IT Radix Resource

We make IT work for you

Protect Your Hive From Intruders
Put Security Measures in Place to Protect Your Business

Beekeeping has been around for over 4500 years. There are plenty of apiculturists that maintain hives for profit, yet far more enjoy the hobby. Both employ a variety of strategies to protect their hives. Security has become even more important for beekeepers due to the rise in the occurrence of "colony collapse disorder"—an abnormal phenomenon where the majority of worker bees in a honeybee colony disappear. That can cause economic losses not unlike those that an organization can endure if it is struck by a ransomware attack or another kind of data/information breach!

Beekeeping is a considerable investment and measures to protect an apiary makes sense especially since the demand for honey is growing. Apiculturists fear the criminal that wants to steal the bee colony, but they also fear natural predators as well as pesticides.

Here are some of the ways that beekeepers put security first along with lessons for those in traditional occupations:

Find the ideal location. Beekeepers look for sheltered positions to place their hives and prefer that the entrance is set opposite to prevailing winds. Likewise, business managers today must determine where their key business applications should be located. Should they rely on cloud computing primarily to maximize the ability to do business from anywhere? Should they rely more on local placement of key hardware and software to maximize security or productivity?

Lock up the periphery. They say fences make good neighbors. The smart beekeeper puts a security perimeter in place like a fence. They also try to keep the hive out of plain sight from the curious onlooker. Similarly, organizations should be sure they have adequate security strictures in place such as not allowing the use of public Wi-Fi, putting guest wireless access on a separate network than their core, encrypting key devices, and installing a professional hardware firewall to monitor the incoming packets of data entering the network.

Monitor what is happening. A security camera of some sort connected to the internet to facilitate easy viewing from anywhere is used by hive managers to keep a watchful eye on their core business investment. An

What's New

May 7
World Password Day
In honor of World Password Day, it's time to break up with your current password and move on to something new. Ask us about our IT Radix Password Management Solution!

2021 MSP Award
We are excited to share that IT Radix was named as one of CRN's 2021 Top 500 Managed Service Providers in the Pioneer 250 category. CRN recognizes North American solution providers with cutting-edge approaches to delivering managed services.

If you would rather receive our newsletter via email, sign up on our website or send an email to resource@it-radix.com
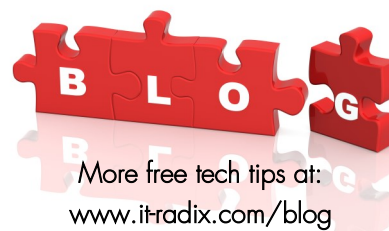
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analogy that makes sense beyond just cameras for businesses is to put in place a monitoring system for their network. A professional IT Services firm like IT Radix can assist with this.

Inspect regularly. In beekeeping, there is no substitute for donning the protective gear and eyeing what is happening in and around the hive. Things might need to be updated or maintained as other adjacent environmental factors may have changed since the hive was first established. In the same way business managers protect their networks by ensuring that software and hardware patches and updates are routinely put in place. Other suggestions include having an IT professional inspect all hardware and software at least annually and putting in place an ongoing set of programs to test for vulnerabilities within and outside your network.

IT Radix is buzzing with ideas for protecting your hive. Let us "bee" your trusted IT advisor so you can harvest a bounty of sweet success!

Proudly folded & stuffed by Central Park School

Introducing… Rob Digges

Rob came to IT Radix with over 20 years of experience working in the IT field. He kicked off his career in the U.S. Air Force where he specialized in Communications Computer Systems Control. His military experience cemented his love for technology and launched him into an IT career path. Most recently, Rob worked as a Technology Manager at Convene where he was responsible for a myriad of IT duties from technology design to customer assistance.

As an IT Consultant at IT Radix, Rob prides himself at being proficient in a lot of different areas. He is one of our key techs working the front lines when our clients call in, making sure they get and stay up and running as quickly and efficiently as possible. Rob really enjoys working in a client-facing role. He likes knowing that he is able to help people feel better about their technology and is confident in his ability to solve their problems and explain IT matters plainly without a lot of geek speak. Troubleshooting is his forte! When it comes to hardware and networking, he's all about "tinkering" and figuring things out.

Rob's favorite quote:
"I may not have gone where I intended to go, but I think I have ended up where I needed to be." — Douglas Adams

Born in Clifton Park, NY, Rob now resides in West Milford with his wife, Anna, and three daughters. When not working, Rob is into all things geeky—from Star Wars to quantum mechanics and everything in between! He enjoys building computers, playing board/video games and puzzles of all kinds. His most favorite hobby/escape is playing tabletop role-playing games (e.g., Dungeons & Dragons, Pathfinder, Shadowrun) and has been playing with the same group of friends for 25+ years. Rob even dabbles in a bit of comedic writing—aspiring to try a little standup one day.

Rob's personal philosophy: Empathy, compassion, and laughter are the keys to happiness.

The Buzz — Our Clients Speak Out!

"It is critical to our success that our systems are available 24x7, and IT Radix gives us that confidence and assurance. Their quick response time and on-going advice has allowed us to work successfully in this new virtual environment. The expertise that we have leveraged over the years from this partnership allows us to focus on the needs of the business and offer the high level of service our customers expect."

Barbara Smith, IT Director — Access Property Management

Access Property is a mid-sized, full-service property management company based in Flemington, NJ. Founded in 1989, APM serves more than 240 community associations across NJ and PA.

The "Not Me!" Problem…

Small Businesses Are Prime Targets for Cybercrime

Remembering 24 different passwords, memorizing 4 PIN numbers and installing updates all the time is frustrating enough. Many of us also have to remember the alarm code for the door, the code for the alarm panel next to the door, the secret password to tell the alarm company, the passcode to your phone, the garage code. You get the idea.

This logic is based on a time when threats were more "real," like the idea of someone robbing our house. In 2021, these types of threats are statistically less likely to happen than virtual threats like fraudulent credit card charges, data loss and identity theft. In fact, cyberattacks occur three times as often as home burglaries in the United States, according to a 2016 study by the University of Kentucky.

It's important to avoid the "Not me!" approach to this shift. Businesses say this all the time: "I'm too small for anyone to want to steal my data. I have a good firewall, hourly backups and a great IT support partner—no one will steal my files."

But the truth is that businesses with under 100 employees are low-hanging fruit for cybercriminals— yes, that's a lot of you! It can happen to you, so you must approach all aspects of physical and electronic security with the attention they deserve in today's business world.
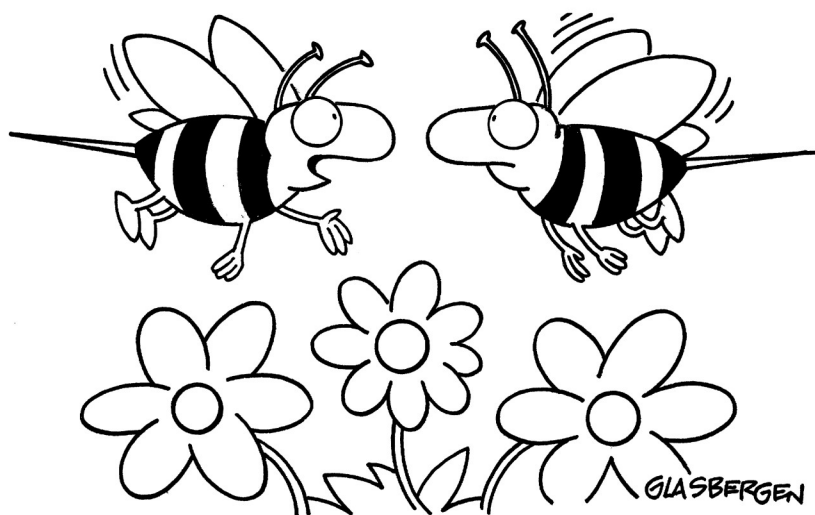
Don't get stung! Need help getting started? Give IT Radix a call today.

"I can't get a good buzz going until I've had at least three cups of coffee!"

GLASBERGEN

Nouns Take Action

Verbing — the practice of using a noun as a verb — is not new. Words such as adulting, medaling, and tabling all originated as nouns.

Thanks to technology and social media, more nouns are becoming verbs. No matter which search engine you prefer, when we need to research something, our go to is to "google it." When we invite people to connect on Facebook, we ask them to "friend" us. Move over Casper, these days the term "ghost" also refers to ending a relationship abruptly by cutting off all communication without explanation. On the flip side, instead of loving something, you might "heart" it—a step above a thumbs-up like—whether it's your friend's Instagram post or a cute cat video. And it's very common to "bookmark" a favorite webpage for easier access later.

Gotta love IT!

Thanks for the referrals!

Referrals are the best form of compliment! We would like to thank the following for referring us to their friends and colleagues:

Marty of Eagan & Lenney LLC
Michele of Hyde & Associates
Sharon of Real Endpoints

Visit us at www.it-radix.com to learn more about our Referral Rewards Program!

have fun!

"I believe the ability to have fun at work, to me at least, leads into having a positive attitude and makes me want to provide WOW service!"

— Chuck Barry, IT Radix Team Member

security TIP of the month

Test Your Backups!

Why? Data is the lifeblood of every business. Unfortunately, the risks and threats to the protection, privacy and usability of that data are endless. Follow the 3-2-1 method for backups:

3 a minimum of three unique copies of your data,

2 two available locally and

1 one off-site or in the cloud.

Make sure to test your backups often for functionality and integrity. Contact IT Radix for more tips on staying safe online!

From the desk of Cathy Coloff

May 7th is World Password Day. Several of our clients have our Dark Web monitoring service which alerts them when their credentials—including passwords—are available on the Dark Web. These days it is critical to know when your credentials have been compromised, especially since so many people tend to use the same password (or minor variations of it) for multiple websites or applications. Using the same password everywhere is like a hornet's nest—a hazardous situation for all involved. Once the password is compromised, you've stepped in it and all the hornets swarm around on the attack. So, please, use a distinct and separate password for each and every system you log into and leverage a secure password manager to make this daunting task easier.

All this talk about buzzing reminds me of sweeter things like honey and fragrant flowers. With the arrival of spring, I hope everyone is getting outside to enjoy the fresh air and sunshine. I've always wanted to start a flower garden at the office because, unlike my home, it gets full sun. Just imagine the flowers blooming and the bees all a buzz…ah, the beauty of it all! Until my garden dreams become reality, here's my advice: Don't worry, "bee" happy everyone!

We Have Fun!

Who says you can't have fun at work? We love what we do and adding a little humor and fun to both our and our client's day makes it even better.

Do you know a business owner who grills lunch for their staff every warm weather Friday? Who hosts a virtual wine tasting and a staff Jeopardy game after hours via Microsoft Teams to connect with her employees? What kind of organization has a staff snow angel competition as the 50th inch of snow descends on the office? What staff dresses up for *Celebrate a Geek Day* or brings their costumed pet to work on *Dress Your Pet Day*? IT Radix does all of this and more because one of our core values is to "Have Fun" which sets us apart from other boring IT companies.

We enjoy having fun with our clients too! Last month we added a fun twist to our monthly webinar and played Kahoot! It was a fun, interactive learning experience that made learning about IT security fun and enjoyable! We take our jobs and our dedication to our clients very seriously, but we are reminded to have a bit of fun along the way.

Laughter is the spice of life. We believe that it makes us even better at what we do…and happier and more relatable too!