IT Radix Resource

15TH ANNIVERSARY

We make IT work for you

Info Security

Closing Time: The Screen Must Go Down

Minneapolis-based band, Semisonic, achieved 1-Hit Wonder status in 1998 with the successful release of their song, "Closing Time." The song appears to have a literal meaning about being asked to leave a bar at night's end. It is also seen as depicting being thrust into the world at birth—like a bouncer kicking you out of a bar. You may not recall "Closing Time," but many of you will know it when you hear the infectious melody and memorable hook "I know who I want to take me home."

You should always know who you want to take you home…as well as whom you do not want to take you home. When it comes to personal security of your laptop that applies as well. You must always be sure that nothing is ever stolen—hardware or data—as well as make sure nothing ever infects your machine, especially when traveling. Here are suggestions for personal device security as we enter the summer travel season.

- **Close it up!** We strongly recommend anytime you step away from your laptop to close the lid. This is the most basic yet vital step to ensuring no one has easy access to your key business and personal information. Sleep mode is recommended for stepping away when you will quickly return as it facilitates quick resumption of work. Hibernation mode is another option, but it takes longer to engage as well as resume.

- **Keep your eye on the prize!** Never venture out of sight of the machine. If you must do this at times, consider using a lockable cable to attach it to a permanent fixture. Another thing to consider if you must be away from the machine for extended periods is adding location tracking software to it. Never leave your laptop in your unattended vehicle. That is the most common way laptops are lost. If you must leave it, put it in the trunk but do it before and away from wherever you plan to park. If you must leave it while in a hotel, lock it in the hotel safe.

- **Secure it all!** Let's list it out for you: 1) Up-to-date anti-virus endpoint detection and response software in place on your machine; 2) Complex passwords in place and managed by a password management software application; 3) All security patches and updates in place for all key software; 4) Employ multi-factor authentication for

Take Note

Updated Client Portal
Check out our new and improved Client Portal.
It's easier than ever to navigate with improved overall security.
www.it-radix.com/existing-client-support/

Earth Day E-Waste Results
We are excited to share that we collected and properly recycled over ten, 54-cubic-feet bins of e-waste during our April electronic recycling event.

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

Closing Time

access to your laptop as well as to all key applications; 5) Encrypted hard drive to make it harder for attackers to steal your information if perchance they gain access to it; 6) Backup all data on the machine and store it in the cloud and while you are at it, consider backing up the cloud backup; 7) Use a privacy screen to restrict viewing angles for when you are working in public; 8) If your laptop has a webcam get a physical cover on it so it not weaponized by the bad guys remotely; 9) Avoid public and free Wi-Fi. Use company provide VPN whenever possible.

"Closing Time" was written quickly since the band was tired of closing their sets with the same song for so long. They challenged each other to produce a better closing song and certainly succeeded.

Use the above security tips and all your laptop travels will end successfully as well.

Introducing… Tyler

Tyler comes to IT Radix with his bachelor's degree in Economics from SUNY Purchase. Tyler has some finance background and has extensive experience with customer service. This helped Tyler make a natural transition to his role here at IT Radix as a technician—helping our clients with an array of problems and issues, and talking through the issues in a way that makes it easy to understand. Tyler thrives on tackling problems and finding solutions! When asked about his favorite part of working at IT Radix, Tyler responded, "The variety of work… being able to work in a bunch of different areas every week keeps everything fresh for me!"

When not working, Tyler enjoys playing a myriad of musical instruments including guitar, drums and piano! His favorite musical genre is 90's Alternative Rock that he grew up listing to with his parents—partly due to the nostalgia and the fact that he's constantly discovering new bands. Tyler also enjoys playing video games, and he loves to crochet! A true renaissance man!

Tyler was born and raised in New Jersey, then moved to Portland, Oregon for a few years where he experienced the most unbelievable scenery. Returning to his roots, he now resides in Morris County, New Jersey, with his wife, Karina, and their small Green-Cheeked Conure parrot, Kree. He appreciates the convenience of living here and being central to everything as well as living closer to his family. Plus, he gets to enjoy Taylor ham, egg and cheese sandwiches, which he didn't realize was a regional New Jersey/New York delicacy before leaving.

Tyler's favorite quote:
"It's okay to be scared—do it scared. It's okay to be unsure—do it unsure. Just get started where you are."
— Rory Vaden

Tyler's personal philosophy: For every minute you're angry, you lose sixty seconds of happiness. It will work out; it always has.

Security Spotlight: Managed Detection and Response (MDR) for M365

The #1 cyberthreat to businesses today is a compromised email. You need **Managed Detection and Response (MDR)!** It is the most effective cybersecurity service combining sophisticated technology with informed human expertise. It literally hunts for and investigates each threat neutralizing and remediating in real time.

Special Offer: Enjoy 50% off installation charges for MDR for M365 through 6/30/24 (www.it-radix.com/mdr)

Did You Invite Google on Vacation?

Can't recall where you had lunch yesterday? With its Timeline feature, Google probably knows where your whole family lunched—down to the GPS coordinates. Timeline for Android debuted in 2015 and in 2017 on Apple, but many still don't know it collects lots of information. Before your summer travels, review your privacy settings to see if the risk is worth the benefits.

What Google Maps Timeline Can See

With Google Maps Timeline, you can go back and see in detail where you were, when, and for how long. For example, the map will show you when you left work, got home and any pit stops you made. It can also tell if you traveled by bike, car, train or bus. This information may have been stored for YEARS! If you care about your privacy and prefer not to have your home address or daily jogging routine under Google's watchful eye, turn this feature OFF.

Pros And Cons

Under the guise of being a digital assistant, Google collects that information to make your life easier. At the same time, it's creating detailed profiles of all of us. While making our lives easier, it invites severe risks.

Upsides

- **Find what's lost:** Has your kid ever lost their phone during an errand spree and is not sure if they left it in the cart at Target or the bathroom at Cheesecake Factory? If your phone is connected to the Internet, Google Maps Timeline can retrace your steps.
- **Peace of mind:** Many parents gain peace of mind knowing where their children are and have been.
- **In business:** Employers can ensure employees working remotely are where they are supposed to be.
- **Tailored ads:** Because Google apps speak to each other, your ads are customized to your lifestyle.

Downsides

- **Peeping Toms:** Anyone getting hold of your account knows where you live, work and hang out and can

build a profile of you—profiles can be used in extortion or impersonation schemes.
- **Not 100% accurate:** You must be connected to the Internet and logged in to Google for feature to work.
- **A lot less privacy:** It's creepy when an app tracks and stores personal information!

How to Turn Tracking OFF

If you don't feel like having Google's eyes on your every move, follow these steps on one of your devices to update the settings from your computer:

1. Log in to your Google account
2. Tap your profile icon or initials, and select "Manage Your Google Account"
3. Click on "Data & Privacy"
4. Scroll to "History Settings" and select "Location History"
5. Pause your history
6. **BONUS TIP:** Delete your timeline history by going to Maps Timeline, "Manage Location History," and selecting an auto-delete option.

Tips for Using Google Timeline

If the benefits outweigh the risks for you or your family, do two things:

First, define a timeline to delete stored data. You can delete your location history after 3, 18 or 36 months—or keep it forever (which we don't recommend). Once you pick an option to remove the data, Google is legally obligated to delete it.

Second, use MFA on your devices and accounts so that even if someone finds your phone or hacks your account, they can't get in. Take control of your privacy and review this buried feature in Google's Maps app!

All sorts of things could be tracking you in some way. Reach out to us at IT Radix for a complementary Microsoft 365 security review to see if there are ways to minimize some of that.

Inside This Issue

- Travel tips for personal device security as we enter the summer travel season

- How to set the privacy settings on your mobile devices so you're not an easy target for cybercrime

- Meet our newest team member—Tyler

IT Radix Family and Friends
321 Delighted Clients Drive
Geekville, NJ USA

"If everything was perfect, you would never learn and you would never grow."
— Beyoncé

---

off the mark.com — by Mark Parisi

IS IT TRUE THAT OUR PHONES SECRETLY LISTEN TO US?

DON'T BE SILLY

offthemark.com
©2021 Mark Parisi Dist by Andrews McMeel

From the desk of Cathy Coloff

For some, June means Father's Day, the end of school, and the beginning of summer vacations. I hope you'll take a moment to read some of our security tips which may be useful if you travel. I can remember our family vacations sailing from anchorage to anchorage with the occasional trip out West to visit our extended family. The sailing trips were like camping on water with a mix of fun, trials and tribulations. Of course, smartphones and tablets were not a thing then, and I would consume multiple books on a single trip, mostly Nancy Drew mysteries or, as I got older, romance novels. I cannot imagine Alex's reaction to a trip without his cell phone for three or more days. As we plan our summer vacation this year, ensuring that Wi-Fi with Internet is available for at least a portion of our stay is mandatory.

It's amazing how technology has changed the world of tourism and life in general. Personally, I enjoy the wealth of information available about the places we're visiting, interacting with new people we've met on our travels, as well as sitting and taking in our surroundings. To all the fathers out there, I hope you'll take a moment and enjoy your day. Happy Father's Day!

Cathy