

The Tech Inquirer

What's New

According to, the National Coalition for the Homeless, 35% of the homeless population is comprised of families with children. As such, Xerillion, headed up a campaign in the month of December to collect warm jackets that would benefit the recipients of One Warm Coat's mission. One Warm Coat is a national, non-profit organization that supports over 3,000 coat drives each year. To date, One Warm Coat has collected more than four million coats, in turn providing four million children with warmth. The Xerillion team collected over 55 coats and is extremely excited to have played a key role in One Warm Coats success for 2015.

January 2016



Wayne Chapin
President
Xerillion

We want more customers like you! If you refer a company to us that becomes an appointment, we'll give you \$50 towards the restaurant or florist of your choice. (Just in time for Valentines Day!) If they become a client, we'll add in another \$100!



For the past few months, we've been swamped with questions about Windows 10.

If you're wondering whether now is the best time to upgrade your system, here's what you need to know:

First and foremost, if your organization relies on your computers in any way to make money or save lives, consider the risks carefully.

As with any software upgrade – but especially your computer's operating system – you've got to weigh the advantages of upgrading now against potential downtime if there are problems with the new code.

A good rule of thumb regarding any operating-system upgrade is to wait six months after the product release before deploying it into any system or group of systems

Upgrading To Windows 10? Avoid Headaches, Downtime And Frustrations By Following This Advice

that your business depends on. Since January 29 marks six months since the Windows 10 official release date, it's a good time to look at whether it's wiser to upgrade now or wait for further fixes and improvements.

That being said, here are a few of the key questions we've been fielding – and pitfalls to avoid:

Q. It's free for a "limited time" – don't I have to act now?

A. No. You have until July 2016 to take advantage of the free upgrade. And, if your system hasn't prompted you to upgrade yet, you'll need to wait. If and when your system is deemed capable of adapting to the upgrade, your current Windows OS will notify you. Either way, you have until July 28, 2016. If you do plan to upgrade, we strongly advise that you get it done well before that date, in order to avoid any last-minute scrambling.

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Q. It's better and/or faster, right? Maybe... It depends. Here's what we're seeing:

- Windows 10 radically changes how your system operates, compared to Windows 7. While some computers make the change with no problem at all, it can cause older systems to lose key hardware drivers (like networking or printing), rendering them an "instant brick."
- Some systems, even those certified by their manufacturers as "Windows 10 ready," start misbehaving after being upgraded. That means undue downtime while you re-install or upgrade MS Office or other software – or even revert back to your older OS.
- Some older systems actually run slower on Windows 10 than on Windows 7 or 8.1.

Q. Will my computer work with Windows 10?

A. Age is probably the biggest factor for any Windows-based device. Anything older than three years

is not worth upgrading. At three years old, your machine is nearing the end of its useful life. You are better off leaving the old operating system in place and waiting for Windows 10 until you upgrade to a new computer.

Q. I've heard Windows 10 transmits all of your personal information to Microsoft. Is this true?

This is true, unless you opt out of some of the most attractive features, such as the MS

Store and Cortana, the voice-controlled virtual assistant. According to Windows 10 terms of service, Microsoft can:

"access, disclose and preserve personal data, including your content (such as the content of your emails, other private communications or files in private folders), when we have a good faith belief that doing so is necessary to protect our customers or enforce the terms governing the use of the services."

If you decide that giving that kind of control of your personal and

business data to Microsoft is not in your best interest, you can still install Windows 10; just call us and we'll help you adjust the settings to keep all your information from being sent to Microsoft.

Q. We use some custom software here. Will it run on Windows 10?

A. Until your custom software vendor blesses Windows 10 for that program, the answer is no. In all cases, we advise against upgrading to Windows 10 until your custom programs are 100% fully vetted, compatible and supported for it.

Deciding when to upgrade to Windows 10 isn't as simple as Microsoft and some pundits would have you believe. But if you know the pitfalls we've laid out for you here in advance, you've at least got a fighting chance for a smooth, headache-free transition.

Want help setting a target date and plan for your business to upgrade to Windows 10?

Call us at 847-995-9800 or e-mail us at Wayne.Chapin@Xerillion.com to schedule a free Windows 10 Readiness Assessment.

The Ultimate Small Business Guide To Setting Up A Work-From-Home System For Your Staff



You will learn:

- What telecommuting is and why so many small businesses are rapidly implementing work-from-home programs.
- The single most important thing you MUST have in place before starting any work-from-home or remote office initiative.
- How one company slashed its turnover rate from 33% to nearly 0%—and increased productivity by 18%—by implementing a work-from-home program.
- How to get a FREE "Home Office Action Pack" (a \$97 value).

Claim Your FREE Copy Today by emailing us at marketing@xerillion.com or calling us at 847-995-9800.

Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:



Who Else Wants A Little Music With Their Light?

The next time you replace a lightbulb, you can now pick one that will stream your favorite music and light up your life in your choice of over 16,000 colors, all with a tap on your phone.

In case you haven't noticed, some LED bulbs now include a Bluetooth- or Wi-Fi-controlled speaker. And at least one, the MagicLight® Plus, available on Amazon, also lets you pick a light color to suit your mood.

At anywhere from \$15 to \$129 or more, these bulbs can add music - and light - throughout your home or office in a matter of minutes, at a fraction of the cost of a wired-in sound system.

How's the sound quality? It depends on the one you select. And it may not resonate like Carnegie Hall live...but hey, it's a lightbulb - what did you expect?

Xerillion Now Sells Microsoft Surface Tablets and Laptops



Xerillion is an authorized reseller of Microsoft Surface products.

If you enjoy the freedom of having a high-performing mobile desk, than the Surface is the perfect solution for you. Specifically designed with your productivity in mind - Surface products feature a thin Intel Core, high resolution touch-screen, and are built to run the software that you rely on to complete your workload.

4 Reasons On How the Surface Solves Your Problems:

- Runs Office Suites and desktop software.
- Increases productivity with a mobile workstation capabilities & exceptional battery life.
- Increases efficiency by utilizing the Click Surface Pen to take notes with OneNote.
- Offers versatility via an array of USB ports which can easily be plugged in to projectors, monitors, and printers.

If you are interested in learning more about how Surface products fit your needs, please reach out to your onsite engineer or Wayne directly at, 847-995-9800.

15% Windows Server Open License Rebate!

Microsoft is offering a 15% rebate with any Windows server license purchase. 15% rebate must be applied to implementation and service costs associated with the purchased server. Offer expires 1/31/2016. Please reach out to your tech or Wayne Chapin to discuss your Microsoft Server needs via phone, 847-995-9800 or email at: Wayne.Chapin@Xerillion.com .

Your Vacation

■ **Resolved to see more of the world this year?** Here are three surprisingly great places to visit, according to travel-guide publisher Lonely Planet: 1) For cutting-edge art scenes, emerging nightlife, great skiing and rich wildlife-watching, including bison, wolves, lynx and bears, Transylvania tops the list. 2) Celebrating 50 years of independence in 2016, Botswana features luxury camps, self-guided tours, community projects and award-winning family safaris. 3) For postcard-worthy views of the stunning Sapphire Bay, as well as charming alleyways, tasty food and its still-traditional way of life, Kotor, Montenegro, deserves a top spot on your short list. This year, get off the beaten path for a vacation that can't be beat! *Today.com*

Your Waistline

■ **Make 2016 the year you can wear those favorite old pants again with these three tips...** Drink more water: By far the easiest, yet most forgotten way, to lose weight, swap soda and fruit drinks for water and

watch belly fat vanish. Get sound sleep: Science confirms that old saying "Early to bed..." Your deepest and most cleansing sleep happens when you get to bed earlier in the evening. Countless studies bear out the link between a good night's rest and less belly fat. Train harder in less time: In High Intensity Interval Training you go hard for about 30 to 60 seconds, then rest. Just 20 minutes of HIIT training boosts your metabolism all day long.

Bembu.com

Your Career

■ **A mentor can help you achieve big things.** But finding and connecting with the right person can be tough. Here's what helps: First, get clear about what you want in a mentor: do you need a sounding board? A guide? An advocate for a project you're working on? Once you know what you're looking for, let the search begin. Look inside or outside your company, run an advanced search on LinkedIn and be open to working with someone younger than yourself. When you find a good candidate, simply ask for help on a

specific problem. Then make it fun, give back and nurture the relationship. Mentoring can be a highly rewarding experience for you – and for your mentor.

Forbes.com

Your In-box

■ **Got e-mail overwhelm?** Get more done in your day with these three tips used by top pros: 1) Empty your in-box often. Use "Follow Up" and "Hold" labels in Gmail (folders if you're in Outlook) to quickly sort e-mails you can't respond to right away. 2) Use the Two-Minute Rule: if it will take more than two minutes to respond to, sort it for later. 3) Respond quickly. This sets you apart in a world where most people are drowning in e-mail. Often, a quick reply such as "Got your note, will get back to you by end of day Tuesday" is all you need. Pair this with time blocks for knocking out batches of replies for massive productivity.

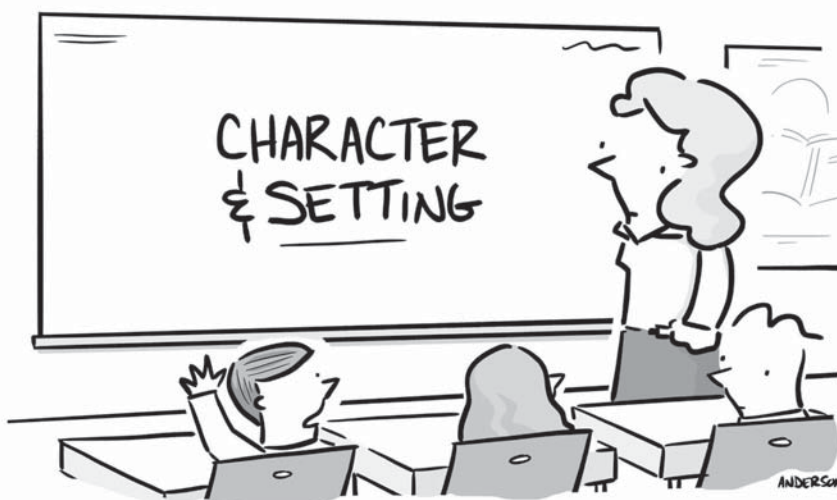
LifeHackerBook.com

Your Time

Being busy doesn't always mean being productive. To win back big chunks of your time every day, avoid these three "busy-ness" traps: 1) Multitasking cuts your IQ by up to 40% and makes the two tasks you're working on take 25% longer. 2) Interruptions suck up your time because not only does it take up to 20 minutes to fully refocus on the original task, but we tend to get back to trivial rather than more important tasks at hand. 3) You're busy because technology wants you to be, not because you need to be. Must you really remain available to your boss, customers, family, friends and social networks 24/7/365? Take control again – it's your life!

Inc. Magazine

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"Like how the people in the story configure their wi-fi?"

Free Accounting or CRM System Health Check for Xerillion Clients.



Do you want to make the most of the ERP or CRM software you've already invested in?

Or uncover areas where you can be more productive and efficient?

Maybe you are considering new technology and don't know where to start.

To help answer these questions, **Xerillion** has teamed up with **Crestwood Associates**, the premier Microsoft Dynamics partner in Chicago, with a special offer just for you.

"When one of our clients was looking for someone to integrate Microsoft Great Plains Accounting in to their business, we brought in Crestwood. Crestwood did an outstanding job and our client was very happy with their results. We are very comfortable in referring them to our clients."

Wayne Chapin, CEO, Xerillion

A FREE, 2 hour, Dynamics GP, SL, or CRM System Health Check.

What is a System Health Check?

- Brief review of all relevant software
- Interviews with key team members
- Walk-through of workflows
- Reports review
- Documentation of key components, and recommendations



Why Schedule a System Health Check?

- Save money and increase productivity
- Automate tasks and eliminate manual processes
- Better resource management
- Keep up with your growing business



If you are evaluating your current ERP system, or considering a new one, we can coordinate an introduction.

To schedule an appointment contact:
Wayne Chapin at Wayne.Chapin@Xerillion.com or 847-995-9800

Microsoft Partner
Gold Enterprise Resource Planning
Silver Customer Relationship Management

Greentree
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 **Acumatica**

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