Connectability Corner

PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER.

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A Service We Offer: IT Consulting

Let's face it: lots of people can fix a computer. In fact, many of us have a friend or family member who is technically skilled and can help in a pinch. But there's a big difference between fixing a computer and providing customized IT consulting for a growth-oriented business.

You depend on technology to run and scale your organization. But IT issues can cause downtime, frustration (from customers and employees) and lost productivity. As expert IT consultants, we work hard to understand your business, and your specific needs, to develop a solution that is perfect for your business objectives.

We work with our clients to ensure that technology is never a bottleneck. Our goal is to help your business leverage technology to enhance growth, increase efficiency, and reduce costs wherever possible.

With ongoing computer support and expert IT consultants at your disposal, you get to experience "worry-free IT" so you can focus on servicing your clients, expanding your team, and increasing your bottom line – NOT technology headaches.

Give us a call at (416) 966-3306, if your are interested in IT consulting for your business.

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This monthly publication provided courtesy of Ted Shafran, President of Connectability

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Do I Need A Compliance And Cyber Security Plan?

We talk a lot about cyber security and how incorporating the right practices can help fully protect your company from cyber-attacks, but there's another term that's often referenced when discussing cyber security that's just as important: compliance. While it's incredibly important for businesses to focus on maintaining the highest cyber security standards, they also need to ensure protocol meets compliance standards.

In regard to cyber security, compliance means creating a process to help protect the confidentiality and accessibility of information that's stored, processed or transferred. There is not an overarching standard for compliance when it comes to this. Instead, there are different guidelines and requirements for every industry, so it's important to be aware of your company's needs. If you're not, you could be subject to fines and penalties in addition to being at greater risk for cyber-attacks.

Though they're related, there are still some glaring differences between cyber security and compliance. Cyber security is practiced for the company's own sake instead of to satisfy the needs of a third party. It's also present to protect a business from the risk of constant threats and needs to be continually managed and updated. IT compliance, however, is completed to satisfy external requirements and is driven by what the business needs more than anything else. Unlike cyber security, compliance is finished when the third party is satisfied with your process.

Compliance and cyber security work best when they're aligned, so it's extremely important that your business has a plan for compliance and cyber security. On its own,

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compliance is incredibly important for various reasons. The first is probably the most obvious since you can be fined or penalized if you fail to comply with industry standards. Having the proper compliance program will prevent your company from being fined. Additionally, your compliance plan needs to include continuous monitoring and assessment of networks, devices and systems that your company uses in order to align with regulatory cyber security requirements. It also sets up an action plan if your business is ever breached, since you need to communicate news of the breach to any parties that could've been impacted.

Every business, regardless of size, is susceptible to data breaches. It's only with strong cyber security and IT compliance plans that you can hope to plug every hole hackers may look to exploit. Compliance is an important part of risk management, and it's essential for the future success of any business.

A compliance plan alone is a great start, but having cyber security measures in place as well will help you be prepared if you're ever audited by a third party.

Whether you have teams or individuals who oversee security protocols, they all need to know the requirements for cyber security compliance and exactly

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how protected the company is. If your company utilizes a firewall, which it absolutely should, your teams need to know exactly how protective that firewall is. They also need the evidence to back up their claims so they can prove the information they provide is accurate. Auditors want to see a handful of different documents, so make sure your team is prepared for any questions or requests.

Once you have the basics of your plans taken care of, you can focus on accurately documenting each step. From meeting notes to the list of items that an auditor may need, your entire team needs to document anything they do or see regarding cyber security.

There is another, much easier option to ensure your business stays compliant and is protected from cyber-attacks. You can hire a managed IT services provider. With a managed IT provider, you will have a dedicated team that ensures your company's sensitive information is protected and all of your cyber security holes are filled. They'll also ensure your business stays compliant with any third-party regulating bodies in the process.

Though technology is ever-advancing, you shouldn't have to worry about cyber-attacks on a daily basis. With strong security protocol, or with the help of a trusted managed IT services provider, you can rest easy knowing your company's information is as secure as possible.
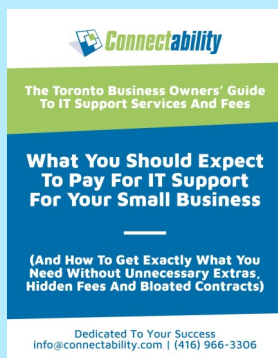
Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:

Airmoto

Imagine you're driving with your family on vacation in the middle of winter. All of a sudden, the road feels much bumpier, so you pull over and get out to check your tires. To your dismay, you discover one of your tires has gone flat. The closest gas station is over a few kilometers away, and your spare can't handle the adverse conditions. So, what should you do? With Airmoto, you never have to worry about this situation.

Airmoto is a rechargeable compact air pump that provides up to 120 psi. In only 10 minutes, you can inflate your car's tires to the proper tire pressure. Airmoto can be used to pump up balls, bike tires and even truck tires. It's practical, not very heavy and quite affordable. Airmoto is the perfect addition to any roadside assistance kit.

4 Ways To Keep Your Servers Cool

For any organization, servers are important for storing business data. This is why you should make sure that your servers are well-maintained. If not, their operating temperatures will rise, which can lead to server instability or even data loss. Read on to learn how to keep your servers at ideal temperatures.

How does high temperature affect servers?

A server's reliability decreases if its temperature rises above 70 degrees Fahrenheit. When servers reach these temperatures, they will start to perform poorly, as will the computers connected to them. Maintaining a consistent temperature for your servers is critical for optimal performance and to avoid significant data loss and service outages.
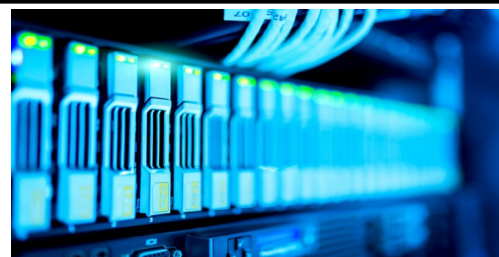
Methods to keep servers cool

Here are the four best methods to keep your servers running at optimal temperatures.

- **Pick the right air conditioning system**

Installing an air conditioner in your server room is the most effective method to keep servers cool. Choose industrial air conditioners over residential air conditioners. Industrial air conditioners can be a bit costly and require semi-annual maintenance checks, but they will ensure your servers are kept cool 24/7/365.

- **Ensure your server room is well ventilated**

Server rooms are usually small and contain other hardware aside from servers. Without proper air circulation, all that hardware can raise the temperature of the room and your servers. Pick a room that has good circulation to keep your servers in. If you have no choice but to put your servers in a small room, make sure to install a ventilation system that will allow hot air to escape.

- **Use cooling fans**

Cooling fans work well with a ventilation system to move hot air away from your servers. They're also a more cost-effective alternative to air conditioners. You can place a small yet powerful fan next to the heat vent to prevent your servers from overheating.

- **Use low-heat lighting**

Even lighting can affect your server's temperature. Incandescent lights produce too much heat that can raise the temperature of your server room, so use low-heat lighting options such as LED arrays and fluorescent tubes instead. Not only do they produce less heat, but they also provide better illumination compared to incandescent bulbs.

Servers work best if they are kept at a cool temperature constantly. While manufacturers continue to develop more resilient servers, proper care and maintenance still play a vital role in ensuring high operating quality and longevity.

Contact us today at (416) 966-3306 if you need additional information about server management or have any other questions regarding your server setup.

Tech Connect Video Series:
Think Your Email Is Safe? Think Again!

For most business owners and executives, email is a critical communication tool that they use every day to stay connected with customers, colleagues, and vendors alike. Unfortunately, due to it's wide-spread use, it has become THE SINGLE MOST common attack point hackers and cybercriminal use to gain access to your confidential data and your business network.

What would you do if your mailbox were breached, or encrypted with Ransomware? How long could you and your business survive without access to this data? Could you afford to pay the Ransom? Do you have systems in place to allow you to restore that data, even if it is encrypted by a hacker?

This video will provide answers to these questions and walk you through the various tips, tricks, and tools you can use to secure your email, and your business. To find out more, go to **YouTube**, look up **Connectability IT Support** and find the video "**Think Your Email is Safe? Think Again!**" **OR** go to our website at **www.connectability.com,** hover over **"Resources & Videos"** and select **"Videos".**

■ The Future Of Leadership

The pandemic completely changed the way many people view work. If there's one thing for certain, it's that remote work will continue once the pandemic ends. If your business has switched over to a remote or hybrid environment, you may need to reevaluate your leaders to ensure their skills align with the new work environment. Strong remote leaders possess traits that are essential for success.

In fact, if you want your business to prosper in the future, you must ensure your leaders are good communicators since they might not be working in the same location as their employees. They also need to possess collaboration skills to ensure each facet of every project is covered. Additionally, your leaders should be able to align their values with those of your staff and customers. Empathetic and understanding leaders are the future, and you need to have a leader who will look out for their team while also taking care of any customer needs.

If you interview a candidate who possesses these great characteristics, they should be a top contender for your leadership positions.

■ Reasons Your Business Should Be Using A Private Cloud

Gone are the days when everything was stored on a physical hard drive. Now, most businesses and private users utilize cloud computing to store their data. It's no secret that cloud storage is the present and future of data storage, but have you thought about using a private cloud that only allows your business and permitted users to access necessary information? There are many benefits that come with using a private cloud, such as the following:

- It offers better security since nobody besides authorized users can use the storage or servers.

- Your team will gain greater flexibility to continue their work without the fear of IT issues since backups are done automatically on private cloud servers.

- It's often cheaper to use a private cloud than to maintain physical servers.

- Private clouds usually come with managed IT services, so there's no need to hire an IT team to work on-site. This will save you time and money.

Who Else Wants To Win A $25 Gift Card?

You can be the Grand Prize Winner of this month's Trivia Challenge Quiz! Just be the first person to correctly answer this month's trivia question and receive a $25 gift card to Starbucks! Ready? Call us right now with your answer!

Where is Microsoft's headquarters?

a. Silicon Valley, CA
b. Redmond, WA
c. Tampa, FL
d. Los Angeles, CA

Call us right now with your answer!
(416) 966-3306

Daily Bread
Food Bank

This month we'll be making our donation to the **Daily Bread Food Bank**.

Founded in 1983, Daily Bread Food Bank is one of Canada's largest foodbanks. Their vision is to end poverty and food insecurity in our communities. They believe that access to food is a basic human right, not a privilege, and no one should go hungry, or face barriers in accessing food.

Daily Bread Food Bank takes donations, organizes food drives, and of course runs food banks to provide food to anyone who needs it. By 2024, they want all clients to have access to 3 days of food per weekly visit (up from 2.7), based on redesigned offerings that are guided by client preferences and feature fresh, nutritious food.

Given the current crisis, we want to help the Daily Bread Food Bank support those with limited access to food.

If you'd like to contribute to this worthy cause, we'd love to hear from you! Email us at: info@connectability.com or call (647) 492-4406 today!