

# The Tech Inquirer

## Team Building

"Unity is strength, when there is team work and collaboration, wonderful things can happen." - Mattie J. T. Stepanek

The Xerillion team met at Top Golf- Wooddale on Friday, May 6th, for our bi-annual team building event. Top Golf is a fun point-scoring golf game for any skill level with several locations throughout the country. The Xerillion team, broke out in to 3 groups and played two rounds each. The team had a great time at the venue, and is looking forward to potentially doing it again next year! What type of events does your company host for team building? Please share your ideas with us by emailing: [Ask@Xerillion.com](mailto:Ask@Xerillion.com).

May 2016



Wayne Chapin  
President

Move the apps you love to the Microsoft Cloud without breaking the bank.

Let Xerillion show you how inexpensive the cloud can really be by moving your apps to the Microsoft cloud. Contact my assistant, Kristen to schedule a time to talk about cloud for your business. Contact her at, 847-995-9800.



In less than 60 seconds, you are about to learn 10 things that could save you days – or even weeks – of downtime, not to mention the undue stress on your company, and potentially thousands of dollars lost, due to a data disaster...

Use this article as your checklist in a conversation with your IT company to assure that your business has the right plan in place to get back up and running quickly if and when disaster strikes.

### 1. Keep a written plan.

Simply thinking through in ADVANCE what needs to happen when things go south on you, and documenting it, can go a long way toward getting your network back up and running quickly if it gets hacked, flooded or compromised by human error or equipment failure.

Outline the types of disasters that could happen,

## 10 Things You Must Do Now To Prevent A Costly Data Disaster

and a step-by-step recovery process. Be sure to include a budget, what to do, who should do it and how. Store printed copies along with key contact information and login details for essential websites 1) in a fireproof safe, 2) off-site at your home, 3) at each key employee's home and 4) with your IT consultant.

- 2. Hire a trusted professional to help you.** Trying to recover data after a disaster without professional help is business suicide. One misstep can result in weeks of downtime, or permanent data loss. To improve your odds of a quick recovery, work with a pro who has experience in both setting up your plan and helping you recover when a loss occurs.
- 3. Have a communications plan.** What if your employees can't access your office, e-mail or phone

*continued pg2*

system – how should they communicate with you? Make sure your plan details the alternatives, including MULTIPLE ways to stay in touch.

#### 4. Automate your backups.

THE #1 cause of data loss is human error. If your backup system depends on a human being doing something, it's a recipe for disaster. ALWAYS automate your backups so they run like clockwork.

#### 5. Keep an off-site backup copy of your data.

On-site backups are a good first step, but if they get flooded, burned or hacked along with your server, you're out of luck. ALWAYS maintain a recent copy of your data off-site.

#### 6. Be able to access and manage your network remotely.

You and your staff will be able to keep working if they can't get into your office. Your IT manager or consultant can quickly handle an emergency or routine maintenance. And you'll love the convenience!

7. **Image your server.** Storing your data off-site is great – but bear in mind, if your system goes down, the software and architecture that handles all that data must be RESTORED for it to be of any use. Imaging your server creates a replica of the original, saving you an

*"It's critical to keep your network patched, secure and up-to-date."*

enormous amount of time and energy in getting your network back in gear. Best of all, you don't have to worry about losing your preferences, configurations or favorites.

#### 8. Document your network.

Network documentation is simply a blueprint of the software, data, systems and hardware that comprise your company's network. Let your IT manager or consultant create this for you. It'll save you time and money in the event your network needs to be restored.

It also speeds up everyday repairs and maintenance on your network when technicians don't have to waste time figuring out where things are and how they're configured. Plus, it may help with insurance

claims in the event of losses due to a disaster.

#### 9. Maintain your system.

While fires, flooding and other natural disasters are certainly a risk, it's ever more likely that you'll experience downtime due to a virus, worm or hacker attack. That's why it's critical to keep your network patched, secure and up-to-date. And don't forget: deteriorating hardware and corrupted software can wipe you out. Replace and update them as needed to steer clear of this threat.

10. **Test, test, test!** If you're going to go to the trouble of setting up a plan, at least make sure it works! Hire an IT pro to test monthly to make sure your systems work properly and your data is secure. After all, the worst time to test your parachute is AFTER you jump out of the plane.

Need help getting this implemented? Contact us by May 31st at Kristen to setup an appointment, 847-995-9800 or ask@xerillion.com for a FREE Backup And Disaster Recovery Audit.

## FREE REPORT: "The Ultimate Guide To Choosing The RIGHT VoIP Phone System For Your Small Business, Call Center Or Multi-Location Office"

The Ultimate Guide To Choosing The RIGHT VoIP Phone System For Your Small Business, Call Center Or Multi-Location Office

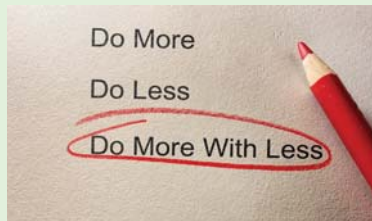


### Read This Report To Discover:

- What VoIP is, how it works and why the phone company may force you to switch to a VoIP phone within the next 3-4 years.
- 4 different ways to implement VoIP and why you should never use 3 of them for a business phone system.
- Hidden costs with certain VoIP system that can negate any cost-savings you might gain on your phone bill.
- 7 revealing questions to ask any VoIP salesperson to cut through the hype, half-truths and "little white lies" they'll tell you to make the sale.

Claim Your FREE Copy Today at [www.xerillion.com/VOIP](http://www.xerillion.com/VOIP)

## Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:



## All This... For Just Five Bucks???

If you haven't tried Fiverr.com yet, you're in for a treat. Fiverr is a global online marketplace where freelancers offer to perform an amazing variety of tasks and services, starting at just \$5.00.

Need a whiteboard-style video for your website? A new logo? Help creating a PowerPoint or Prezi presentation? Then you need to check out Fiverr.

To get started, just go to Fiverr.com. And for best results, follow these five rules:

1. Steer clear of bad gigs - Buying hundreds of backlinks for your website might sound cool... Then again, you might be in for a nasty surprise. If a gig seems fake, it just might be... Find another gig.
2. Shop around - Compare different sellers and use the "Favorites" feature to build a shopping list before you buy.
3. Examine closely - Check reviews, response time, number of gigs completed and gig details. Questions? Ask the seller before buying.
4. Communicate clearly - Save time by spelling out in exact detail what you want in your order.
5. Accept nothing less than perfection - Top sellers are often happy to make revisions until you're happy.

Okay? Ready, set...go save a boatload on your first Fiverr gig!

## The Benefits of Cisco Meraki Cloud Networking:



Cisco Meraki's devices offer impeccable security, management, and performance. Xerillion provides management, deployment, and support of those devices.

1. Management is completely cloud based- there is no need to remotely connect in to the individual devices and remember logins, and passwords.
2. Configuration of equipment is done by drag and drop configuration inside the web portal. When devices are ordered, they are procured under the customer's name, and all the customer has to do is plug them in at their office and Xerillion can then configure them through the portal.
3. The cloud portal monitors all of the Meraki devices under the clients account.

### Meraki Firewall & Switch Pricing:

- Firewall: Meraki MX64 - \$475.00
- Firewall: Meraki MX84 Cloud Managed Security Appliance - \$1170.00 (with registered deal)
- Switch: Meraki MS220-24P - \$1700.00 (with registered deal)
- Switch: Meraki L2 Cloud Managed 48 Port GigE 370W PoE Switch - \$2950 (with registered deal)

\*Pricing does not include licensing. Want to learn more about whether or not Meraki's solution is right for your business? Please contact Kristen at, 847-995-9800 or via email at, Ask@Xerillion.com

### Special Meraki Offering

During the month of May, Meraki is offering a 5-year service plan for the price of a 1-year plan for the first switch for any new customers. Let's talk about what Meraki can do for you. Contact Ask@Xerillion.com or call Kristen at, 847-995-9800 to schedule a time to speak with Wayne regarding Meraki for your business.



## Hate waiting for pages to load on your smartphone? There's an "AMP" for that

And no, that's not a misspelling of "app"...it's an acronym for Accelerated Mobile Pages. As you may have noticed, there's a little problem with the mobile web... You click a link on your smartphone, eager to consume the content... What shows up is a spastic jumble of jerky images, videos and ads as the page loads...eventually...if you care to wait. (40% of people bail after three seconds.) Google's new AMP Project aims to fix that. "AMPed" pages load almost instantly with a simple, easy-to-consume format. To see it for yourself, pull out your smartphone and visit [g.co/ampdemo](http://g.co/ampdemo).

-Copyblogger

## Encryption in The Cloud - How safe is your data?

Cloud technology can add a

whole new layer of protection to your data backup system. However, it's important to recognize that there's one key difference between cloud service providers that will determine how safe your data is. When stored data - aka "data at rest" (vs. data in transit) - is encrypted, some cloud services keep the decryption key in their software. If hackers get that key, they can get your data. That's why it's important when selecting a cloud service provider to be informed about their security measures. Before choosing, compare encryption methods. It pays to know that your company's digital property is safe - and will be there when you need it.

-TechAdvisory.org

## Virtual Reality - Useless gimmick, or valuable marketing tool for your business?

With constantly evolving technologies, it's getting harder to know where your time is best spent. To help you stay on track, here are three questions to ask about any situation in your business where technology is involved. 1) Who's the right person to handle this? For example, let your IT partners help employees with tech support questions. 2) Will this save us time and money? Cloud-based productivity solutions, for example, can give your firm access to the resources of big IT without the need to build it yourself. 3) Is this making your job easier or harder? Syncing devices, for instance, could free you and your sales force from the desk to meet with customers.

-MarketingLand.com

## Laptop, Tablet...Or 2-in-1?

Are you toting around two devices - a laptop to get serious work done and a tablet for a little Baldur's Gate or Facebook action? If you're in the market for a new laptop or tablet, it's time to consider getting a 2-in-1. Like an SUV or Swiss Army knife, 2-in-1's offer supreme versatility. Windows 10 was built for these machines, and with prices, power and battery life now falling in line with laptops, you can save time, money and weight with a 2-in-1. Unless you're a high-end gamer or graphics pro, you owe it to yourself to check out the latest versions of these new mobile gadgets.

-Laptop Mag

## Who Else Wants To Win A \$25 Gift Card?

Which of the following products can you manage using the Cisco Meraki Cloud Dashboard?

- A. Meraki MR AP's
- B. Meraki MS Switches
- C. Meraki MX Security Appliances
- D. Meraki Systems Manager
- E. Meraki MC Phones
- F. All of the Above
- G. All except for E

\*Disclaimer: Winner from previous month, is not eligible the next month. One answer per person.\*

847-995-9800 or email your answer to  
[Ask@Xerillion.com](mailto:Ask@Xerillion.com)