

Our New Security Regime Stacks Up!

The emergence of cloud computing, widespread internet access and the growing remote workforce has caused tremendous growth in cybercrime. In the past, IT security was about protecting hardware and key data. Today, it is about protecting the organization from ruin—the stakes are that high. Threats are increasing. In fact, an unbelievable 9 out of 10 organizations worldwide experienced phishing attempts last year. Security experts say only 5 out of 100 companies are properly protected.

The IT Radix security regime is expanding to ensure our managed services clients are shielded appropriately. The tactic is a layered/stacked approach of security applications that include the following:

Updates. Software and hardware are updated regularly to address issues that might be exploited by malware or hackers. We test patches and updates first and then roll them out to our clients.

DNS Cleansing. This enhanced network security service prevents users at the network level from going to malicious URLs found in emails and websites.

Anti-Virus. This keeps a keen eye and scans all files that might enter a network or a PC and stops any that might have malicious content.

Application Whitelisting. This guarantees that only applications approved by the network administrator run on a machine. Additionally, it ensures the whitelisted software can only access appropriate resources. Both techniques prevent any weaponized software from executing.

EDR (Extended Detection and Response). EDR observes all activities on a machine and/or network and spots unauthorized functions in real time to keep things secure. It does this using a variety of techniques. One technique places “canaries” that are attractive to hackers on a machine or

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Take Note

January 26
WEBINAR

*Back By
Popular Demand*

30-Minute Tech Talk:
Advanced Security
Solutions (Take 2)

www.it-radix.com/webinar
Starts @ 12:10pm sharp

New Year, New Password
Kick off the new year with good IT security practices! One of the best things you can do to safeguard your privacy is to periodically change all your passwords. Give us a call... we can help!

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



New Security Regime

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network. If engaged, the canary alerts network administrators who can take appropriate action. EDR also leverages the power of artificial intelligence (AI) to review multiple alert and log feeds as well as user behavior to evaluate and identify threats. When a threat is detected, the host can be isolated from the rest of the network to limit and/or contain the spread.

Cybersecurity is a dynamic subject of paramount importance to IT Radix and its clients. This system works well, but technology is not the only solution.

Since 95% of all cybersecurity breaches are caused by human error, staff cybersecurity training and testing is imperative.

Let's chat about IT!

Proudly folded & stuffed by Central Park School

Start the Year with a Clean Sweep!

The start of a new year is a traditional time for new resolutions. Kick off *National Clean Up Your Computer Month* with a few resolutions to accomplish that goal:

Check Your Backup. Before changing/deleting anything on your computer, be sure your key files are backed up and up to date. It is a safety measure just like putting on your seat belt.

Restart Regularly. Restarting (aka rebooting) is the easiest way to solve most computer problems. Doing so regularly will assist you in keeping your processing power at a high level.

Manage Start-Up Programs. Closing apps or programs that automatically start each time you power on is another good habit. Do so by opening task manager (click Windows Icon in lower left and type "Task Manager"), click on *Start Up* and disable those programs that you do not automatically need each day.

Remove "Bloatware" and Unused Apps. Click the Windows icon and type "Add/Remove" and choose *Add/Remove Programs*. Go through the list that displays and uninstall any unneeded apps. Another method is choosing Device Optimization, available in many anti-virus solutions.

Use Disk Cleanup. Again, via the Windows Icon, type "Disk Cleanup." This feature can delete leftover files from installations, temporary storage, set-up log files and more. Click to choose which to delete!

Review the Downloads Folder. This folder is often overlooked and gets filled up quickly with anything you have downloaded. Review it regularly and delete anything not needed and/or already filed in another location in the computer.

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Free Cybersecurity Audit Will Reveal Where Your Computer Network is Exposed and How to Protect Your Company Now



At no cost or obligation, our highly skilled team of IT pros will conduct a comprehensive cybersecurity audit to uncover loopholes in your company's IT security.

After the audit is done, we'll prepare a customized report that will reveal specific vulnerabilities and provide an action plan for getting these security problems addressed fast. Schedule your cybersecurity audit today: www.it-radix.com/cybersecurity-audit

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Empty the Recycle Bin. Everything deleted finds a resting place in your recycle bin to give you a second chance to review deletions. Frequently, give that icon a right click and review what's there and empty the trash!

Use an Organized Filing System. If your desktop is filled with icons and unrecognizable file names, it is time to use some sort of system since what you are doing may be slowing both you and your computer down.

Clean Your Email Folders. We can devote another whole article on how to address this topic, suffice it to say that this should be added to the list.

Defragment Your Storage. Type "defrag" in the start menu and use disk defragmenter to find and compress all the used space between files to create more space and speed up processes.

Examine Browser Extensions. Look into the "how to" of removing unused browser extensions for whatever internet browser you frequent.

Clean the Physical Machine. PCs that sit on the floor are magnets for dirt and dust and pet hair. Consider cleaning it a few times a year...only when the power is off. You can use a mini vacuum and/or pick up a computer or TV cleaning kit (do not spray the machine, spray the cloth!) at an office supply store and get to it!

Make 2022 the best year ever by cleaning up your computer and getting organized. Contact us today for more ways to make IT work for you!

Nix the Text

A sales team's success is the result of building strong client relationships. While texting may be quick and easy, here are reasons why your sales team SHOULD NOT use their personal phones to text with clients:

Security. You lose control of information (some may be proprietary).

Risk. No one else on your team sees what is communicated.

Control. If your client becomes reliant on that number, you've lost control of the relationship if your salesperson leaves.

Inefficiency. Long texting strings make it difficult to stay on top of communications.

Human Resources. If your salesperson is away, urgent communications may be missed.

Avoid texting and stay in control of your client communications.

January 10 Clean Off Your Desk

The second Monday of January is *National Clean Off Your Desk Day*. Begin your new year with a clean and organized workspace.

Whether your desk is at the office or home, having your workspace uncluttered and organized will help you work more efficiently and productively and provides a sense of well-being.



**“That foul smell is coming from your computer.
You’ve got some old data in there that’s gone bad.”**



Escape Room

From the desk of Cathy Coloff

A new year often comes with change. While I can sometimes find change a bit scary, I find focusing on what's important to me and looking for the humor in a situation makes it easier to manage my fears and the stress of change. At IT Radix, we're changing our security software platform to better address cyber-threats, we're adding new functionality to better serve our clients (especially with the new work from home model and ever-changing schedules), and we've expanded our expertise, especially in areas associated with Microsoft 365.

On a personal level, I believe one of my keys to success is to never stop learning and embracing change. I've been known to get "lost" while reading books about new places or people in history and while learning about new systems and technologies.

Fortunately, change does not mean abandoning everything that you have done in the past. It just means small tweaks and adjustments on how you do things and approach the world. As we move into 2022, I'm looking forward to more changes at home and at work because one of the greatest things in nature is our ability to adapt and change.
Happy New Year everyone!

"The joy of life comes from our encounters with new experiences, and hence there is no greater joy than to have an endlessly changing horizon, for each day to have a new and different sun."

— Christopher McCandless

Enter and Win Trivia Contest

The first person to send an email to resource@it-radix.com with the correct answer to our trivia question will win an Amazon gift card.

Q: What Hungarian-born American illusionist was best known for his escape acts?

October Trivia Challenge

Q: What was the first book that kicked off the *For Dummies* series of how-to books?
(Answer: DOS for Dummies)

Congratulations to Katie Lennon of Lee & Associates, recipient of a Barnes & Noble gift card!

The Great Escape

An interview with Sr. IT Consultant, Mike Oster:

IT Radix: How were you introduced to Escape Rooms?

Mike: It was my eldest child's idea. As kids, they were always encouraged to try something they had never done before. They'd make a list and we'd pick something to experience together as a family. We love trying new things, everything is an adventure!

IT Radix: What do you like most about Escape Rooms?

Mike: They have a theme, and you discover how much your family knows about things like, zombies, video games, bank heists, etc. You have 60 minutes to uncover hidden clues, crack codes, and solve puzzles to escape—delegating, thinking, learning. It's a team effort and interesting to see where each person's skillset fits. The first time we tried one, we didn't get out, but it was still very cool.

IT Radix: How did this experience enhance your life?

Mike: It was something I had never done before. Honestly, anything I get to do with my family enhances my life.

As far as Mike is concerned, Escape Rooms are family affairs!