IT Radix Resource

We make IT work for you

Money Matters

What Your Controller Should Know About IT Security

In many video games, players have "lives" that determine the duration of the game. Similarly, organizations have Controllers looking to save not "lives" but "funds." However, too much emphasis on reducing costs can cost more in the long run, especially as it relates to Information Technology.

One decision each Controller makes is whether to manage IT in-house or to outsource the role. Given the fast pace of changing technology, many companies choose to outsource. Choosing to engage with an IT Managed Services Provider like IT Radix often save funds. It also makes it more likely that the organization will stay on top of technology, ensuring ongoing gains in productivity and security. Keeping IT in-house increases control and costs and dramatically reduces flexibility especially regarding IT Security. Here are some key things Controllers should know about IT security:

Breaches Cost. Saving money on IT can be the result of good planning and ongoing maintenance. Letting old equipment run that one extra year might look like a smart option; but if it exposes your organization to an attack or breach, those costs are enormous. Think the opposite of Nike…Don't Do IT!

Upgrade Regularly. Sometimes the simplest and least expensive ways of accomplishing things are forgotten too quickly. Updating/patching existing hardware and software and purchasing new equipment regularly is one the most basic things that can be done ensure data protection for your organization. Far too many new clients have tried to save on information technology costs by sticking with old equipment or expired software. Cybercriminals are on the hunt for older equipment that is "end of life." That one outdated PC used once a month by the spouse of the business owner could be the gateway that the bad guys need to infiltrate a network. We've seen this happen. Budgeting for updating all hardware and software makes everything run smoother. So, when it does come time to update things—often due to a compliance issue or a requirement from a client—the adjustment costs are modest. We encourage clients to budget to replace 20-25% of their technology asset investment yearly. That way, they are never too far behind; and they can easily move the latest, greatest, and newest hardware to those areas of the business that require it.

Take Note

You're Invited!

September 15
WEBINAR
20-Minute Tech Talk:
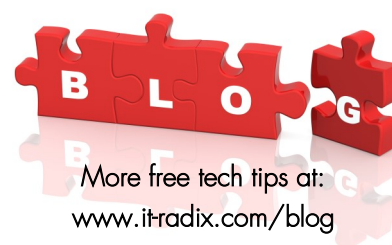**Technical and Security Challenges of Hybrid Workers**
www.it-radix.com/webinar
Starts @ 12:10pm sharp

Get Disaster Ready
September is National Preparedness Month. Does your business have a "keep working plan" in the event of a disaster?

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

B L O G

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

(Continued from page 1)

Have a Plan. As the key financial officer of a firm, it is imperative that the Controller have specific cyber-security policies and plans in place, including a Business Continuity Plan in the event of a natural or criminal disaster—a comprehensive strategy to safeguard finance processes and important company and client data. Engage a cross-functional team that monitors policy compliance and submits regular reports on the state of financial data security.

- Charge the team with identifying the areas in finance and other business/operational processes that are most vulnerable to attack or of interest to criminals.
- Identify roles and responsibilities of key staff members in case of a successful financial data breach.
- Monitor success of the plan with regular tests of the cybersecurity measures in place for finance processes. Confirm all are prepared for evolving threats in the dynamic world of cybersecurity.

Let us know if you need help running the numbers. Stay tuned next month as we showcase data security and your HR staff.

It's All Fun and Video Games

Video games have exploded in popularity over the last few decades and have come a long way since Atari's Pong was released in 1972. They're exciting, invigorating, and not just for kids—the average age of a gamer is 35! Today, there are over five million games in existence and a multitude of genres that everyone can enjoy.

Not surprisingly, we have a lot of video gamers on our IT Radix team.

Ashleigh finds video games fun and challenging. While her favorites are *The Legend of Zelda* games, she likes just about everything… you name it and she'll play it! **Dan P** loves the Platformer genre and how they are like a puzzle. He's been playing *Super Mario Bros.* since he was 5 years old—still his favorite! For **Tommy M**, it's all about the story! He's a big fan of the Action Adventure genre, especially the *Uncharted* and *Last of Us* series, and likes any game that he can get immersed in.

For many on our team, video games are all about playing together and building friendships. **CW** got started with an Atari 2600 in his child-hood. His hands down favorite video game is *Minecraft*, reminding him of his childhood Lego adventures. He plays mostly with his wife and hopes to play together as a family when his twins get older. **Dan C** gravitates towards video games that are both Action Adventure and multiple players and loves being able to enjoy other worlds with friends and family. He plays mostly with his wife, sons and cousin and his favorite game is *Guild Wars 2*. **Zach** uses video games to relax and hang out with friends online. His favorite changes every month or so— currently it's *Smite*. **Dylan** enjoys video games as a way of escapism and a fun way to play with friends ever since the early days of Nintendo 64 and Xbox 360. His favorites are *Halo 3* and *Super Smash Bros.* simply because they are the games he plays most often with friends. He's even built some custom gaming computers of his own!

For our IT Radix team, it's all about fun and games… and friendships!

The Buzz — *Our Clients Speak Out!*

"Having been an IT Radix customer for over a year, they have been extremely helpful in the time we have been working with them. From updating our servers to assisting with any day-to-day challenges that may arise, they are always quick to respond and provide the support that we need. IT Radix has been a wonderful resource to have, and we look forward to our continued relationship with them."

Jessica Palazzo, IT Support Manager — Fulco Fulfillment Inc.

Located in Dover, Fulco Fulfillment Inc. is focused on turnkey fulfillment of B2B/B2C products, literature, samples, marketing and educational materials for organizations from Fortune 500 to seasoned e-commerce retailers.

Coverage You Can Count On

Do You Have the Right Business Insurance to Protect Your Company?

There are several types of business insurance on the market. Each one serves a different purpose and getting the right insurance can save you the major headache that comes with not having insurance or having the wrong type of coverage. While we can't list them all here (there are too many), here are a few examples:

Commercial property insurance. One of the most important forms of insurance, this protects business equipment against damage or loss.

General liability insurance. This helps cover injury and legal expenses should someone get hurt on your business' premises.

Cyber-insurance. This offers protection should you fall victim to malware, cyberattacks and other digital threats. Basically, if your business is connected to the Internet, you need extra protection.

Umbrella insurance. This is another layer of protection on top of existing insurance. Exact details vary by plan, but it can often protect you if you need to pay legal fees or costs related to building or equipment damage.

Small Business Trends, May 13, 2020

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"I MET SOMEONE WONDERFUL IN A CHAT ROOM. . . AND THEN I FOUND OUT SHE'S A CAT!"

The Joy of Controlling

↑ ↑ ↓ ↓ ← → ← → B A Start

Reach back in your memory—prior to VR headsets, long before debates of PlayStation vs. XBox. The year was 1977, and looking back at the Atari 2600—arguably the forefather of modern video game systems—the only peripheral that connected you to the action on your television screen was a small black joystick embellished with a single red button.
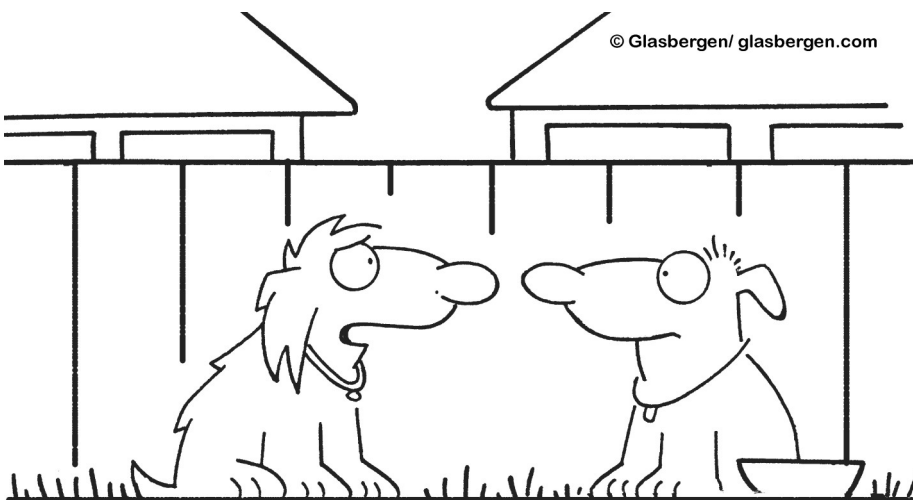
There has been a plethora of evolutionary modifications to that original controller design throughout the years. Most manufacturers started with a base to cradle comfortably between two hands, housing a basic directional pad and assortment of buttons. Over time, buttons were added and small joysticks complemented the standard directional pad. Before long, we had motion-sensing technology, portable gaming, and Virtual Reality… finally making it possible for us to feel truly immersed in the games we play.

We've certainly come a long way!

September 12
National Video Games Day

The appeal of video games spans generations and encompasses all sorts of digital genres, from old-school favorites like *Space Invaders* to today's popular VR games.

Whether you prefer strategy or combat, get your game on today!

do i make a difference?

> "Have regular hours for work and play; make each day both useful and pleasant, and prove that you understand the worth of time by employing it well. Then youth will be delightful, old age will bring few regrets, and life will become a beautiful success."
>
> — Louisa May Alcott

From the desk of Cathy Coloff

Many talk about having work-life balance, but to me it's a work-life blend. Over the years, I've found that my time spent on work vs "play" has ebbed and flowed as different parts of my life have required more attention or time. There are many gurus or programs that will help you determine the right mix for you, how to prioritize and more.

For the past year, I've being focusing on my ten "daily vitamins" or nibbles as I've taken to calling them. By breaking down actions or activities that are important to me and align with my goals into small nibbles that I can realistically achieve on a daily basis, I've been happier, healthier, and have consistently moved towards my goals. I thank Jesse Itzler, Leah Jantzen and *The Big A## Calendar Club* for helping me discover and apply this approach. Some of my nibbles include reading for 5-10 minutes, stretching at least 5 minutes, and getting rid of something or decluttering one thing per day. I don't always get to all ten of my "Daily Vitamins," but each nibble ensures I accomplish something every day and gives me a feeling of success.

What are your daily vitamins? Take a few moments to write them down. Imagine the feeling of achievement when you consume all 10 in one day… to me, 10 out of 10 means an outstanding day.

email TIP productivity

Keep It Short

Why? Many of us don't like reading emails and find ourselves quickly scanning for relevant information. Your best bet is to keep your emails concise and to the point. And, it's good practice to always summarize the main point of the email in the subject line.

Contact IT Radix for more tips on staying productive online!

Our People Make the Difference

We are realists at IT Radix and understand that a lot of firms provide the services that we do. Many of these competitors are owned by folks we know and like. But a major point of difference for IT Radix versus the rest is our people. In fact, "Our People Make a Difference" is one of our nine core values.

The hardware and software that we put in place are often indistinctive from what others might supply. That does not set us apart—our people do! We are not committed first to technology. Rather, we are dedicated first to the success of our clients. And we do that through people, not machines. Through our communications and services, we try to figuratively embrace our clients with the dedication and positive attitude of our people.

We try to make a positive difference every day with our clients, our friends and families and our communities. Visit our website and get to know our awesome staff!

"Our people make a difference has always been my favorite Core Value. To me it means being part of a team where each member's contribution is significant and meaningful. I came from a large corporate environment where it was easy to feel like my contributions did not matter to the big picture."
— Mike Oster, one of our awesome IT Radix Team members