Songs of the Season

Be Thankful for What You Got

This is the time of the year to be thankful. And, one of the hit songs of the 70s that encouraged us all to be thankful was by Love and called "Be Thankful for What You Got." Interestingly, the songwriter, William DeVaughn originally titled the tune, "A Cadillac Don't Come Easy." We think we might not be including it in this newsletter had he kept that name. Many of you might not recall the song by either name, but many will recall the repeated line, "Diamond in the back, sunroof top, diggin' the scene, with a gangsta lean"—a period piece and "smart" lyrics to be sure. In the spirit of being thankful, we started a list of tech concepts that we know smart organizations are leveraging to ensure that they are more productive and secure. Here is our *Gratitude List*!

Mobility

Nothing has changed how business gets done as much as the concept of mobility. Cell phones, tablet PCs, wireless technology, secure VPN access, mobile device management software, cloud computing, location tracking and easy Internet access has made meaningless the concept of needing to sit behind a desk, or even behind a computer, to conduct business. A simple thing such as the ability to work from home—to have a mobile desk—enhances productivity since staff does not have to call out sick when they are wary of infecting others.

Sharing

The advent of the "personal" computer in a business environment created a sea change in productivity in the late 1980s. In the more recent past, the concepts of sharing data, sharing information access, collaboration in real time (inside and outside an organization) have produced double the effect of the introduction of the PC. They say knowledge is power and the ability to share business knowledge through real-time sharing has made organizations that leverage this concept even more powerful.

Digital

This might seem an ante in the world of technology, but at its root almost all technology advancements used by smart organizations can be traced to the concept of moving from analog (where data is stored in its original form) to digital (where data is stored in intervals and turned into numbers—a series of zeros and ones). Digital technology is the fuel feeding the fire of automation, communication, storage, and security and ultimately, productivity and financial gains in the smart organization of today.

The Cloud

We referenced the cloud above as it relates to mobility, but it deserves special attention on our list. The cloud is simply software and services that run on the Internet, instead of locally on your computer or server/network. The cloud has allowed smart organizations to centralize data and applications in a single, accessible and scalable location while also
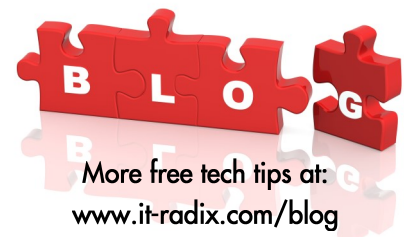

A Note of Thanks!

What's New

10 Months of Giving Back - RED Month Donations -
IT Radix is celebrating our 10th Anniversary with **10 Months of Giving Back**. This month, we'll also be celebrating our 10th year of RED Month. This year's matching donations will benefit the Girl Scouts of Northern NJ. Check the insert and our website (www.it-radix.com/red) to learn how we can work together to help others in need.

Small Business Partner of the Year
We were honored to be recognized as Green Vision's Small Business Partner of the year as they work to dismantle the stigmas of people with developmental disabilities.

If you would rather receive our newsletter via email, sign up on our website or send an email to resource@it-radix.com

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B L O G

More free tech tips at: www.it-radix.com/blog

Introducing…Dylan MacIvor

When asked what he's thankful for, our newest staff member, Dylan MacIvor, is quick to respond with youth, good health, good friends and a great job! He feels that he's learning a lot and making amazing friendships at IT Radix which is turning out to be a dream job for him.

Graduating from Susquehanna University in 2015 with a degree in Business Administration, Dylan has long been interested in all things IT and is known as the "go to" IT guy in his family. With several years of job experience in the IT field, Dylan primarily worked in different IT roles including Help Desk and System Administration.

As an IT Consultant at IT Radix, Dylan monitors offsite backups, performs server maintenance, configures workstations and supports clients with day-to-day issues. He enjoys getting to know our clients and supporting them with their IT needs. Dylan prides himself on being able to show our clients that they are getting everything he has to offer along with the reassurance that they are always his first priority.

Dylan's favorite quote:

"Let us engage in jolly co-operation!"

– Solaire of Astora

Dylan hails from the rural lake town of Boiling Springs, PA, where there are plenty of open fields and lots of farms. He reflects on growing up in an area where the pungent smell of the farm throughout the entire school was a common occurrence—a memory he would not trade for the world. He now resides in Morristown but enjoys going back home to visit his family and three dogs whenever he can. A true dog lover, Dylan doesn't have any dogs where he currently lives but is more than happy to greet a friendly pooch that comes his way. When not working, Dylan enjoys spending time at the gym, building computers and playing guitar. Dylan has always had an affinity for music—playing the clarinet in school as well as the guitar just for fun. His favorite music is jazz, and he is a big fan of trumpeter, Miles Davis. He enjoys a variety of movie genres—action, comedy, drama, political thrillers, superhero/Marvel—but he's not very fond of romantic comedies. Dylan also enjoys watching the Japanese animated series Dragon Ball Z, playing Nintendo's Super Smash Bros, and keeping up with the latest and greatest tech news.

Dylan's personal philosophy: Life is a river, and I'm just going with the flow. But that doesn't mean I won't paddle like hell when I have to.

Be Thankful for What You Got

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facilitating disaster recovery plans with high availability backups. Some are concerned about security with the cloud, but the truth is that most cloud platforms have advanced security, threat detection and alert tools built right into them.

As we look at this list, we are reminded that in many ways, technology is our friend. It has helped organizations of all sizes to move ahead and to achieve their goals.

We are grateful for all of it. And, we are grateful for our many clients who have become friends along the way. Perhaps we should join Dorothy, Blanche, Rose and Sophia in singing the 1978 hit by Andrew Gold, "Thank You for Being a Friend!"

What ARE You Thankful for?

THE BUZZ

OUR CLIENTS SPEAK OUT:

"While we, at Arches Technology, build and provide software solutions specifically designed for healthcare, IT Radix helps us stay robust and reliable for our clients. Everyone on the IT Radix team is a real pleasure to work with. They are quick, detail oriented and helpful. A big THANKS for all their hard work and help!"

Yuliya Gimadiev, Operations Manager — Arches Technology, NYC

About Arches Technology: Arches provides software solutions specifically designed for healthcare. Coupled with their strategic insights, these powerful platforms make it easier to deliver dynamic cross-channel content, manage relationships, and elevate the patient experience.

Stuffed Turkey

Classic jazz fans might slide an *It's Monk's Time* CD in the changer during Thanksgiving. It includes a 50-year-old tune called "Stuffy Turkey." Reviewers considered this one of Monk's lesser works, deriding it as "quirky" and "repetitive." It might be the perfect background music as those words can describe some Thanksgiving dinner guests. 😉

Besides a stuffed turkey, which is wonderful, one thing that should never be "stuffed" is your email box. Consider the items below as the recipe for a slimmer mailbox:

- **Make Time** – Specify a time on your daily calendar to read and respond to email (alerts and beeps only interrupt you).
- **Act Now** – Resist the urge to delay on addressing easily actionable items.
- **Organize** – Devise your inbox for your way of work (consider labels, folders, categories).
- **Diet** – Unsubscribe with abandon! If the sight of "another email from someone/somewhere" upsets you, it is time to unsubscribe.

Don't be a stuffed turkey! Make plans today for a trimmer mailbox.

Proudly folded & stuffed by ESC School of Morris

We Gather Together…

…to ask the Lord's blessing. Thanksgiving is a wonderful, Norman Rockwell time of year when spirits run high over pumpkin pie and spiced lattes as we spend time with friends and family.

Thankfully, this collaborative spirit tends to spill over into our professional lives as well. While spending quality time at home is refreshing and enjoyed by many, working alongside our colleagues and within our professional teams is worth equal attention. Working alongside like-minded individuals to produce high-quality work or a top-notch project is something that is both rewarding and helps to facilitate a company culture that encourages collaboration and teamwork.

Since teamwork is a table stake in producing high quality work in most offices and work environments, we wanted to talk about Microsoft's new tool, aptly named: *Microsoft Teams.* Teams aims to help your project collaborations run smoother, improve organization, and help you focus on your work. Here are our favorite features about Microsoft Teams and why they stand to be a major benefit for your organization and company's workflow.

Communication, Conferencing, and No More Lost Email Threads

The workday can be hectic depending on what happens to be on our plate, and we often need the input of several team members to do our jobs well. Teams has a built in instant message (IM) tool especially for this purpose. A quick instant message to a colleague asking for their input on a task can save time and effort, reduce unnecessary meetings, and cut down the amount of organizational overhead needed to solve problems quickly.

When an instant message isn't enough, Teams also offers the ability to schedule and participate in conferences. Sometimes cramming into the same room just isn't possible, so having a solution that circumvents physical boundaries and still facilitates teamwork can be a major boon to your employee's communication toolkit.

It doesn't stop there, though; Teams offers a way to improve your email communication as well. Over the course of most projects, lengthy email chains pop up and subsequently get lost. It's like running a pair of socks through the wash. While the socks certainly began the cleaning cycle as a complete set, by the time they've been dried and folded, somehow one always seems to go missing and unfortunately, having one mismatched sock just doesn't hold the value of a complete set. Teams' solution to this is to employ a handy feature known as "Channels."

Channels are special communication areas for specific projects or company departments where important details for a given project may be stored, much like a forum. These threads or posts are then archived and remain completely searchable, while keeping them separate from other email chains and unrelated work items or tasks, effectively reducing clutter. They can even be favorited and pinned for even easier access. It will even allow you to work with external personnel who may only be onboard for a specific project.

Teams aims to be a highly customizable, turnkey solution for your office's communication for both physical and remote workers—especially if you already have *Office* 365, which includes Microsoft Teams.

Have questions or want to improve your office's project management and communication? Let us know, and we'll be happy to talk through some of the benefits Microsoft Teams has to offer.

> "Thanksgiving is a time to give, a time to love, and a time to reflect on the things that matter most in life."
>
> — Danielle Duckery

"First, delete Thanksgiving from the calendar on your phone, then sync it with your other devices and every digital device in your town. That should keep you off the menu. Is there anything else I can help you with?"

From the desk of: Cathy Coloff
Subject: We Gather Together

The holidays are often a time of reflection when we remember the things that have occurred throughout the year—both good and bad (hopefully, more good than bad). In my case, it brings back memories of our first trip to visit and meet Alex…who would become such an important part of my life. During this time of year, I'm particularly thankful to all the people who helped make his adoption happen and those that have supported us in raising him over the years.

It's not always easy juggling work and home life, but I'm fortunate to have such a wonderful group of people to work with at IT Radix—supporting each other and our clients. IT Radix would be nothing without our team. This is why every year I enjoy celebrating internally by having an annual Thanksgiving feast. I'm also pleased to sponsor a Thanksgiving meal at FamilyConnections for their clients who have struggled with drug addiction, homelessness and more.

I hope each of you will take some time out to gather together to celebrate and be thankful for the people that you have in your life. It's all too easy to get wrapped up in our own circumstances, myself included. I'm grateful that the holidays remind me to take time out and appreciate those around me, to help those that are less fortunate, and to remember our loved ones who we cannot be with.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving Fun Facts!

- The Gimbels Parade, now known as the 6abc Dunkin' Donuts Thanksgiving Day Parade, was the first department store to hold a Thanksgiving parade. It was first held in Philadelphia in 1920 and is now celebrating its 99th year!

- The average Thanksgiving dinner contains 4,500 calories—3,000 for the meal itself and another 1,500 for drinks, desserts and appetizers.

- Pilgrims ate the first Thanksgiving meal with a knife, a spoon and their fingers. The fork was not introduced until 10 years later by Governor Winthrop of Massachusetts.

- "Jingle Bells" was originally meant for the Thanksgiving season and had no connection to Christmas.

Gobble, Gobble, Gobble!

Many of us are fortunate to have fond memories of families gathered around the dinner table on Thanksgiving Day—eating way more than we should. Diets are put on hold as we partake of the bounty that many times taste even better the next day—leftovers of turkey sandwiches, soup and pot pies—yum! And what is at the center of all this? Well, our beloved turkey, of course! Believe it or not, that wasn't always the case.

Historians don't agree on whether turkey was even on the menu the first Thanksgiving—a meal shared between the pilgrims and the Wampanoag Tribe in 1621. There are only two written accounts of what happened during that three-day feast that seem to indicate clearly that turkeys were there, but not the actual main dish. Venison, fowl (goose and duck), fish and lobster probably formed a large part of that harvest festival meal.

Why are turkeys so popular to Americans? Well, for one thing, wild turkeys are native to North America. As a result, Benjamin Franklin proposed that the turkey be named the United States' national bird. Thankfully, not everyone agreed with Franklin, and the bald eagle became the national emblem for the United States in 1782.

Did you know that it's a tradition each year for the President of the United States to pardon the Thanksgiving turkey? Abraham Lincoln's family is credited with starting this tradition back in 1863; however, presidential pardons did not become a yearly event until Ronald Reagan in 1981.

Who would have thought that turkeys played such an important role in U.S. history.