



"As a business owner, I know you don't have time to waste on technical and operational issues. That's where we *shine!*"

Managing your technology, so you can manage your business

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Planning on moving your office anytime soon? Call us for a FREE Office Moving Checklist and save yourself a lot of time, money and headaches! See page 4 for the full details.



Technology Times

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

If Disaster Strikes, How Fast Could Your Company Be Back Up And Running?

You hear it all the time from us—back up your data, keep your virus protection current, and install and maintain a firewall to protect yourself from hackers and other online threats.

However, while these precautions will certainly help you avoid problems, they CAN'T do anything if you don't have a good backup and disaster recovery plan in place.

Are You A Sitting Duck?

We all know that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure; yet, disaster recovery planning often takes a distant second to the daily deadlines and pressures of running a business. That means that most businesses, including your own, may end up offline and without your data after a simple lightening storm.

Don't think that could ever happen to you? Consider this: "data-erasing disasters" can also take the form of office fires and broken water pipes, not just earthquakes, floods and tornadoes. If a fire started in your building, the parts that weren't burned beyond recovery would probably be destroyed by the firemen's efforts. But even more common is software corruption, hardware failures and human error!

Disaster Recovery Questions You Need To Answer

A disaster recovery plan doesn't have to be complicated, time-consuming or expensive. Start by asking yourself the following questions...

1. Do you back up your company's data daily to both an onsite *and* offsite location?

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www.smbnetworksllc.com OR call 866 975-1688**

YOU NEED A PLAN PLEASE!

I want to tell you about two recent happenings that could have been catastrophic are avoidable, and are timely to the **Backup / Disaster Recovery** lead article.

The first is about a non profit that decided to use their current tape backup rather than implementing a disaster recovery solution. A **virus** was introduced to their network via a USB drive on a workstation. The end result was that they were **out of business for 3 days!** Fortunately we were able to rebuild the server so there wasn't any wait time or cost for hardware.

The second story is about a contracting company that had a **power outage and a UPS failure**. In this case the server shut down improperly and they spent a **day out of business**. The point of both these stories is **your data IS important!** A catastrophe doesn't always come in the way of a fire, earth quake or flood. It could be a **power failure or virus from a USB stick**.

My message to you is simple; ask us, ask your current provider **ASK SOMEONE how well you are protected and how long it will be before you are back in business?**

Implement a solution. Have a plan in place before there is a problem!

We offer programs that not only include **onsite and offsite backups** but also have a "standby server" on your site for recovery within a couple of hours.

Call **866 975 1688** or email me at peterv@smbnetworksllc.com to take advantage of our **Free Backup and Disaster Recovery Audit**.

2. Are you absolutely certain that your backup copy is valid, complete and not corrupt? How do you know for sure?
3. If disaster strikes, **HOW** would you get your data back, and how what would you do during that period of time?
4. Do you have copies of all the software licenses and discs in a safe location that could be accessed in the event of having to rebuild your server?
5. Would you and your employees have a way to access your network remotely if you couldn't get to the office?
6. Do you store important passwords in a secure place that company officers can access if you are unavailable?
7. Do you have a UPS (uninterruptible power supply) device in place to keep your network and other critical data operations running during a power outage?
8. If your phones are down, where will you forward your business calls so you don't lose that business?
9. If a more common "disaster" occurs, such as server hardware failure, do you have an onsite way to get back up and running the same day?

This is NOT a complete list, but it is a good start to get you thinking in the right direction.

Our FREE Disaster Recovery Plan Helps You Prepare

Since Valentine's Day is this month, we've decided to show our clients how much we love them by giving away a **FREE Backup and Disaster Recovery Audit**. At no charge or obligation, we'll come to your office, review your plan (or lack of one) and provide a simple action plan on what you need to do to make sure your business can always be up and running.

But take note! We can only make this available to our clients and friends during the month of February; after that, the fee for this consultation will be \$395. For more information, please contact our office at **866 975-1688** or e-mail us at peterv@smbnetworksllc.com

“One’s objective should be to get it right, get it quick and get it out and get it over. You see, your problem won’t improve with age.” - Warren Buffet

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The Lighter Side... The Computer Programmer's Creed

“Not even computers will replace committees, because committees buy computers.”

“If a program is useful, it will have to be changed.”

“If a program is useless, it will have to be documented.”

“Software complexity must grow until it exceeds the capabilities of the programmer who must maintain it.”

“There's always one more bug.”

“Adding manpower to a late software project makes it later.”

“Any given program, when running, is obsolete.”

“Any non-trivial program must have at least one bug.”

(Above quotes from various writers and celebrities from www.basicjokes.com)



How To Avoid The Top 3 Budget Busting, Stress-Inducing Mistakes When Moving Your Office

Moving is always a pain in the rump, but it doesn't have to be a horrific, expensive experience. The number one lament from someone who's experienced a "bad" move is, "I didn't know I needed to..." followed closely by "I completely forgot that..." In other words, **it's what you don't do that makes the move a disaster**. To make your move easy and effortless, here are the 5 most common mistakes you want to avoid:

Mistake #1 — Trying To Save Money By Using Your Employees To Move Your Computer Network

Don't ask your staff to disconnect, move and reconnect computers, phones and other devices just to save a few bucks. You'll frustrate them and end up with phones ringing at the wrong extension, lost cables, and workstations that get dropped rendering them useless. You don't want to let the movers do this job either; they may be great at moving furniture, but a network is a lot more sophisticated and sensitive. **Be smart and hire an IT pro to pack and move your network.**

Mistake #2 — Not Hiring The RIGHT IT Firm To Move Your Network

While we're on the topic, make sure you know what to look for when outsourcing the move. A few things to look for would include references from other clients, proof of insurance (get them to fax you a copy), a service level guarantee limiting the amount of time you are down, and a professional, organized approach to quoting the move. A real pro will insist on visiting your current location as well as your new location to conduct a detailed site survey. NEVER hire anyone who wants to quote moving your network over the phone. Additionally, look for an IT company that will apply the charges for conducting your site survey against the total cost of the move if you choose them.

Mistake #3 — Not Giving Your Phone, Internet And Cable Vendors Enough Advance Warning

Eighty percent (80%) of unexpected communications blackouts and cost overruns on network moves are caused by failure to properly plan voice, data and electrical installation **in advance**. Just because the prior tenant had computers and telephones is no guarantee that the cabling is suitable for *your* phones and *your* computer network. Advance planning will help you avoid emergency rush fees or band aid fixes to make things work.

Internet and telephone connections require as much as six weeks advance notice to be installed, tested and ready the day you move in. And if you are building a new office, don't leave it up to the builder to decide how many power outlets, network and phone connections you will need.

With printers, scanners, faxes, and other technologies connecting directly to the network these days, the rule of thumb of one electrical outlet, one phone and one network connection per employee is woefully outdated. Consult your IT provider in the early planning stages to ensure you have what you need before the drywall goes up.

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Shiny New Gadget of the Month: PDA Keyboard



If your thumb muscles are sore from editing documents or sending lengthy e-mails on your PDA, relief is on the way. Thanks to Bluetooth technology ("wireless"), you can now get a special full-sized keyboard that will work with your PDA or Smartphone. Just set your phone in the attached PDA stand and... viola...you have an instant office. There's no PC needed, either. Just download the software right to your phone.

Wondering how or why you'd lug around a big keyboard for your miniphone? They thought of that too. Weighing in around 6oz and folding to the size of a cup of coffee, these keyboards come with a small carrying case. With many manufacturers now on the PDA keyboard bandwagon, you can get your hands on one online for under \$80 through almost any technology reseller.



Call Us Before Your Next Office Move And Get A \$99 Office Move Checklist, Site Survey, and Network Move Plan...FREE!

If you (or someone you know) is planning on moving, contact us for a FREE Office Move Checklist. You'll receive:

- FREE Office Move Checklist to make sure you don't overlook important action items.
- FREE Site Survey and Network Move Plan. At no charge we'll map out your move to minimize costs and downtime.

Call us now! 866 975-1688 or email me at peterv@smbnetworksllc.com

Please join us in welcoming our newest clients:

Electrical Facilities, Inc.

Rings End-Norwalk

Welcome to the SMB family!

Electrical Facilities, Inc. is an electrical contractor located in Wallingford, CT.

Rings End, Connecticut's most prominent retail lumber, millwork and building specialties companies.

Who Wants To Win A \$25 Gift Card?

**Take my monthly Trivia Challenge and
you could be the winner!**

Here's the Q and A's to January's Trivia Challenge Quiz:
**With New Year's resolutions fresh in everyone's mind,
how many people are estimated to sign up for gym
membership this month?**

- a) 4 million b) 12 million c) 30 million d) 18 million

The answer is: a) 4 million

Now for this month's question

**When did Valentine's Day become associated
with romantic love?**

- a) Victorian Era b) Middle Ages
c) Nineteenth Century d) The 1950's

Call me right now with your answer!

866 975-1688

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