IT Radix Resource
large enough to *deliver*
small enough to *care*

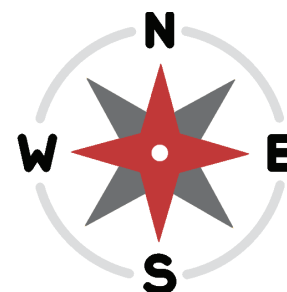## Navigating the 2026 Digital Wilderness

Looking back, wouldn't it have been nice to have a technology "crystal ball" for 2025? Between Windows 10 reaching End of Life, AI moving from buzzword to business essential, new federal cybersecurity rules, and the Cloud taking center stage, a lot changed fast! If you'd known what was ahead, would you have planned things a little differently?

Welcome to 2026—uncharted territory for all of us! For New Jersey business owners, navigating the ever-changing tech landscape can feel overwhelming. That's why our 2026 newsletter theme is your Survival Guide to the Digital Wilderness. Each month, we'll share essential "survival skills" to keep your organization secure, efficient, and competitive. Our journey begins with the basics: a map and a compass.

Your Roadmap

A strategic IT roadmap is your guide for the year ahead. Without one, your technology decisions may feel like aimless hikes—missing key landmarks and stumbling over obstacles. Think of your roadmap as a blueprint that connects technology with your long-term goals. Your IT roadmap should include:

- **Situation Assessment:** Audit your current tech setup—what's working and what's not.
- **Business Goals for 2026:** Identify how IT can drive growth, reduce costs, and improve service.
- **Tech Asset Inventory:** List all hardware, software, licenses, and compliance factors.
- **Priority Projects:** Consider 2025's lessons and plan for emerging trends like hyper personalization, cybersecurity by design, sustainable technology practices, increased regulation.
- **Budget and Resources:** Allocate wisely—who manages what?
- **Timeline:** Define milestones and key checkpoints.
- **Risk and Security Planning:** Prepare for "what if" scenarios.
- **Review and Adjust:** Schedule quarterly check-ins and adjust as needed.

Take Note

Prep Your Tech for the Year Ahead

Start your IT year off strong:

- Delete old or unused accounts and apps.
- Update your passwords—start with email and make it strong and unique.
- Tidy up your files by archiving or removing anything outdated.
- Keep your laptop and phone up to date with the latest updates.

Did You Know...

IT Radix got its name from the Latin word for foundation or support. We believe that information technology is one of the basic foundations of most successful businesses today. Businesses need a strong IT support structure, to thrive in today's ever-changing tech environment.

Cathy

Navigating 2026

Your Compass

A compass keeps you on course as you make decisions throughout 2026. Use these guiding principles to ensure your strategy stays aligned with your New Jersey small business goals:

- **Security and Compliance**: Ensure all decisions meet industry standards for security and data privacy.
- **Scalability and Flexibility**: Choose tools that adapt as you grow.
- **Staff Productivity**: Select solutions that help—not hinder—your team.
- **Cost Efficiency**: Spend smartly for the greatest return.
- **Goal Alignment**: Focus on tech that truly supports your mission.

Success in Action: One of our clients used their IT roadmap to migrate to the cloud, implement multi-factor authentication, and streamline remote work. The result? Better security, happier employees, and lower IT costs.

Let IT Radix be your trusted trail guide. We'll help you create a strategic roadmap aligned with your goals—so you can navigate the 2026 digital wilderness with confidence.

Introducing... Conner

Conner comes to IT Radix with his bachelor's degree in Cybersecurity Management from York College of Pennsylvania.

Before joining IT Radix, Conner dipped his toe into the IT world by working at the IT Help Desk at York for almost three years, giving him a great IT foundation to build upon. Conner also has experience working for a defense contractor doing quality assurance that helped to hone his attention to detail, another skill that enhances his ability to help our clients with their array of IT issues. When asked what his favorite part of working at IT Radix is, Conner immediately said, "It's the people... such a warm, welcoming environment and everyone's willingness to share the knowledge they have with me."

When not helping clients, Conner enjoys watching soccer, and he loves learning new things! He dabbles in robotics and home automation, teaching himself to automate systems, like heat and lighting, to turn on and off automatically based on the time of day and temperature. Conner also loves spending time with his family and friends and his three labradors Emme, Maggie and Mocha. Conner was born and raised in New Jersey and lives in Morris County with his family.

Conner's favorite quote:
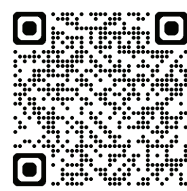"You miss 100% of the shots you don't take."
– Wayne Gretzky

Conner's personal philosophy:
It always pays to learn and be kind.

Ready to Chart Your Course for 2026?

Schedule an appointment with an IT Radix professional to assure your strategic IT roadmap aligns with your business goals. We can help you craft a clear, actionable plan that connects your technology to growth, security, and efficiency for the year ahead.

www.it-radix.com/roadmap

SPECIAL OFFER: Complimentary Strategic Technology Roadmap Discussion (Expires 2/28/26)

Fact vs. Fiction: Be Smart in the Digital Age

Watch Out for Clickbait and Disinformation!

Ever clicked on a shocking headline only to realize the article had nothing to do with what it promised? That's clickbait—and it's not just annoying, it can be dangerous. Cybercriminals use it to spread false information, stir emotions, or trick people into clicking malicious links.

Lots of Sneaky Types of Disinformation Out There

- **Fabricated Content:** Pure fiction designed to mislead.

- **Manipulated Content:** Images or videos that have been edited to distort the truth.

- **Imposter Content:** Posts that pretend to come from a trustworthy source (like a fake news outlet or government agency).

- **Misleading Content:** Real information twisted or presented out of context.

- **False Context:** Combining truth with lies to make the fake parts seem believable.

- **Satire or Parody:** Meant to be funny—but not everyone realizes it's a joke!

How You Can Stay Safe

- **Check the Source**: Look for reliable authors and publications. If it's a site you've never heard of—or one that hides its contact info—be cautious.

- **Fact-Check**: Cross-reference stories on multiple reputable sites. Use third-party fact-checking services to confirm what you read.

- **Pause Before Sharing**: If something makes you angry or scared, that's a red flag—it might be designed to provoke you.

Don't get caught in the web—let IT Radix help keep your business secure and informed! From phishing protection to employee cybersecurity training, we'll make sure your team knows how to spot the fakes and stay safe online. Click smart. Stay sharp. Partner with IT Radix today!

Tech Delivers Flavor

Of course, not every new invention becomes the next big thing—some fizzle out like a forgotten fad. But whether this flavorful tech becomes the future of VR or just a fascinating experiment, it's a reminder of how fast technology is blending the digital and physical worlds.

While IT Radix can't make your computer taste like chocolate (yet), we can help you explore the technology that keeps your business running smoothly. From virtual experiences to everyday IT needs, we make staying up to date as easy—and satisfying—as your favorite treat.

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DIRECTIONS
FASTEST ROUTE
ROUTE W/ SLEEPING BABY IN CAR

IT Radix

large enough to _deliver_
small enough to _care_

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In This Issue

- How to create a strategic road-map aligned to your 2026 goals
- Tips on staying safe from clickbait and disinformation
- Complimentary discussion to ensure your strategic IT Roadmap aligns with your business goals

January 2026

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

Reid's Rules...

Meet Reid, our resident IT watchdog! In his new column, _Reid's Rules_, he'll share simple, smart tips to keep your tech running smoothly—straight from the top dog in IT. Rule #1. . .

Always back up your data (including files on the cloud) before chasing squirrels. You never know when things might get "ruff!"

Just like Reid can't resist a good squirrel chase, distractions happen—and sometimes that's when accidents strike. A solid backup ensures your important files stay safe and retrievable, no matter what surprises come your way. Whether it's a deleted document, hardware failure, or cyber mishap, having a dependable backup plan means you can relax and keep wagging.

Wild New Tech Delivers All the Flavor with None of the Calories

Researchers at City University of Hong Kong have cooked up something truly extraordinary—virtual flavor! Their latest innovation brings taste to the digital world, adding a whole new "sense" to virtual reality experiences. Using a small handheld gadget that resembles a disposable vape pen, users can "taste" digital flavors through a process called iontophoresis. This technique uses mild electrical currents to deliver tiny ions to the tongue, simulating real flavors like sweet, sour, salty, or bitter—all without consuming a single calorie.

Imagine sampling a slice of virtual pizza while playing a VR cooking game or sipping a digital latte during an online meeting. This technology could one day make such experiences feel remarkably lifelike. Researchers believe it could also have applications in healthcare, allowing patients on restricted diets to safely enjoy virtual versions of their favorite foods, or even be used in culinary education and digital marketing.