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Is your equipment aging and causing downtime but you don't have the budget to replace everything? If so, you should consider leasing equipment. Contact Kristen at, 224-520-7782 to make an appointment with me to discuss this option for your company.

Shadow IT: Ignore At Your Own Risk

It's one of those little secrets that nobody wants to talk about…

The term "Shadow IT" refers to apps and devices used at work that operate outside your company's sanctioned policies and protocols.

Shadow IT takes many forms, like conversations on Facebook Messenger, Google Hangouts, Gmail or Skype. It can include software from Excel macros to cloud-based data storage apps such as Dropbox, Google Docs and Evernote. Or collaboration spaces like Slack, Asana and Wrike. And then there are devices: USB sticks, smartphones, tablets and laptops within your network that you have no control over.

Robert J. Moore, CEO of RJMetrics, relates how companies like Slack and Dropbox craft their pricing models to encourage rapid proliferation. One day, a few of his engineers were using Slack, then all the engineers, then the whole rest of the company was using it. He said, "We reached a point of no return and paying for it was pretty much our only option."

The hidden dangers of shadow IT
When users on your network adopt apps and devices outside your control, protocols aren't followed, systems aren't patched, devices get infected without people knowing it and data breaches happen… As a result, confidential information can be exposed, accounts taken over, websites defaced, goods and services stolen, and precious time and money lost.

Not only that, you end up with siloed information in unknown places, data compliance issues and missed opportunities for bulk pricing.

The obvious solution would

be to crack down and forbid use of all but company-approved devices and apps. Unfortunately, that tends to slow things down, stifling productivity and innovation.

Bringing your shadow IT out into the light

Obviously, burying your head in the sand won't make the problem go away. Here's what you can do to not only take control of the situation, but actually use it to drive innovation and agility at your company.

"Take control of high-risk situations and keep an eye on the rest."

Cut loose the "control" mentality. It's no longer feasible to simply ban certain apps. If you don't give employees the software they prefer, they may start using their own. They can easily access a vast and growing variety of apps, all without your help – or control.

Recognize the delicate balance between risk and performance. Evaluate risk on a case-by-case basis. Then take control of high-risk situations and keep an eye on the rest.

Foster open communication. Get employees involved in creating intuitive policies. You can turn them from your greatest risk to your greatest asset by leveraging their input and ownership of protective protocols. This helps everyone maintain security while keeping practical needs for performance in mind.

Develop a fully tested plan. Even if it's only 70% complete, a tested plan will be far more useful when the need inevitably arises than a 100% complete plan that's not fully tested. Most managers underestimate the confusion that occurs in the first few days following a breach.

Unfortunately, that confusion can create a defensive rather than constructive atmosphere centered on discovering how, when and where the breach occurred. A comprehensive incident response plan can go a long way toward achieving a speedy resolution, and keep an otherwise manageable event from turning into a full-blown business crisis.

Finding the right balance

Focusing only on security and asset protection can drag down business performance quickly. However, balancing risk with performance enables you to maximize your return from investments in detection and response. It also helps you become more adept at adjusting as the security landscape changes. By developing your organization's ability to recognize threats and respond effectively to incidents, you can actually take risks more confidently and drive business performance to a higher level.

Xerillion can help you with this. Our proprietary Security Assessment helps you take the friction out of data protection. Contact us today at 847-995-9800 or email Ask@Xerillion.com to take advantage of this offer (normally $297), FREE through the end of June, and put an end to Shadow IT in your organization finally and forever.

Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:

What If Your Smartphone Had Wings

Video streaming from the air is about to get a whole lot more affordable.

It just so happens that the brains, gyroscope, GPS and camera aboard all those new drone cameras you may have seen can also be found in your smartphone...

Slip your smartphone into a Phone-Drone Ethos, and you have your own flying camera at a fraction of the cost of a fully equipped camera drone.

Worried about your smartphone taking a hit in the event of a crash landing? For about $50 you can buy a cheap smartphone with all you need to fly the Ethos.

Built-in mirrors enable you to shoot down, forward or to the side. You can preprogram it, or fly it manually from the ground. You can even control it with an Apple Watch.

It's scheduled to start shipping in September 2016, and "early-bird" discounts may be available at xcraft.io/phone-drone.

HP EliteDesk- Performance You Can Trust

Xerillion is an authorized reseller of Hewlett Packard Enterprise products.

Get top –notch productivity, reliability, security, and manageability, plus a unique portfolio of solutions in a compact, space-saving design with the HP EliteDesk i5.

4 Reasons why the HPE EliteDesk Increases Your Productivity:

•Use the apps you love – compatible with Microsoft Office products and desktop software
•Increases your productivity, be up to 35% more productive with support for up to three external HP EliteDisplays!
•The HP Elite family is design to pass MIL-STD 810G 10's and has undergone 120,000+ hours of rigorous end to end diagnostics testing.

As a small to medium sized business; your resources are limited, but that doesn't mean that your technology has to be. Contact Kristen directly at, 224-520-7782 to discuss updating your employee's workstations.

Special HP Offering

Let's talk about how updating your employees workstations can increase productivity at your company. Please contact Kristen at Ask@Xerillion.com or call 224-520-7782 to schedule a time to speak with Wayne regarding Hewlett Packard Enterprise.

Imagine just taking a pill to acquire a whole new skill set.

In The Matrix, Neo opens his eyes after being programmed and tells Morpheus, "I know kung fu." According to futurist and world-renowned inventor Ray Kurzweil, conversations like that will actually take place within the next 20 years. By implanting blood-cell-sized, cloud-connected nano-robots into the brain, humans will be able to literally download any skill set or body of knowledge from the cloud. Sound far-fetched? Scientists are already helping Parkinson's patients, using a pea-sized implant connected wirelessly to an outside computer. And Kurzweil has a 30-year track record of accurate predictions – including a little thing we now know as the World Wide Web.
-Inc.com

Hootsuite, Buffer…or both?

Keeping in touch with new and current customers via social media can suck up your time. Social media apps Buffer and Hootsuite both aim to help you achieve more impact in less time. So which one is right for you? While Hootsuite offers a full-featured social media dashboard, Buffer focuses simply on prescheduling your content. When it comes to managing posts and tracking which ones perform best, Hootsuite is the way to go. Yet Buffer gives you more timing flexibility by allowing you to pick when your posts get published, regardless of when you add them to the queue. Choose either of these apps based on your posting and tracking needs – and consider using them both.
-MarketingLand.com

Which app best helps you take notes on the go – Google Keep or Evernote?

Google Keep runs faster with a cleaner mobile interface than Evernote. It also wins on consistent quality of search across devices. Where Evernote shines is in its ecosystem of third-party integrations that add cool features. And its Clipper extension makes it easy to save web pages from Android or iOS directly into Evernote. So which app is best for you? If you just want to make quick notes on the go and share them easily, go with Google Keep. Plus, it's free. If you want a deep database of notes, lists and web content with lots of features, even if you have to pay for it, go with Evernote.
-CIO

Facebook wants to help you blow up your business.

The Facebook Ad platform can work wonders when you apply these principles: 1) Have a strategy. Don't make the mistake of diving in without knowing how the money you put in will actually pay off. 2) Remember "T-O-M": TARGET the right audience with a great OFFER wrapped in a compelling MESSAGE. 3) Write great copy. Start with an engaging headline, keep your text simple and straight to the point. Make it easy to grasp and end with a clear call to action. Facebook ads give you access to the world's largest audience – over 1.5 billion at last count… And one good ad could make a world of difference for your business.
-Forbes

Who Else Wants To Win A $25 Gift Card?

Which of the below laptops has a battery-life of >12 hours?

A. EliteBook 820
B. HP Z Book
C. EliteBook 840
D. EliteBook 850
E. All of the Above

Please call Kristen at, 847-995-9800 with your answer or email Ask@Xerillion.com

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