

TECHNOLOGY TIMES

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

What's New

This holiday season, Xerillion is doing their part to give back!

This past November, the Xerillion team packed 10 separate Thanksgiving dinner packs for the *Palatine Food Pantry*.

For the gift giving season ahead, our team is participating in *Samaritan's Purse International Relief Operation Christmas Child*. Xerillion plans on packing 20 shoe boxes full of toys and needed items for children ranging 2-14 years old. To get involved visit: <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/>

December 2016

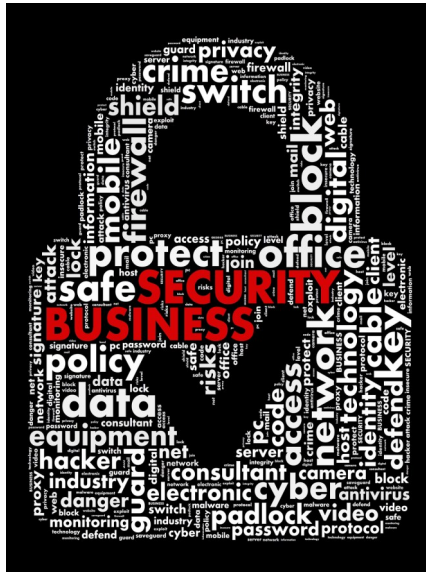


This month's featured Engineer is Nate Alili. Pictured: Nate Alili, Network Engineer

Nate joined Xerillion in July 2016.

He is a Level Three Network Engineer on a scale of four.

Nate enjoys jet skiing in the hot summer months and hitting the ski slopes when the weather is cold and snowy.



Efficient Escrow of California was forced to close its doors and lay off its entire staff when cybercriminals nabbed \$1.5 million from its bank account. The thieves gained access to the escrow company's bank data using a form of "Trojan horse" malware.

Once the hackers broke in, they wired \$432,215 from the firm's bank to an account in Moscow. That was followed by two more transfers totaling \$1.1 million, this time to banks in Heilongjiang Province in China, near the Russian border.

The company recovered the first transfer, but not the next two. They were shocked to discover that, unlike with consumer accounts, banks are under no obligation to recoup losses in a cybertheft against a commercial account. That meant a loss of \$1.1 million, in a year when they expected to clear less than half that. Unable to replace the funds, they were shut down by state regulators just three days after reporting the loss.

\$1.5M Cyber-Heist Typifies Growing Threat

Net result? The two brothers who owned the firm lost their nine-person staff and faced mounting attorneys' fees nearing the total amount of the funds recovered, with no immediate way to return their customers' money.

Avoid Getting Blindsided

While hacks against the big boys like Target, Home Depot and Sony get more than their share of public attention, cyber-attacks on small and medium-sized companies often go unreported, and rarely make national headlines.

Don't let this lull you into a false sense of security. The number of crippling attacks against everyday businesses is growing. Cybersecurity company Symantec reports, for example, that 52.4% of "phishing" attacks last December were against SMEs – with a massive spike in November. Here are just a few examples out of thousands that you'll probably never hear about:

continued on pg2

- Green Ford Sales, a car dealership in Kansas, lost \$23,000 when hackers broke into their network and swiped bank account info. They added nine fake employees to the company payroll in less than 24 hours and paid them a total of \$63,000 before the company caught on. Only some of the transfers could be canceled in time.

“Require two people to sign off on every transaction.”

- Wright Hotels, a real estate development firm, had \$1 million drained from their bank account after thieves gained access to a company e-mail account. Information gleaned from e-mails allowed the thieves to impersonate the owner and convince the bookkeeper to wire money to an account in China.
- Maine-based PATCO Construction lost \$588,000 in a Trojan horse cyber-heist. They managed to reclaim some of it, but that was offset by interest on thousands of dollars in overdraft loans from their bank.

Why You're A Target - And How To Fight Back!

Increasingly, cyberthieves view SMEs like yours and mine as easy “soft targets.” That’s because all too often we have:

1. Bank accounts with thousands of dollars.
2. A false sense of security about not being targeted.
3. Our customers’ credit card information, social security numbers and other vital data that hackers can easily sell on the black market.

If you don’t want your company to become yet another statistic in today’s cyberwar against smaller companies, and your business doesn’t currently have a “bullet-proof” security shield, **you MUST take action without delay - or put everything you’ve worked for at risk. The choice is yours.**

Here are three things you can do right away:

1. Remove software that you don’t need from any systems linked to your bank account.

2. Make sure everyone with a device in your network NEVER opens an attachment in an unexpected e-mail.
3. Require two people to sign off on every transaction.

Let Us Help

When it comes to defending your data, whether it’s bank account information, customer and employee records or proprietary intellectual property or processes, Do NOT take chances. Our experience and track record in keeping our clients’ data safe speaks for itself:

<enter customer review>

We are offering our **Cyber Security Assessment** at no cost through the end of December to 10 companies in the Schaumburg area. **Call me at 847-995-9800 or e-mail me at Ask@xerillion.com TODAY** because we can only offer this valuable service to the first 10 companies that apply.

Free Report Download: The Business Owner’s Guide To IT Support Services And Fees

IT BUYERS GUIDE

What Every Business Owner MUST Know About IT Support Services And Fees



What You Should Expect To Pay For IT Support For Your Business And How To Get Exactly What You Need

You will learn:

- ♦ “ The 3 most common ways IT services companies charge for their services, and the pros and cons of each approach.
- ♦ “ A common billing model that puts ALL THE RISK on you, the customer, when buying IT services; you’ll learn what it is and why you need to avoid agreeing to it.
- ♦ “ Exclusions, hidden fees and other “gotcha” clauses IT companies put in their contracts that you DON’T want to agree to.
- ♦ “ How to make sure you know exactly what you’re getting to avoid disappointment, frustration and added costs later on that you didn’t anticipate.

Claim Your FREE Copy Today at www.xerillion.com/ITbuyersguide

Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:



Your Desk Is Killing You: Do This Instead

The evidence is piling up that sitting all day is bad for your health. Though not perfect, Varidesk offers a compelling solution.

On the plus side, The Varidesk sets up right out of the box – no assembly required. With its weight-balancing system, you don't need any hardware to fasten it to your desk. And it features an attractive, sturdy design. You can lean on it and your monitor won't go crashing to the floor. Springs and levers make it easy to raise or lower it to one of 11 preset levels.

The main flaw is that when you raise it, it also moves forward – a problem if you're in a tight space. All in all, though, it's worth looking at, especially if you have a wireless keyboard and mouse – and enough space in your office or cubicle to back up a bit.

All I want for the holidays...

What you need...

◆ HP Elite x3

The capabilities of a PC, the feeling of a tablet, but all in the size of a smartphone; get connected and work everywhere at your convenience and for your convenience. With a 5.96" display, the handheld is easy and productive. Don't forget to choose the add on option of a dock for your desk!
\$789.00



What you want...

◆ Microsoft Surface Book

The ultimate laptop for your business needs. This touch screen, 13.5" display, is the best way to get your tasks done. This laptop is great for creative or more everyday business needs. You can also fold the keyboard back and create a tablet. The best part, a low 3.34 lbs on your shoulder when you are on the go.
\$1442.00



◆ HP Elite X2 1012 G1

If HP is more your style, this is the piece to pick! Sleek, power, and tough. Designed for IT enthusiasts, but loved by all this piece connects well with your other HP products and offers LTE connectivity. Choose among different keyboards for your best experience.
\$1437.00



What you splurge on...

◆ The amazing MICROSOFT SURFACE HUB

The most innovative way to share your notes and projects with the power of a touch screen experience. No longer will you use HDMI cords and a mouse to navigate your presentations. This on screen experience allows you to directly share without the hassle. The surface hub comes in 2 sizes, 84" and 55".

55" \$9345.00



Spread the Xerillion Love this Holiday Season!

Xerillion is dedicated to our incredible customers and we want more like you! With the holidays fast approaching we want to give back to the community and a give back to you! If you know another small to medium sized business and believe they could benefit from our services please don't hesitate to refer them now!

Xerillion is offering \$50 for you or towards a charity of your choice for each colleague you refer and an additional \$100 if your referral becomes a client!

Check out our referral program at www.xerillion.com/referral or call us at 847-995-9800 for more information.

“Smart Cities” are adding a whole new layer of complexity to data protection.

Driverless cars, cloud-based services and networks of sensors are driving rapid change... Yet along with great benefits, the smart city revolution adds new threats. For instance, since it relies heavily on interconnectivity, weak links make the whole system vulnerable to cyber-attack. Yet a study by Kaspersky Labs estimates that 57% of smaller companies underinvest in security. With deeper connectivity to these “weak links,” encryption of your own data becomes more critical than ever. Using secured websites (the “https” vs. “http” protocol), for example, not only secures data, it also creates trust among your customers and vendors. Clearly, the smart thing to do is to be ready for smart city challenges.

-HarvardKennedySchoolReview.com

With Google’s new Daydream VR platform, reality will never be the same.

While it isn’t as pixel-rich as PC-tethered systems like Oculus Rift, Daydream is fully mobile. That means, for instance, you could navigate through a museum and get way more interactive with the exhibits. Google’s “View” headset with clickable touchpad controller is just the first of many to come, as other developers jump into mobile VR. As for apps, Google says there will be at least 50 in the Play Store by the end of December. Daydream has been deeply integrated into the new Android Nougat OS. If Nougat isn’t on your phone yet, be patient – or buy a phone, such as Google’s Pixel, that already has it installed.

-TechRadar.com

Stop wasting your time and costing your company money.

No company is 100% productive

100% of the time. But talk of last night’s game, social media check-ins and long lunch breaks aren’t the only time thieves. Without realizing it, you may be asking your team to do things that frankly hurt the bottom line. For instance, do you hold meetings that take longer than necessary – or don’t need to be held at all? Consider holding meetings only when critical. And when they are, use an agenda to keep everyone on track. Another big time killer is trying to fix a problem via multiple e-mails or chat. Often a simple phone call could resolve the issue with a lot less back and forth.

-Entrepreneur.com

Want better collaboration at work? Play these tunes.

Research has already shown that teams who listen to music together at work feel more bonded and collaborate better. Yet that begs the question – what type of music do you listen to? It’s a topic likely to end up in wrangling and conflict. However, a recent study at Cornell University offers a scientific answer. And, while metal fans may not be thrilled with it, the results weren’t exactly shocking. The study found that people who listen to happy music were more likely to cooperate, regardless of age, gender or academic major, than those who listen to unhappy music. Interestingly, they found it was not the vibe, but the bouncing beat, that gets teams in sync.

-Inc.com

Who Else Wants To Win A \$10 Gift Card?

Which of the following is not a database management software?

- A. MySQL
- B. Oracle
- C. Sybase
- D. COBOL



The winner will receive a gift card to **STARBUCKS!**

***Please note, first call or email with the correct email with receive the prize.

You may only win 1 time per calendar year to be fair to all readers***

**Call 847-995-9800 or email
Ask@Xerillion.com right now
with your answer!**