

IT Radix Resource

We make IT work for you

Patch IT Up!

The expected lifespan of cotton fabric is over 100 years. Yes, that nice blouse or shirt or those pants you look great in can have an extended life of that range! Too bad fashion makes some of these items outdated almost as fast as technology makes hardware and software obsolete! Of course, even during its short fashionable life sometimes that article of clothing might need some patching or repair sewing done to address some rips or tears. Or, maybe a “vulnerable” area in the rear that shows a lot of wear that could expose all that is behind you needs to be addressed.

Sew... back to technology (pun intended)

Most think of technology hardware and software as strong, solid, and durable—but in fact, their inner workings need some TLC from time to time. That is why Windows and other hardware and software manufacturers update and “patch” their products on a regular basis. The goal is to keep systems safe. Patches are used to address vulnerabilities and gaps in security, fix a flaw in the software and/or enhance the basic stability of the software. Without these patches, weaknesses remain. That is why they are part of essential preventive maintenance to keep machines and networks safe.

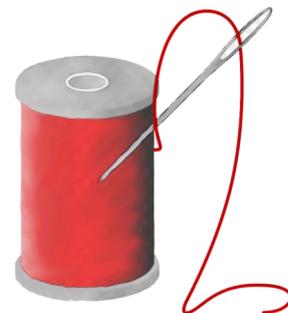
A Verizon Data Breach report revealed that 70% of successful cyberattacks exploited known vulnerabilities in software where patches were already distributed and available.

Many folks get annoyed by these updates because they sometimes occur at “just the wrong time.” Having an IT resource like IT Radix manage that for you will reduce that probability. Here is why it is important... a Verizon Data Breach report revealed that 70% of successful cyberattacks exploited known vulnerabilities in software where patches were already distributed and available. Unfortunately, the user and/or the network had not allowed these patches and updates to flow through.

Some think that antivirus software will handle any issues and, therefore, ignore the software updates. That is a flawed strategy, antivirus software is only a small piece of the puzzle. Another recent study found that PCs with antivirus but not up to date with patches had the same infection rates as PCs running no antivirus. Additionally, the sheer number of malware releases—in the hundreds of millions each year (yes, cybercrime is a big business)—make it imperative that machines are kept up to date.

If your IT department or outside IT resource is not managing this update process for you, there are a few things you can do. Vendors routinely put updates on their

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Take Note

March 10
WEBINAR

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

March 31

World Backup Day

Avoid a potential disaster and
back up your data files.
Take the “World Backup Day
Pledge” and sign up for a free
backup review!
www.it-radix.com/review-my-backup

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

Patch IT Up!

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websites for downloading, so check them periodically if you have not already enabled automatic updates on key business software. Be sure to use trusted vendor sites only. Periodically, it is also good to check to see if your software is up to date or "End of Life" (EOL). If it is EOL, it is a must to replace and/or upgrade to the newest version.

New flaws always appear. The best defense against attackers who exploit patched vulnerabilities is simple: keep your software up to date. This is the most effective measure you can take to protect your business and your network.

So, the next time you reach into your closet and see that favorite item of clothing with the minor rip or hidden flaw that if worn, could ruin your entire day...think of your computer network and remind yourself to be sure it is up to date. Candidly, it is better to be up to date with technology, than with fashion!

Contact IT Radix today...we'll make sure there are no holes in your network.

IT Infrastructure Designed Like a Quilt

Plotting your organization's IT infrastructure is similar to designing a quilt. You start with an idea—in business, this is a desired outcome that technology can help you create. Whether it's a quilt or business network, you need to get the ideas out of your head and into reality.

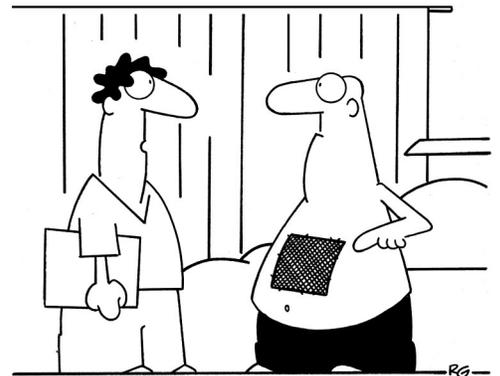
Often, quilters will use graph or paper to lay out their design. When using this approach, they make decisions about the scale, pattern, etc. They start laying out the blocks, lines, and more. Similarly, if you've met with Cathy, you may have seen her hand draw a computer network to help visualize what's needed to accomplish your IT goals.

Sometimes, quilters need to start over or lay out the same quilt multiple times before getting it right. It's the same with technology. As your business needs change or technology advances, sometimes you need to readjust your design.

After the basic quilt drawing is created, the block sizes need to be calculated taking into account the available fabric allotment, seam allowance, and more. From this, a plan is developed on how best to put the different sections of the quilt together as well as the optimum order of sewing. IT Radix does the same when designing your IT infrastructure.

We develop a high-level plan which then gets fleshed out into the hardware, software and configuration steps needed to create your IT environment. Basically, we create a pattern that we can follow for each project, large or small.

Like a seasoned quilter, IT Radix uses these design techniques to create seamless IT networks. Let us help you design your IT network today.



"Most surgeons sew, but knitting relaxes me."

In the office or at home,





We make IT work for you



A Stitch in Time

There is a lot of truth to the age-old proverb, “a stitch in time saves nine.” If you sort out a problem immediately, it will surely save a lot of extra work later. This adage can be applied to all aspects of our daily lives.

When it comes to needlework, Client Services Consultant, Kris Swain, puts this fundamental principle to the test. While working on a project, if something is not quite right, it's best to find the mistake early on since you'll need to take it out and do it all over again—thus avoiding a lot of extra work.

The love of handiwork was instilled in Kris at a young age by her maternal grandmother. She has fond memories of growing up and spending time with her grandmother working on sewing and needlework projects together.

Kris always has multiple projects in the works. Needlepoint is her favorite and requires much focus and planning. She buys most of her kits from a tapestry company in England due to the high quality and designs from the Austrian painter, Gustav Klimt. Lately, Kris has been doing a lot more crocheting because it's easier on the eyes since her cataract surgery and she can easily stop and pick up where she left off. Kris finds crocheting to be second nature; there's not much thinking required and she can relax and crochet while watching TV.

Needlework is a very relaxing and enjoyable pastime for Kris. She shares that it's a great way to unwind while feeling accomplished by “doing” something productive.

During the pandemic, Kris has a lot more time to devote to her craft, and her family and friends have reaped the benefits with the beautiful gifts she's been making for them.

Hobbies Are Big Business

Hobbies provide a mental escape from our everyday lives. Here are a few, rooted in technology, that are now big business with lots of jobs available.

Drone Operators: Flying a drone went from being a child's activity a few years ago to a hobby for enthusiasts and now has become a way for businesses to deliver products. Indeed.com has loads of drone operator jobs available.

3D Printing: Hobbyists started making “cool and fun” stuff with the first 3D printers. Now they make everything: jewels, gifts and even medical devices.

Programming: Let's not forget that the first programmers were tinkerers. Now, they are in demand for creating all sorts of things such as video games and artificial intelligence software.

Finally, back in 1995, a guy named Craig Newmark sent an email to a dozen people listing a couple of upcoming events. Today, Craigslist is estimated to be worth \$3 billion!

we're here to serve you!





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!

"A hobby a day keeps the doldrums away."

— Phyllis McGinley

enter **to** WIN

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 Colloff

This month we took a "cut" at relating IT to sewing (pun intentional). If you've ever tried sewing of any kind, you quickly realize that it is a skill that takes time to master. I can recall trying to sew a dress in high school and it being significantly more difficult than expected. Keep in mind, that I'd had no sewing training of any kind; so, this was a pretty lofty goal. Thankfully, a good family friend, who was an excellent seamstress, saved me from major fashion failure and hours of frustration with a sewing machine by guiding me through the process and correcting some of my sewing snafus.

Unlike sewing, I've been fortunate to have years of training in information technology (perhaps more years than I care to admit). I've come to realize that the basics that I learned in high school, college and at my first IT job have given me a solid foundation for advising and guiding folks through some of today's technology mazes. We enjoy helping our clients select the right technology for their needs, getting it up and running and then ensuring it's well maintained once it's in place. And like my family friend, we guide our clients through the process and sometimes undo the snafus that their previous efforts have created.

So, while I may not be cut out for quilting, I'm really lucky to have discovered my passion for IT and to have the opportunity to continually develop my experience and knowledge in it every day. But as for sewing, I'm happy to stick to sewing buttons.

Geek Speak

Learning a new language is one of the top 15 hobbies to master during the coronavirus pandemic. What better way to escape the doldrums than to immerse yourself into learning about another country, its culture, and its language! It also paves the way for new possibilities for work, travel (eventually), and meeting new people (virtually, for now).

Discussing technology can be like speaking another language. You might think you know the meaning of these terms:

Flash Memory: The moment you remember why you walked into the kitchen.

Handshaking: Pre-COVID-19 ritual for greeting another person.

Drag and Drop: What you do when you get your groceries in the house.

However, if you are speaking "Geek," this is what these phrases actually mean:

Flash Memory: A type of memory that retains information even after power is turned off (used in memory cards and USB flash drives).

Handshaking: The initial negotiation period immediately after a connection is established between two modems.

Drag and Drop: The act of clicking on one icon and moving it to a different location (e.g., moving a file by dragging it over and dropping it on folder).

So, be careful when learning Geek Speak! Something as innocent as saying you made a meatloaf could end up getting you removed as a contact.

(Meatloaf means unsolicited emails sent in mass, especially to advertise products or moneymaking schemes.) It's all Geek to us!