

TECHNOLOGY TIMES

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

Pact-One News

Dan Edwards, CEO of Pact-One Solutions, is the newest addition to the Board of Directors of Future Smiles, a nonprofit organization.

Future Smiles provides vital oral health care to vulnerable children throughout Nevada.

Their goal is to instill positive oral health behavior by providing educational and dental tools that children need to develop strong dental hygiene habits.

Future Smiles has been combating oral pain by providing preventative dental services to needy children since 2009.

WARNING: You're More Likely To Fall Victim To Cybercrime Than Ever Before



Though we're in the midst of an unprecedented rise in high-profile cybercrime incidents, it's easy to assume that our own much smaller businesses are safe. Sure, we think, hacking into the data stores of J.P. Morgan, the U.S. Government, or Virgin America can net hackers millions and millions of dollars. Why would they bother with a small business?

But unfortunately for all of us, hackers actually do bother with small businesses across the country — these attacks just don't make the news. By some estimates, including one reported in Media Planet, more than half of small businesses have had their data compromised.

According to StaySafeOnline.org, these attacks, targeting small to midsize companies, now comprise over 70% of all data breaches. What's worse, this digital onslaught shows no sign of slowing. In fact, ransomware attacks alone have increased 250% since 2016, accompanied by higher rates of malware, phishing, and other forms of cybercrime.

understand why hackers seek the little guy. These days, massive corporations like Google or Citigroup employ incredibly sophisticated digital measures. Their digital vaults, though containing ludicrously attractive sums of potential money to grab, are located at the end of a virtual labyrinth covered in traps, with a final, inches-thick steel door protecting their assets for good measure.

In contrast, the digital assets of small businesses are often hidden behind nothing more than a single, often weak, password. With thousands of business owners going about their day-to-day, utterly oblivious to their paper-thin security, the question turns from "Why would hackers bother with my small business?" to "Why wouldn't they?"

Though cybercriminals may come away with less than they might have had they targeted a Fortune 500 company, it certainly isn't going to seem cheap to you. According to one TechRepublic analysis, an average cyber-attack on a small business can cost as much as \$256,000. Is

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OPTIMIZING TECHNOLOGY



Technology Times is provided courtesy of Dan Edwards, CEO of Pact-One.

Once you see these numbers, it's easy to

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that a sudden cost your company can weather?

Luckily, there is hope. Though small business owners often assume that effective cyber security solutions lie far outside their budget range, robust digital security is now more affordable than ever. By investing in comprehensive protection, small businesses can deflect even the most persistent hackers.

Today, a cyber-attack on your business is almost statistically inevitable. And when that attack comes, you'll definitely want to be prepared. If you haven't needed a doctor for the past two years, does that mean you're going to abandon your health insurance coverage? Of course not.

What about car insurance? Does it become unnecessary in the absence of a crash? No, because even if you're the best driver in the world, sometimes a collision is out of your control.

What's more, both your body and your car require regular upkeep and maintenance to remain in peak condition. It's no different with your network security. As technology hurtles forward at an ever-increasing speed, the ways that hackers can infiltrate your network multiply.

The best digital security platforms constantly update, enabling them to anticipate these shifts and prevent them from becoming liabilities. This way, you can be

"...a cyber-attack on your business is almost statistically inevitable."

proactive prior to a digital crisis, ensuring that no matter what comes, your network is protected.

Even as digital crime climbs at a staggering rate, and hundreds of small businesses are forced to close their doors for good, thousands of owners fail to notice, assuming they'll somehow be spared from an attack.

Don't be one of them. Invest in regularly maintained, powerful cyber security, and ensure the future of your company.



Drop These 4 Habits For A Successful 2018

- 1. Procrastinating training investment:** Investing in comprehensive training resources, which expands the skills of both you and your employees, can ensure you stay competitive in the midst of constant change.
- 2. Amassing knowledge without applying it:** With millions of well-meaning advice articles plastered across the Internet, it's easier than ever to learn new principles. But you can't stop there. Actively implement the knowledge you gain, instead of keeping it locked away in your mind.
- 3. Expecting ideas to come from the top down:** Today's savvy business owner doesn't solely channel those at the top of the organization chart. Instead, they welcome ideas from all levels of the company.
- 4. Busywork:** Too many leaders get caught up in output metrics instead of outcomes. Get the numbers out of the way and watch your employees shine.

Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:



August Doorbell Cam Pro

It's 3 a.m. You and your family are all tucked away in your beds, snoozing away. Suddenly, the doorbell rings, and everyone is shocked awake. Who is that? What do they want? And, most importantly, what should you do?

It's a dicey situation, but luckily, modern technology has an answer — the August Doorbell Cam Pro. Another addition to the endless list of “smart home” offerings, the device is a small, unassuming square doorbell.

At any time — say, when a dark figure is looming on your porch in the middle of the night — you can open up your phone and take a look through the August Doorbell's camera. After that, if you feel like a conversation is in order, you can talk through the device's built-in microphone and speakers. With the ability to sync up to August's smart locks and Amazon's Alexa, the August Doorbell Cam Pro is a vital and convenient security addition to any smart home.

Apps To Make You Smarter

There's a saying that "you live and you learn", and there's no doubt that technology has made that easier. So this month we'll take a look at how tech can make you smarter without tech.

Elevate is an app that seeks to improve your cognitive abilities. Using a variety of games, Elevate personalizes the training of your brain. It claims to boost your skills in math, listening, speaking, writing, and reading. Elevate also enables you to track your progress, so that you can measure your growth over time.

Eidetic is another app that seeks to improve you mentally. Where the Elevate app improved writing, listening, speaking, reading, and math, the Eidetic app is focuses on increasing your memory and ability to recall. It uses spaced repetition, or increased intervals of time, to develop your recall capabilities.

Now that you've become a little more mentally agile, apps such as the Owl app, Daily Art, and Inshort will provide you with the content to learn and remember.

The Owl app sends you an interesting fact every day. The facts that you are provided are sourced from reddit.

The Daily Art app does more than forward you an image of a painting daily. It also includes the story behind the work. The idea is to develop a deeper appreciation and context for a painting.

The Inshort app distills news stories down to sixty words. If you're interested in the story, you can select it and read the full story. By providing a sixty word or less summary, you are kept in the loop of current events without having to read entire articles of stories when time



Finally, HowStuffWorks.com and Masterclass.com can edify in very unique ways.

HowStuffWorks.com is the site to visit if you need to get up to speed on topics with which you may not be completely comfortable. If you found yourself wondering what net neutrality was or how Bitcoins work, then this is the site to visit. It covers health, auto, tech, money, and many other topics.

Masterclass.com is the site to visit if you want to learn a skill from an industry expert. Annie Leibovitz can teach you photography, Steph Curry can teach you ball-handling, or Ron Howard can teach you how to direct a movie.



The Process

Nick Saban, head football coach at the University of Alabama, has won six national championships, one while he was head coach at LSU and five at Alabama. The five championships at the University of Alabama have happened in a span of only nine years – the biggest run in college football history.

In football, you can only put 11 men on the field at one time. It's your best against their best, and while talent is critical, it's far from everything. What is Alabama's magical formula for success, and why do so many teams have trouble duplicating it?

A few years ago, Coach Saban asked me to present a program on communication to his coaching staff. In his world, recruiting star athletes is paramount to their success, and he wanted his coaches to make the best presentation possible to the athletes they wanted to play for Alabama.

I learned a lot of things about Coach Saban and Alabama football preparing for my three-hour program. There are

a lot of coaches, managers, bosses, and leaders out there who never mix with the people on the front lines. Not Coach Saban; he is all about being on the ground level, getting “dirty” in the details. In fact, I don't believe I have ever met anyone as detailed as he is. Meetings and practices are planned to the minute, and everyone understands what is expected of them and how they are to accomplish it. In the football world, he's become famous for what most call “The Process.”

As he puts it, “The Process is much more important than the result.”

The critical element of his success is a simple way of breaking everything down into manageable parts. He owes this technique to Dr. Lionel Rosen, a Michigan State University psychiatry professor he met when he coached there in the late 90s. Dr. Rosen studied cognitive therapy used in the Alcoholics Anonymous recovery program and found the best way to succeed was to deal with the moment, not the future or past. If you handle the moment correctly, the final result will work out.

Dr. Rosen pointed out to Coach Saban that the average play in a football game lasts only about seven seconds, and that is where he needed to concentrate. The last play is done — it's the next play, the next seven seconds, that counts. Ensuring that his players know exactly what they have to do in those seven seconds, without hesitation, is all that matters.

The same is true in business. By breaking down what you do into manageable segments of time and function, you will be better able to achieve the results you desire.

But remember, everyone needs to understand what is expected of them and how they are to accomplish it.



Spot A Phishing E-mail BEFORE It Can Do Any Damage

Phishing e-mails are bogus messages carefully designed to look like a legitimate message (or attached file) from a site or person you trust. Their goal is getting you to willingly give up your login info or unknowingly click a link to install a virus. The best of these e-mails look uncannily similar to their real-world counterparts, but there are ways to discern a phishing attempt from a legitimate e-mail.

First, hover over — but don't click on — the URL in the e-mail to see the actual website you'll be directed to. If there's a mismatched or suspicious URL, delete the e-mail immediately. Other telltale signs are poor grammar or spelling errors. And if the e-mail asks you to verify or validate your login or personal information, get out of there.

