

No Need to Fear...IT Radix is Here!

Say Your Pwayers, Wabbit!

If we were playing a fun business simulation game and forced to choose between being Elmer Fudd or Bugs Bunny, who would you choose? You'd probably choose Bugs Bunny, because he always wins by outsmarting poor old Elmer Fudd every time.

Cybercriminals are like Elmer; they live to bring harm and reap the rewards. While cybercriminals are more successful than Elmer, they are like him when it comes to their relentless pursuit of their prey. They must win only a small percentage of their attempts to succeed.

The first step in outwitting cybercriminals is to be aware of the potential risks and have your wits about you to outsmart them. While Elmer encouraged Bugs to say his "pwayers" because Elmer was "hunting wabbits," Bugs always succeeded due to his quick thinking and careful planning.

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The question is not "why cybercriminals would target my business" but rather "why wouldn't they." Small businesses must accept that they are a huge target for cybercriminals. Midsize companies now represent over 70% of data breaches, and the threat is growing. Cybersecurity experts report that, from 2016 to today, successful ransomware-type attacks have tripled due to sophisticated use of social engineering and other schemes. An attack on your organization is inevitable. The average attack on a small business today can cost as much as a quarter million dollars. Ignorance and "pwayers" are not a strategy here. So, what can you do to be like Bugs Bunny and outsmart these cyber "wabbit" hunters?

The good news is that there is plenty you can do. Robust digital security is more affordable than ever. Do not allow your valuable business assets and confidential data to hide solely behind a single and weak password that rarely, if ever, changes. Take action! Here are a just a few of the numerous things we recommend:

Raise Staff Awareness: Inform employees of the risk. They are often the route "in" that cybercriminals use. Create a cybersecurity policy that lists best practices to follow. Be specific about procedures to keep data safe—including creating and frequently changing unique, strong passwords. Include specific instructions on steps to follow if a breach occurs.

Update Technology: All hardware and software must be updated regularly to protect against the latest threats. Consider a security app for staff members using a smartphone, laptop or tablet.

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What's New

February 28

Webinar

10-Minute Tech Talk:

Desktop & Server Planning

— Alert —

Windows 7 and Server 2008

End-of-Life

Register: www.it-radix.com/webinar

Starts @12:10 sharp

March 22

Client Appreciation

Pancake Breakfast

Come enjoy a presentation on how to protect your company from cybercrime (*Don't Rely on Luck to Protect Your Cyber Ducks*), visit with our IT Radix staff and build business relationships with other IT Radix clients.

www.it-radix.com/appreciation

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



Scouting for a Brighter Future

As you may recall, in 2018 IT Radix celebrated our 10-year anniversary by “Giving Back” to the community. Each month we contributed to numerous organizations assisting adults, children, animals and the environment. As we embark on a new year, we thought it fitting to spotlight some of our clients that “Give Back” by what they do each and every day. Both the Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey and Boy Scouts of America Northern NJ Council contribute to the improvement of society through their youth programs by teaching children to make the world a better place.



Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey is the preeminent leadership development organization for girls—having programs from coast to coast and across the globe. Girl Scouts offers every girl a chance to practice a lifetime of leadership, adventure, and success. They believe in the power of every G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader) to change the world. Their goal is to build girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place by always being prepared. Girl Scouts provides the foundation for sound decision making and contributes to the improvement of society through a wide variety of enriching experiences. Their extraordinary journey began more than 100 years ago with the original G.I.R.L., Juliette Gordon “Daisy” Low, who organized the very first Girl Scout troop in Savannah Georgia.



Boy Scouts of America Northern NJ Council is one of the largest scouting and youth organizations in the United States. Their mission is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law to help others at all times. Their programs are designed to enrich scouts’ lives by teaching leadership training, character development, personal fitness, responsible citizenship, and self-reliance through participation in a wide range of outdoor activities, and educational and career-oriented programs. The Boy Scouts was founded in Great Britain in 1908 by Lieutenant General Robert SS Baden Powell.

The success of these two organizations is largely due to the countless number of volunteers that devote their time. We applaud these volunteers for their commitment to sharing their wisdom with our country’s future leaders.

IT Radix is proud to partner with these two organizations that help today’s youth develop into tomorrow’s leaders.

Say Your Pwayers, Wabbit!



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Backup with a Vengeance: Lost, stolen or deleted data is not a huge problem if you have a backup copy somewhere else quickly available to you. Backups should be adequately secured with encryption and password policies in place.

Limit Access: Access to confidential, prized business information should not be a right for anyone. Access is a privilege. Be proactive in deciding what data folks should have access to, rather than what they should not. This approach reduces the risk of unintended user access to confidential data. While digital collaboration and sharing data is more prevalent than ever, try to manage it. Some organizations do not let sharing occur outside their organizations unless a specific protocol is enacted.

Secure Wi-Fi: Mobile devices of all sorts have made wireless access necessary in many environments. Be wary. Secure wireless access only for employees. If possible, set it up so employees do not know the password. Set up a separate network for guests. Guests should never have the same wireless access enjoyed by staff.

Let IT Radix help you implement these recommendations in your business environment, and you’ll succeed at convincing those “wascally” cybercriminals that it’s duck season, instead of “wabbit” season!

OUR CLIENTS
SPEAK OUT:

THE BUZZ

“Even though we are a small company, we find our workplace challenges often require a high level of expertise. In the realm of IT, I couldn’t be happier with the breadth of knowledge, level of service and consistent professionalism of IT Radix. In the hierarchy of professionals that I deal with on ALL my business issues, Cathy and her team rank at the top. It has been a long-term, extremely positive business relationship.”

Gary Goodman, Co-President — Frederic Goodman Fine Jewelers

Frederic Goodman Fine Jewelers has been serving the jewelry needs of the Montclair and Summit areas for 35 years. With special emphasis on exclusive designer jewelry, fascinating gemstones, and top-quality diamonds, they emphasize the importance of curating an incomparable selection of the best of the jewelry world for its local customers.



Beep Beep!

Today, it seems, internet speeds are increasing to levels never even thought of just a few years ago. With speeds as fast as 1 Gigabit being offered by many internet providers, it can make you feel as fast as the Road Runner. But there is a bit of a catch. For the first time, internet speeds are actually outpacing firewall technology.

For businesses that have implemented a hardware firewall to protect their network (which ALL businesses should be doing), the security services on those firewalls, like Intrusion Prevention, Gateway Anti-Virus and Deep Packet inspection, may be slowing down the connection to the internet. So, while you may have contracted with your ISP for one of these new ultra-highspeed plans, you may only be realizing a fraction of that speed—leaving you feeling a little like Wile E. Coyote, just trying to keep up.

So, what's a business to do? The short answer is to wait. Firewall technology will catch up. But in the meantime, it is probably best to check with IT Radix before ordering that Internet upgrade.

Proudly folded & stuffed by ESC School of Morris

SPECIAL OFFER

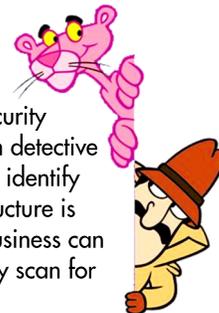


¡Arriba, Arriba!
¡Andale, Andale!

Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008 will reach their end of life within the year. Speedy Gonzales urges you to get a head start on the new year by migrating to Windows 10. Our goal is to provide you with the knowledge and support needed for a successful migration.

We realize that every company is unique. Therefore, we are offering a free, no-obligation assessment of your unique environment. Plus, if you let IT Radix help you migrate to Windows 10 in the first quarter of 2019, you'll receive a discount of up to 10% off the labor!

Don't Let the Pink Panther Strike Again



Almost every day there is a new headline about the latest cybersecurity attack—just like the Pink Panther, the mischievous cat in the French detective series. Wouldn't it be great to stay ahead of the Pink Panther and identify security holes before they are exploited? While today's IT infrastructure is simply too complex to be completely safe, there are steps that a business can take to help protect themselves. One of these steps is to proactively scan for vulnerabilities, both internally and externally.

In *The Pink Panther* series, Inspector Jacques Clouseau always solves his cases and finds the correct culprits entirely by accident. But in the business world, you don't want to rely on accident to find security holes. Vulnerability scans can review your systems on a regular basis, cross-checking against a massive list of vulnerabilities and pointing out areas where security needs to be improved. It is extremely rare that an entire network has every service configured correctly, properly password protected, and fully patched. However, you need to know where to start.

All your technology—software, network devices, email and more—has the potential for security holes that you must consider in order to stay safe and compliant. You need to develop a security plan now!

Don't be Inspector Clouseau and go it alone; let IT Radix help you get started by performing a basic external vulnerability scan as part of our Shieldstone security service. The testing is designed to assess your initial external security before an attacker does.

Why does this matter? The statistics are scary; in the first quarter of 2017, over 4800 new vulnerabilities were reported. This was a 29% increase from the same time period the previous year. These numbers have only grown in 2018. Additionally, with the Microsoft announcement of the end-of-life of both Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008 in January of 2020, any remaining vulnerabilities in these operating systems will not even be addressed. Don't forget about your software, network devices, email, and more. All your technology has the potential for security holes that you must consider in order to stay safe and be compliant. You need to develop a security plan now.

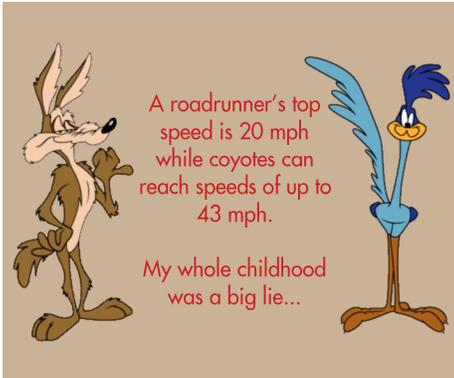


To protect against attack, organizations need to scan on a continuing basis—staying abreast of the new vulnerabilities found every week. As a result, we recommend going beyond our basic external vulnerability scan to include your internal network. By doing so, you can identify the areas of highest risk and effectively plan your security budget and projects.

In *The Pink Panther* series, Clouseaus' absent-minded antics garner many a laugh; but in real life, cybersecurity is no laughing matter. Contact IT Radix today about adding Shieldstone to your Managed Services today.

“Always let your conscience
be your guide.”

— The Blue Fairy, *Pinocchio*



From the desk of: Cathy Coloff



What’s your favorite cartoon? Growing up as a kid, I loved Scooby-Doo and watched every show at least three to four times. So, when Alex started watching them, I was happy to enjoy a few moments reliving my childhood, trying to figure out whodunnit with the lovable Scooby and gang. My love of mysteries continued as I grew up. I especially enjoyed the challenge of trying to solve the case early in the story and then ultimately finding out if I was correct. In my youth, I devoured the Nancy Drew series; and as I matured, I moved up to Dr. Kay Scarpetta and more complex stuff. As I’ve grown up, I’ve read a variety of other genres; but I still enjoy a mystery novel—simple or complex. One summer at the Jersey shore, I stumbled on the “alphabet mysteries” featuring Kinsey Millhone by Sue Grafton and the “Stephanie Plum” series on the bookshelves of our rental house. The former was a more serious look at the world of suspense and misadventure whereas the latter is a light-hearted, bumbling approach to getting her “man” that makes you laugh out loud—Stephanie is a Jersey-girl version of Inspector Clouseau. Recently, I was sad to learn that Sue Grafton passed away before she was able to finish her “alphabet mystery” series, leaving us to wonder what would become of Kinsey in the book titled after the letter “Z.”

What does this have to do with IT, you may ask? Well, I think my love of computers and problem solving developed some of its roots in these cartoons and books. Solving computer problems and now, more often, business problems with technology solutions requires a look at not only the big picture but also the little details that could reveal the answer to the problem or mystery. Not mysteries in the literary sense, but challenging and interesting nonetheless. That’s one of the many reasons I love my “job.”

I invite you to check our staff’s favorite cartoons at www.it-radix.com/cartoons. Perhaps you’ll discover some insights into what makes each of them special and unique. As for me, I’m off to watch an episode of Scooby-Doo.



Cartoon Fun Facts!

- Saturday morning cartoons vanished in the 2000’s largely due to the “Children’s TV Act” requiring stations to have 3 hours of educational/informational (E/I) programming per week. To avoid weekday shows, Saturday morning’s took the hit.
- *The Flintstones* was the most profitable network cartoon franchise for 30 years before being unseated by *The Simpsons*.
- Yogi Bear and many other Hanna-Barbera cartoons were given white collars so the Animators would have to draw less. Redrawing only his head in each frame when he spoke.
- Cartoon characters are depicted as wearing gloves as it eliminated the complexity of drawing a well-defined hand back in the days when they had to manually draw a new drawing per frame for numerous frames.

Thank You Notes to Tech Innovators



Dexter’s Laboratory follows Dexter, a boy-genius and inventor with a hidden laboratory in his room, which he keeps secret from his parents. Unlike Dexter, we do not want to keep our parents in the dark. Au contraire! We’d like to commend the innovators that paved the way for today’s technologies.

In true Jimmy Fallon fashion, here’s a shout out to the men and women who inspired the technology that we all come to depend on today:

Thank you, **Marty Cooper**, the father of the mobile phone who was inspired from watching Star Trek’s Captain Kirk talk on his communicator device.

Thank you, **Susan Kare**, who inspired Apple’s signature graphics and helped bring the Apple computer to life—more like a friend and less like a machine.

Thank you, **Adele Goldberg**, who played a key part in developing the much beloved Graphical User Interface (GUI).

Thank you, **Sir Tim Berners-Lee**, for creating the first **web browser**, HTML and HTTP—the three components that make up what we consider the WWW.

Thank you, **Karen Spärck Jones**, for laying the groundwork for Googling that allows for the recognition of similar words and “term weighing” to determine most relevant terms.

Thank you, **Nathaniel Borenstein**, the inventor of the email attachment, who made it possible to quickly share documents from anywhere in the world.

Unlike Dexter and his fellow boy-genius Mandark’s bitter rivalry, the efforts of the above technology innovators supported each other and paved the way for the technology that we know and love (and can’t live without) today!