custom tags to quickly identify activities, to fully customize each notification independently and set reminders and timers for activities that don't quite fit in a routine, such as one time activities or activities with odd repetition cycles. It also comes with a widget with a fully customizable look so you can examine your schedule in the way you prefer.

You're Invited… Come join us for one of our many CYBERSECURITY seminars.

While it's impossible to plan for every potential cyber-attack, a little proactive monitoring and maintenance of your network will help you avoid or greatly reduce the impact of the vast majority of network disasters you could experience.

Sign up for the CyberSecurity Seminar at the following website:
http://www.neolore.com/am-I-secure/
or call us at
613-594-9199.

Win a chance for a Free Security Audit worth over $1000. All attendees will receive a Mobile Security Policy Template which they can use for their own company.

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

The Prize Winner of last month's Trivia Challenge Quiz is Brenda B.! Brenda correctly answered last month's quiz question:

Name 4 different types of Shadow IT devices/applications.

Ans:

Messaging Apps, Excel Macros, cloud data storage, USB drives are four possible answers.

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

Question: What is the name of seminar that NeoLore is hosting? Have you signed up?

Contact NeoLore today at 613-594-9199 or email contact@neolore.com to give us your answer!

Any room is a panic room if you've lost your phone in it.