



A Keen Eye for Cybersecurity Risks

Collecting antiques is an interesting and challenging hobby for many. Activities that involve collecting, such as antiquing, require training, education, and research before the hobbyist begins to excel at the avocation. Successful tactics for acquiring unique, sought-after artifacts, also apply to something far more modern and threatening today—cyberattacks and phishing emails.

Here are tips for becoming a master collector as well as an expert at spotting threats:

Understand both interest and risks

The antiquing hobbyist's first task is to determine and identify their primary focus and interest (e.g., 60s era music memorabilia, baseball history, vintage computers, colonial furniture). Once they hone in on that, they can pinpoint what they are looking for and focus their efforts. Similarly, the business manager of today must recognize and identify what data and confidential information they have accessible on their computer network that might be valuable to an outside attacker. Information like social security numbers, birthdates, passwords, email addresses, phone numbers, client information, and financial data all needs to be protected by both you and your staff.

All staff members in today's organizations need to have a similar level of diligence and a keen eye open to things that are hazardous or dangerous to the organization.

Have a keen eye for value and risk

The antiquing hobbyist always has a keen eye out for an item of interest. We've all probably heard of someone picking up an item for \$5 at a garage sale that turned out to be worth hundreds of times that amount when in the right hands. That occurs not because of any happy accident, but because the hobbyist is always aware and attentive to the chance that he or she might find that valuable piece. In the same way, all staff members in today's organizations need to have a similar level of diligence and a keen eye open to things that are hazardous or dangerous to the organization.

The market is always open for collecting and criminals

Aside from special "annual" shows that may occur at a large commercial space, there really is no special market for the collector. In fact, the enthusiast often prefers to find that special item in an out-of-the-way place, during ordinary activities. Likewise, those who inhabit the Dark Web and similar criminals are always "in the market" to grab valuable information from data networks. The smart manager today does not put his or her head in the sand thinking no one is out to steal from them, because quite the opposite is true. You are "the market" just by the pure fact that you

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Take Note

February 1

Change Your Password Day
Avoid being a target of cybercriminals. Get in the habit of changing your passwords regularly.

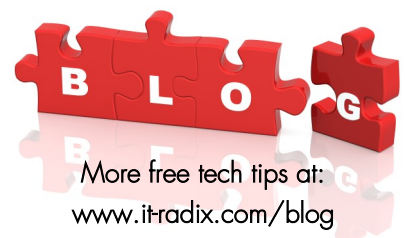
February 17

WEBINAR

10-Minute Tech Talk:
**SharePoint and OneDrive
Tips & Tricks**
www.it-radix.com/webinar
Starts @ 12:10pm sharp

RED Month E-Waste Results
IT Radix collected and properly recycled 1634 pounds of e-waste during our November RED Month.

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



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

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are in business. Do all you can to secure your business and your data.

We have found that organizations truly reduce their cybersecurity risks only by implementing an ongoing staff training and testing system focused on data security awareness. There are numerous benefits. First, the program costs are miniscule when compared to the ramifications of an attack. The potential losses can be great, including a total business loss. Second, attacks are on the rise, especially as staff are working remotely. Third, an IBM analysis found that 95% of cybersecurity breaches are caused by human error. Training and testing are therefore vital, especially as compliance requirements increasingly focus on employee training.

Everyone can be attacked, from the lowest to the highest levels of the organization. Help your employees become experts at identifying cybersecurity risks...call IT Radix to get started with Employee Security Training and Testing today!

Proudly folded & stuffed by Central Park School

Home Improvements



Due to COVID-19 and our socially distanced work-from-home efforts, our staff is spending A LOT more time at home these days. From a recent Polly poll in Microsoft Teams, we learned that over half of our staff have been tackling home improvement projects this past year.

Being home so much has forced us to take a closer look at our surroundings and at what we might not normally see. Many of us find ourselves binge watching HGTV and getting inspiration from home improvement shows. **Ken** decided that it's time to address items that needed to be fixed around his home after walking by things many more times a day now. He's been undertaking minor updates to keep things clean and fresh. Now that **Jandy** is sharing her home office with her husband, she decided it was time for a home office makeover. A freshly painted and organized office space does wonders to reducing stress. **Amy** repurposed her guest bedroom to become Ollie's room—her pet mini pig—complete with a twin bed, rooting mat and red barn mural.

Buying a new home during the pandemic lead some of our staff to tackle a wide variety of projects. **Melissa** has been busy sanding/repainting her stairs, putting up a back splash in her kitchen and even removing boulders from her backyard. **Robin** perfected her chalk painting skills and refurbished her bathroom vanities and cabinets. **Tommy's** home improvements are too many to list. He's most proud of rewiring his entire house and rebuilding a chandelier—something that he's never done before.

Some of our staff found their inner Tim "The Toolman" Taylor and tackled some building projects at home. **Joey** totally rebuilt a new kitchen from the bottom up, doing everything except installing the granite countertops. **Mike** honed his woodworking skills and built a beautiful arch for his daughter's Disney-themed wedding. **Cathy** built the ultimate backyard "She Shed"—a welcome retreat where she can relax and enjoy the beauty of nature.

So, the next time a Zoom call invites you into the home of a friend or colleague, check out their backgrounds. You may be inspired to do some home improvements of your own.



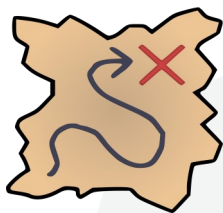
Our Clients Speak Out!

"We have been working with the principles of IT Radix for our IT needs for as long as we have had a PC network. I have the utmost trust in them as both advisors and technicians."

Lisa Obolsky, VP of Operations — New Jersey Builders Association (NJBA)

NJBA is the leading trade association for the shelter industry in New Jersey. Members include residential and commercial builders, developers, remodelers, subcontractors, suppliers, engineers, architects, consultants and other professionals. NJBA serves as a resource for its members through continuing education and advocacy.

Treasures Left Behind



If you have ever been to a casino and pulled the arm of a slot machine, you've experienced the excitement of hearing, Ding Ding Ding! You've hit the jackpot! This is how metal detector enthusiasts feel every time they take a metal detector and walk along the beach, a local park, or even their own property. Metal detecting as a hobby is not only good exercise but can prove to be quite rewarding. It is often the most unlikely place where you will find the best treasures. And many times, they are right in your own backyard!

As working remotely becomes more of the norm these days, it leaves us with a lot to think about. Where are your companies' hidden treasures being left uncovered for sleuths to find?

Consider printing... Do you have a policy in place for remote workers when it comes to printing company documents? Paper documents that are printed are no longer secure. Documents left on tables, countertops, or in cars are susceptible to being read by unauthorized individuals. This poses a security issue for your business as well as your clients. Policies must be created and discussed with remote workers on how to handle confidential and sensitive information.

The destruction of these documents should also be addressed. Having confidential information tossed in a garbage can leaves room for disaster. Requiring documents be shredded with a cross-cut shredder is worth the investment.

Afterall, one man's trash is another man's treasure. Don't leave anything behind!

Hobbies & Technology

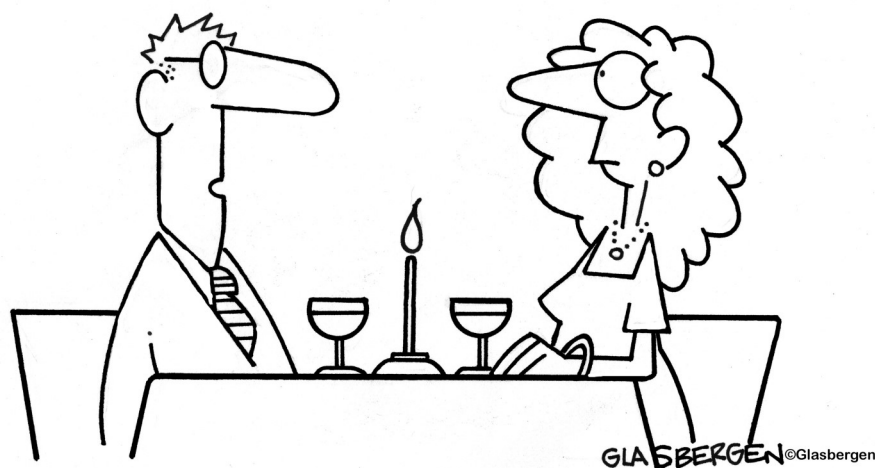
Thanks to technology, enjoying a hobby while you social distance can be easier than you think.

Online classes and tutorials are all the rage! Interested in learning a new cooking technique, there's a tutorial for that. Looking for some encouragement to get your body moving, join an online exercise class. Dreaming of travel to an exotic country? Learn a new language with a foreign language mobile app.

Downloadable materials are at your fingertips. Check out your local library and escape with a new book! Peruse the abundance of online recipes and prepare your favorite meal at home.

We're all missing human interaction these days and **connecting virtually** via apps like Zoom and Teams is the next best thing to being there. Schedule time with a group of friends and exercise together virtually. Not only will your body thank you, but you'll enjoy a few laughs with your friends and can hold each other accountable.

Hobbies have never been easier!



“My hobbies are drag racing, world-tour golf, extreme football, flying jets, and kickboxing. On my computer, of course.”

Giveaway We've Got Your Back

In honor of World Backup Day, we thought we'd have a little fun this year. On March 31, we'll have a drawing and pick two entries to win an IT Radix fleece blanket!

If you are a current managed service client, you will AUTOMATICALLY be entered because WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED! For everyone else, email your name with the words "Backup Drawing" to:

resource@it-radix.com



From the desk of Cathy Coloff

I've been involved in my fair share of home improvement projects over the years. I can still remember the built-in bookshelves my parents made for our home in New Mexico, complete with a burnt wood finish created by a blow torch. As a kid growing up, my job was primarily to hold, fetch or otherwise assist when needed on these projects. As adults here in NJ, Doug and I completely gutted our kitchen and bathroom, replaced the roof and much more. As our time has become more limited, we've gotten help with bigger projects but still tackle much ourselves. With being home more during the pandemic, I got the home improvement bug to enhance my she-shed in our backyard. I've had fun planning the project—salvaging our old sliding door, windows and cedar siding and combining them with more windows acquired from the local Restore along with new materials. Being stubborn and wanting to keep some of the original structure intact for weatherproofing, we've had to deal with some structural challenges, in particular, non-square support beams.

As I reflect on this project, I realize that we handle our new IT support clients similarly. We evaluate their existing computing infrastructure, salvage as much as possible and introduce new equipment as needed, resulting in a better computer network. Sometimes, it means we must deal with non-standard equipment or special business requirements. To me, this is what makes our role as IT consultants interesting, challenging and fun.

Ok, so I'm a bit geeky but I can happily say, "I love what I do!"
I hope you can too.

SPECIAL OFFER

Sign up for a Capstone IT Management and Support Plan during the months of **January**, **February** and **March** and receive free Bluetooth earbuds. This offer is for all new Capstone clients. Call IT Radix today to learn more!

"Happy is the man who can make a living by his hobby."

— George Bernard Shaw

tech TIP

Install Updates

Install all security, software and Windows updates. Why? Software updates have security fixes imbedded, making them more secure and less likely to be hacked. Outdated programs or software are more likely to be targeted by malicious attacks; but by installing the latest security updates, you can make sure all those loopholes are filled in.

Microsoft is actively pushing out their new internet browser, Edge, and removing the old Internet Explorer. This is great for security purposes—Microsoft reports that this new version of Edge incorporates the latest security updates. The new Edge, along with having a new icon, also has built-in features designed to give you more control over your own data and online privacy.

Make Security Your Next Home Project

During these trying times, many of us are diving into hobbies as a way to keep our sanity. Senior IT Consultant, Mike Oster, took to his garage in 2020 to finish some woodworking and home improvement projects. With the increase in working from home, Mike's next project will be optimizing his home network. The router the cable company dropped off when they installed the internet years ago just isn't cutting it anymore. For most of us, it's probably time to do the same and invest in a proper firewall for our homes. We need something that will not only keep us secure but will also keep up with the ever-increasing reliance on our home internet connections.

The new work-from-home workforce is a very enticing target for today's cybercriminals. **These hackers know where the weak link is to get access to corporate data—the home network.** A proper, business-class firewall will help close that gap and keep things secure.

Think about all the devices you have connected to your home network—TVs, game consoles, doorbells, lights, thermostats, and the list goes on. Any of these devices could be an entry point into your home network and, in a work-from-home environment, your office. A firewall will not only help secure these devices but would allow you to separate your work environment from the rest of your home, helping keep your office and company private data secure.

So, maybe your next home improvement project should not be a new floor in the mud room. Maybe it should be some added network security. Not sure where to start...give IT Radix a call.