GLOBALTECH SOLUTIONS

TECHMinutes

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Providing IT Solutions Nationwide

This Issue:

The holidays are a time to be appreciative of everything you have. We just want to say, we really appreciate you and we look forward to another great year!

Should Innovation Ever Take A Backseat To Proven Procedure?

If you've read any of our content, we continually stress the importance of innovation. Learning how to adjust and do things better allows for any organization to maximize productivity. In doing so, it creates the environment needed to become a more successful business. But, can innovation actually be a productivity killer? Today we look at how innovating may not always be the best way to get your business to go where you want it to go.

Innovation

Before we tell you how innovation may hurt your business, we'll talk a little bit about how it is absolutely essential. Business is, for most companies, a very human endeavor. Humans that do the same thing day-in and day-out, don't take all that long to get proficient at it. This proficiency, if not tested can soon turn into complacency, but if it is tested too much, it can turn into productivity-sapping frustration. Innovation is the process of renewal. Taking something that has worked, and making it work even better.

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Cybersecurity In 2018, What You Need To Know

2017 wasn't so long ago, but one year is a long time in terms of cybersecurity developments. Anytime the Internet is involved, it's important to remember that threats have access to the collective minds of every hacker on the planet, meaning that developments can happen rapidly and without much warning. We'll take a look at how cybersecurity has changed since 2017, including some notable information about how organizations are protecting themselves today.

The Internet of Things Shapes Security Policies

Connected devices are now commonplace in both the personal lives of users and offices all over the world. The Internet of Things typically consists of devices that can connect to the Internet, but aren't traditionally connected devices, like home appliances and other objects. To protect themselves from the security issues related to these devices, businesses have implemented solutions and tried to control devices brought to the office by their employees. Basically, you need to determine if the measures you are taking are adequate to ensure IoT devices aren't going to become a problem for your organization. If you take action now, you decrease the risk of these devices compromising your security.

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Using Templates In EverNote

The note-taking application Evernote is a favorite of many users, as it allows them to keep extensive notes in an organized fashion. Its true utility goes beyond that of a digital scratch pad, however, as it has additional features that offer much more. For this week's tip, we'll review one particularly useful feature: templates.

What Are Templates?

Evernote's templates are handy, pre-built structures for notes that provide users with a simpler means of organizing specific types of information. Instead of taking…

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About Global Tech Solutions

We provide IT Support such as technical helpdesk support, computer support, and consulting to businesses nationwide. It's always been our goal to provide enterprise-level IT practices and solutions, with small business prices.

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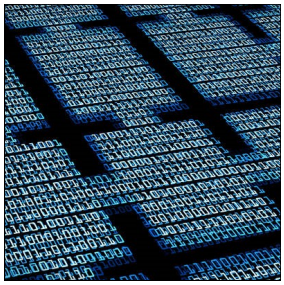
Exciting Blockchain-Fueled Applications Are Coming



You've probably heard the term "blockchain" at least a couple of times over the past year, but what does it mean, and how are organizations using it? The most obvious and well-known use for it is cryptocurrency, but it's far from the only use of blockchain. We'll delve into what blockchain technology is, how it is currently used, and how it might be used in the future.

What is Blockchain Technology?

In essence, a blockchain is a distributed ledger that builds a collection of records that is continually growing, all protected with encryption. By design, blockchains are meant to be resilient to edits and changes, making them quite reliable in terms of ensuring the integrity of these records. Each block (or node) of data has security measures to keep it from being changed, as well as timestamps for each record and information about the transaction. If a record needs to be altered, all subsequent records must also be altered, which requires the permission of the network majority.

How Is It Used?

Originally, blockchain was developed for cryptocurrency purposes, but the fact that it's encrypted and resilient to changes makes blockchain ideal for other purposes. Public blockchains are used for cryptocurrency like Bitcoin to provide a distributed ledger, but it's thought that private blockchain systems might be helpful for business purposes.

How Will It Be Used in the Future?

One of the most noteworthy ways that blockchain could be implemented in the future is the sharing of health records between various provider offices. Since it's a distributed network, all doctors on someone's medical plan would have access to the same unaltered data so they could provide the best service possible. Other opportunities for blockchain technology include a transparent ledger for public viewing, which has a wide range of uses for tracking payments for services rendered and other information.

Global Tech Solutions can help your business check up on the latest technology solutions on the market, including ones that will help you improve operations or efficiency. To learn more, reach out to us at (800) 484-0195.

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Should Innovation Ever Take A Backseat To Proven Procedure?

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A constant need for renewal fuels the technology industry. Take, for example, a legacy computing system. A business can still utilize it because it knows what to expect. It's been using the applications and the software for quite a while. Since it creates no new problems, and the management of it is routine, it works for your business, until it begins to cause other problems.

How could it be then, that this kind of unquestionable efficiency is actually hurting your business?

Well, the answer is pretty standard. With solutions available that take less capital to maintain, are available on newer technologies, and enhance your workers' ability to be collaborative/productive, the expectation would be that embracing new technology systems will actually cost the business less than maintaining and supporting a legacy system. The legacy system will eventually be untenable because it will be so expensive to maintain, or, it will lose effectiveness. Either reason suggests innovation is an inevitability.

Innovation Betrayal

We've already established how serious business owners (and other decisions makers) need to be innovative in their procurement and deployment of business-class solutions to get more out of their business investments. What happens when the innovations they choose do the opposite? What if everything they've been told by industry leaders, by mentors, and by their vendors turned out to be completely ineffective?

What if by innovating some of their IT, waste and inefficiency spiked? What if the end result of a dedication to accepting new hardware and other solutions is that capital, that could be spent elsewhere (or, to maintain systems that worked properly for some time), is completely wasted? How can you justify taking capital from a functioning system and leaving your staff with a shiny, new system that doesn't deliver the same effective computing platform (or operational effectiveness) that their old system did?

We all know that supporting a legacy computing platform is not just costly, it is risky. With the thousands of threats out there just looking to feast on unprotected, network-attached systems, upgrading to more secure systems that don't need as much diligent oversight should likely be a priority of every business.

How do you make these two concepts play nice? One way is to virtualize. In the past, legacy applications were a major problem for IT administrators, but nowadays, there are solutions that make legacy application virtualization not only possible, but efficient. That way, you'll be able to maintain the use of your legacy applications, but host them on a public or private cloud…

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Cybersecurity In 2018, What You Need To Know

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Ransomware Decreases in Usage, But It's Still Dangerous

As of last December, Malwarebytes indicates that the rate of direct ransomware infection has dropped to about 10%. This is a major change compared to the ransomware spike that occurred in 2017. Of course, it's still important to ensure that you are protecting yourself from this dangerous malware, as well as have plans in place to recover from an encounter with ransomware.

Cryptomining is More Popular than Ever

One big development in 2018 is an increase in cryptomining threats that can install themselves on devices and covertly mine Bitcoin without the user's knowledge. These kinds of threats can have side-effects on your computers that can slow down the device or create more work for the device than usual. You definitely don't want cryptomining software on your device, so be sure to protect it from these threats as well with a comprehensive security solution and active resource monitoring.

Proactive Security is Still the Best Option

Thankfully, more organizations are seeing the benefit of actively preventing security threats from becoming an issue by implementing proactive solutions on their infrastructure. This includes patching vulnerabilities and updating software as soon as new fixes are issued, as well as seeking out threats on a regular basis to eliminate anything that has potentially installed on their devices. This basically takes a reactive approach that some businesses still rely on--resolving issues as they pop up rather than preventing them entirely--and converts it to a proactive stance.

IDG has released a new survey that reveals the security priorities of many businesses. These respondents found that the following aspects of network security were priorities:

- 74%: Best practices
- 69%: Compliance mandates
- 36%: Responding to a security incident that occurred in their own organization
- 33%: Mandates from the board of directors
- 29%: Responding to a security incident that occurred in another organization

Cybersecurity is more important than ever before, so how is your organization working to keep itself safe? Global Tech Solutions can help. To learn more, reach out to us at (800) 484-0195.

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Back Up Your Best Business

Businesses need to be prepared for the worst these days, as disasters could strike at any moment and cause irreparable data loss. One of the ways your business can break in the new year with confidence is with a backup and disaster recovery strategy that minimizes downtime and keeps your organization safe from events beyond your control. We'll help you put together the best backup solution for your business' needs.

What Makes a Good Backup Strategy?

It's easy to underestimate just how valuable data is for a business, especially in today's modern office environment. Protecting your data by any means necessary is critical to your continued success. The best way to do this is by using a comprehensive data backup solution that also has a disaster recovery component. While it might be tempting to back up all data on your network, it's worth remembering that some data isn't as valuable as other data. You'll have to decide which data is worth more and design a strategy around making sure this is always available.

Resolutions for 2019

You should always strive for excellence in everything your business does, and data backup is one way your organization can improve itself for 2019. If you're not sure how you can improve data backup and disaster recovery for your business, try following some of these guidelines:

Implement a backup platform that lets you back up the data necessary to the operations of your business, minimizing downtime to keep costs low.
Work with your IT administrator to plan your data backup solution based around specific factors like your recovery point objective and recovery time objective.

Test your backups regularly to ensure that they work as intended. This means that any time you have to actually deploy a backup, you can know with certainty that they will work.
If you don't have an IT administrator available who can help you with the process of implementing a data backup and disaster recovery solution, reach out to Global Tech Solutions. Our professionals have seen their fair share of nasty situations that have led to the demise of unprepared business, like natural disasters, hacking attacks, and even user error; we don't want it to happen to you as well.

We can help your business minimize downtime and expedite the restoration process with a data backup and disaster recovery solution from Global Tech Solutions. To learn more, reach out to us at (800) 484-0195.

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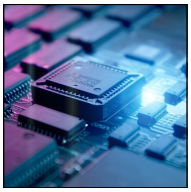
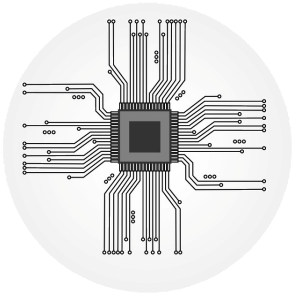
What Do You Know About The Microchips That Power Your Technology?



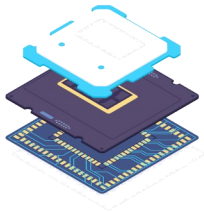
Computers are made up of many complex pieces of technology, and any business that uses them must have at least a working knowledge of them (or know someone who does, like a managed IT provider). Among these pieces of technology are "chips," or microchips, that are responsible for making sure the technology, whatever it may be, works as intended. We'll discuss some of the different kinds of chips the everyday user or business owner may be involved with when thinking about their computer.

Generally speaking, microchips in computers are made out of a variety of materials, but the most common is silicon. These microchips are responsible for acting as semiconductors and give your devices the ability to perform various tasks. We'll get into the details about a couple of them here.



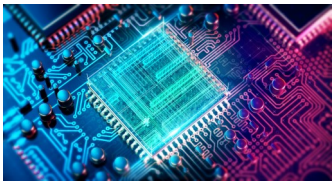
Memory

One of the more notable uses of microchips in devices includes temporarily storing data. These kinds of chips have a familiar name that you've probably heard before --Random Access Memory, or RAM. As long as the chip is receiving power, it can store data on the device. Once the device is turned off and the chips are no longer receiving power, this temporary data is wiped. Depending on what the device is used for, the computer might have many RAM chips installed on it; otherwise, the device will be slowed down considerably by resource-intensive tasks.



Microprocessors

Microprocessors have a lot to do with your device's CPU, or central processing unit. You'll often hear the comparison of a CPU to the brain of the human body. The CPU is responsible for processing all of the programmable commands on the device. Microprocessors generally rely on logic to function as intended. Of course, depending on the kind of device, various strength microprocessors will need to be used, as the same kind of microprocessor won't work for every single kind of device out there.



Other Kinds of Chips

Depending on the device used, you might find various device-specific chips in use. For example, some devices that have cameras might have chips specifically designed for use with video recording or picture taking. Others that have networking abilities might have chips designed for use with those. Basically, chips are responsible for both the everyday functionality of your devices, as well as some of the specific, more advanced features that not everyone will be using.

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Abraham Brown
CEO

Tech Trivia
Microsoft wants to put their cloud data under water.

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