



This Issue:

Smart Technology: An Update

What Effect Does Available Streaming Have on Your Employee's Productivity?

Tech Term: Chromebook

Automating Maintenance Saves Organizations More than Just Time

FinTech is Improving and It's a Good Thing for Consumers

How to Calculate if That Print Job Was Really Worth It

Tech Term: Chromebook



It seems like everywhere you go, you can see a Chromebook. These specialty laptops have a few features that make them highly desirable in some circumstances, and poorly suited to others. Seeing as 'Chromebook' is our Tech Term for this week, why not take a few moments and examine them a little closer?

Examining the Chromebook

Putting it simply, Chromebooks are limited laptop devices that do considerably less than their utility-packed cousins, but what they...



Read the Rest Online!
<http://bit.ly/2IFvIkH>

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.

Visit us **online** at:
newsletter.globaltsllc.com

Smart Technology: An Update



The term "smart technology" has been around for a while. There are now millions of products that are now "connected". They include smart forks, smart tortilla makers, and most inexplicably, a smart egg tracker; and, that's only in the kitchen. For most people, the smart tech that they are considering is that of Internet-connected devices that actually have some day-to-day practical utility. Today, we will look at some sectors of the smart technology industry that are making great headway as we speed toward a ubiquitously-connected future.

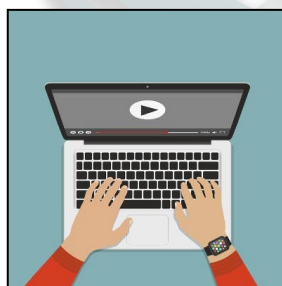
For Your Person

There are plenty of smart products that are designed to help people stay on top of their health. The most recognizable of this technology are wearable devices that function as tools to help measure something specific about a person's health. Led by companies like fitbit, many of today's wearables are designed as multi-function physical training tools. Products like health bracelets, watches, and smart fabrics are designed to connect to the Internet or to an Internet-connected mobile device.

The way it works is that each of these devices are built with microprocessors, sensors, and an energy source of some type. Engineers have toiled over the creation of this technology for over a decade, and today, with advancements in each, products are readily available that interest consumers enough to warrant over 125 million wearable units to be shipped in 2017 alone. Some smart products for your body include:

(Continued on page 2)

What Effect Does Available Streaming Have on Your Employee's Productivity?



Business owners know that streaming in the office can be a considerable detriment to productivity, but the type of media that is being streamed can play a large role in whether or not the workplace is enhanced or affected adversely by it. How does your organization approach streaming? Depending on its policies, you might want to change the way that you approach this touchy subject.

First, let's outline some situations where streaming may be acceptable in the workplace.

Acceptable Uses of Streaming

Not all streaming is bad for your organization's productivity. In certain cases, it can even be beneficial. For example, some employees work best when they are listening to music. In other cases, they may even need to drown out noise in the office, which can easily be done with their preferred tunes and a set of noise canceling headphones. This keeps everyone happy for the most part, and it's as simple as allowing employees access to an online application like Spotify and Pandora.

There also might be reason to watch a video during your ordinary workday. If it's an important news article pertinent to your industry or workplace trends, then perhaps it's worth taking a look at it. Training videos, webinars, and other similar videos are in a similar boat,

(Continued on page 3)

Automating Maintenance Saves Organizations More than Just Time



How much time does your business spend every day on issuing patches and security updates?

How about basic maintenance and management practices that leave your network technicians tied up for hours on end? Thanks to automation, these menial tasks that take a considerable amount of time and resources can be simplified and offer a great return on investment.

Remote monitoring and management, or RMM, can provide your business with several benefits that would be difficult to achieve otherwise. Here are just a few of them, in no particular order.

Patching and Updates

In order to keep your business' applications up to date at all times, you'll have to continuously keep an eye out for new patches that shore up any weaknesses in your organization's network infrastructure. This can be a time-consuming process, and the amount of

time it takes to do this for your organization is commensurate with the number of workstations, server units, networking devices, and mobile devices that your company has to keep track of. Remote monitoring and management can be used to administer updates to all of your company's devices as needed, even if the provider isn't necessarily on-site to apply the edits. Since you don't have to manually install updates on each and every one of your devices, you can instead invest this time elsewhere.

"Imagine how much time your business could save if the majority of maintenance could be done without an on-site visit?"

Network Security Management

When it comes to network security, you want to be both proactive and reactive to threats. Part of the way you can be more reactive to threats is by actively monitoring your organization's infrastructure for breaches of security. Imagine being able to detect an attack and

deflect it automatically or be notified in real time if your network is accessed by someone who is unauthorized to do so. Monitoring and maintenance technology allows for this as well, and it can be a great way to ensure that your organization can effectively react to a data breach.

Saved Time and Resources

Imagine how much time your business could save if the majority of maintenance could be done without an on-site visit? Not only would you save a ton of money, but you would also save a lot of time. Since you don't have to wait for technicians to arrive on-site for most problems to be resolved, you're saving a considerable amount of time on problem resolution. Plus, you won't be paying them for the time that they spend on the road to your office. It's a win-win scenario for both you and the provider.

Does your business want to implement remote monitoring and management? Global Tech Solutions can help. To learn more, reach out to us at 718.360.2000.



Share this Article!
<http://bit.ly/2KvbtDo>

Smart Technology: An Update

(Continued from page 1)

- **Fitness trackers** - Even the simplest ones track steps taken and estimated calories burned, while many also monitor distance traveled, sleep quality, and how fast you go.
- **Smart watches** - Some have fitness settings, but many of today's smartwatches have ecosystems that run on apps. They are capable of a lot of useful things.
- **Smart clothes** - Most smart clothes are designed for use in exercise. There are self-cooling shirts that trigger when the body temperature rises to a certain temperature, and even yoga outfits that can help you master your form.

For Your Transportation

Today, a lot of work has gone into

smart technology for the automobile. There are now cars that offer anything from face up displays that are easy to interact with, to screens that show two different sets of content depending where you sit in the car, to self-driving capabilities. This just touches what's possible for future transportation. At this point, however, we are making headway in what will one day be a sector technology will virtually dominate.

You don't have to buy one of these cars to see smart technology working for you. Since 1996, every car that has been manufactured has been built with an on-board diagnostic system. This innovation allows mechanics to access data about the vehicle. Today, there are several commercially available diagnostic tools that you can use to ascertain the

health of your car without taking it to a mechanic.

Today's smart enhancements reach beyond the actual performance of the car, they make the user experience more immersive. Obviously navigation systems, especially those that also provide a simple interface to control the media, temperature, and drive type bring a lot of value to drivers. The use of cameras have also made a big difference for the modern driver. Not only do many cars now come with standard backup cameras, there are other cameras some drivers choose to use to enhance the security of their automobile...



Read the Rest Online!
<http://bit.ly/2KwIHSZ>

What Effect Does Available Streaming Have on Your Employee's Productivity?

(Continued from page 1)

allowing you to learn something valuable through the experience. Regardless, it's likely that you'll be in a position where you need to stream something, whether you want to or not.

Unacceptable Uses for Streaming

Some employees just have a tendency to stream video at all times, which basically leads to them not getting as much work done. In other words, they are becoming a liability to both their own work ethic and your business's mission.

Streaming can also use up a lot of your bandwidth, which can create slowdown on your network for every other user.

If you have employees who just can't stay off of streaming services like Youtube, Netflix, and Hulu, you can implement a content filter on a user basis. This can keep them focused on their work throughout the day by banning suspicious or wasteful sites. In fact, social media services and streaming websites can often be infested with malware and other threats, so it might not

be a bad idea to consider banning them in the first place for those who are proving problematic.

Does your business need a content filter? Global Tech Solutions can help. To learn more, reach out to us at 718.360.2000.



Share this Article!
<http://bit.ly/2KriNQA>

FinTech is Improving and It's a Good Thing for Consumers



As financial services have become a much bigger percentage of the economy in the United

States, more interest, and capital, is being poured into improving financial services technology. Known as FinTech, there have been many great recent innovations that provide better information, opportunities, and ultimately returns for investors. This month, we take a look at what the FinTech industry is trying to do, and the effects it has on investors, and the economy as a whole.

A Little Background

FinTech traces its roots back to the start of modern security. Technology has played a significant role in the financial sector. Think about it, most of the modern financial services that we all utilize got their starts decades ago. Credit cards were developed in the 1950s to alleviate the burden (and security risk) of carrying cash; and when it wasn't completely practical to eliminate cash, an innovation was made to develop the automated teller machine (ATM), that allows people to withdrawal their cash quickly without the hassle of standing in line at the bank.

The 1970s saw further innovation. Using new communications technologies,

stock markets that had functioned in the trading pits of fixed securities commissions for decades became electronic for the first time with the establishment of the Nasdaq. Swift was soon established to fix problems traders were having with inter-state money transfers.

FinTech was ratcheted up a notch in the 1980s with the establishment of the first online brokerage, the first online banking system, the first online catalog shopper, and the first personal finance database. By the mid-to-late 1980s personal computers were becoming a staple in American households, and with them, a whole cache of new applications were developed that helped people understand and manage their personal finances. When the Hong Kong stock markets tanked on October 19, 1987, it immediately affected European markets, and eventually the Dow Jones Industrial Average plummeted almost 23 percent. Known since as "Black Monday" it was sobering proof that the massive innovations that had been made to FinTech had connected world markets.

By the time the Internet, like the PC before it, became entrenched as a household staple, FinTech had also been established. In 1998 many of the largest commercial banks set up transactional websites that allowed people and organizations to do their banking. These innovations, over decades, are largely taken for granted today, but

remain landmark innovations in the way financial systems and transactions work.

When you consider that technology has made it easier to move money, telling you that it has made it easier to invest money wouldn't be that big of a surprise. Today, people have the resources available, if they have the capital, to make more sound and faster financial decisions. In response, institutions have used the wholesale improvements to risk management, investor relations, trade processing, and analysis to fuel a rapidly growing financial services sector that now makes up upwards of 20 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product.

Current FinTech

So as we've moved onto the first part of the 21st century, and people are able to take advantage of remote computing through the use of the smartphone, you begin to see innovation working for the individual as much as you see it working for the financial services organization. New products like mobile wallets, payment apps, automated retirement planners, crowdfunding platforms, and online lenders have been designed to allow people a higher degree of access to money, whether it be their own or not...



Read the Rest Online!
<http://bit.ly/2wS24Ui>

How to Calculate if That Print Job Was Really Worth It



There are a few sounds that are familiar to any office: keys clack-

ing away, coffee being sipped (or slurped), and the rattling, squawking hum of the printer. Yet this image presents a crucial question: do you know how much your printer is costing your business each time it is used? In today's blog, we'll review how you can calculate this investment.

Why Cost-Per-Page is So Important

It is pretty common knowledge in the business world that, in order for a printer to properly print, it needs to have ink with which to print. This ink comes in the form of ink cartridges, which need to be replaced once the ink within them has been spent. These cartridges are, unfortunately, anything but cheap - and you usually have to purchase multiple to get the full benefits of a multicolor printer.

This is part of the reason that it is important for you to know your printer's average cost-per-page (CPP), or at least have a figure that is reasonably close. If your business relies heavily on paper documents in its daily processes, these costs can be considerable.

How to Calculate the Average Cost-Per-Page

Despite different ink cartridges being made for a variety of different printers, the calculation to determine your CPP is relatively simple. All you have to do is divide the price of the cartridge by the cartridge yield rating, or how many pages the cartridge should be expected to print. This number can be found on the cartridge's packaging.

So, if you spent \$25 on a cartridge of black ink with a yield of 525 pages, your formula would look like this...

$$25/525 = 0.048$$

...giving you a cost of about 5 cents per page.

Calculating CCP in More Complicated Printers

The fact that not all ink cartridges are the same can add a step or two to this calculation. Since many modern printers now rely on different cartridge configurations, like an individual cartridge for each color (black, cyan, yellow, and magenta) or two cartridges that cover them all (black, and cyan, yellow, magenta). Regardless, your calculation will be more or less the same, with minor adjustments to account for how the colors are clustered or divided.

Basically, when adding color into the equation, find the CPP of each color and combine your totals - including black. It is important to remember that when printing something in color, you're apt to use just as much, if not more, black ink as well.

Furthermore, it is important to consider that ink cartridge manufacturers will often base their yield rating on standardized business documents, with a certain percentage of the document being covered in ink.

Therefore, printing something that doesn't fit into these constraints will throw off the yield, which can happen based on what kind of document you are printing, and even what kind of paper you're using.

Controlling Your Prints

Calculating your investment into each print can also provide you with some invaluable insight into the goings-on at your office. Mostly, it may show you that you are spending far more than you should be on printed materials.

Global Tech Solutions can help with that. Give us a call at 718.360.2000.



Share this Article!
<http://bit.ly/2wHqK1Q>

We partner with many types of businesses nationwide, and strive to eliminate IT issues before they cause expensive downtime, so you can continue to drive your business forward. Our dedicated staff loves seeing our clients succeed. Your success is our success, and as you grow, we grow.



Abraham Brown
CEO

Tech Trivia

After watching 5,000 hours of TV, Google's DeepMind AI was able to lip read 34% more accurately than a professional lip reader.

Global Tech Solutions



Phone: (800) 484-0195

Visit us **online** at:

newsletter.globaltsllc.com



facebook.globaltsllc.com



linkedin.globaltsllc.com



twitter.globaltsllc.com



blog.globaltsllc.com



newsletter@globaltsllc.com

