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Cutting Off Wastrels At The Office

Studies have shown that companies can lose millions of dollars in productivity and bandwidth wasted on video streaming and online gambling during major sporting events. It's best that you have the right systems in place to ensure that office hours and resources are spent on their intended purposes.

One of the many challenges businesses face is managing bandwidth and keeping productivity at a maximum. These challenges are especially apparent during major sporting events when hundreds of hours of productivity are lost to non-work activities.

During these times, many sports fanatics do their best to stay updated with the latest news in sporting events. And while there is nothing wrong with being a fan, there is a problem when office hours - not to mention precious bandwidth - are wasted on these unproductive activities. Besides video streaming live telecasts or replays of matches and games, there are also those who engage in online betting and gambling, especially during the final legs of a tournament or competition. Unfortunately, it's not uncommon for some employees to spend the majority of their time at the office on these pursuits, with little to zero accomplishments for the day.

The problem is truly a serious one, with studies showing millions of dollars in productivity lost during popular sporting events. That's beside the bandwidth wasted on what is, from a professional standpoint, useless and irrelevant activities.

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TRIVIA

Naturally, the value of losses in productivity and bandwidth vary from company to company, but any loss is a loss that affects your bottom line.

The good news is that these kinds of situations can be prevented. With the right software, you can be immediately alerted when a particular workstation is consuming an unusual amount of bandwidth. This will not only help you cut off the bandwidth usage, but also help you identify employees who are wasting company resources. You can even use this software to catch people who might be illegally downloading content from the web through torrent or peer-to-peer programs, which also pose security threats to your system.

If you'd like to learn more about solutions to better manage your bandwidth and productivity, please don't hesitate to give us a call and we'll be more than happy to sit down with you to discuss a customized approach for your organization. 630-236-6625.

Internet Security Has A Bright Future

Initiatives such as WebBlaze and BitBlaze from the mind of IT genius Professor Dawn Song are setting the bar high for security, constantly providing solutions developers can use to create better security for their clients.

If you think hackers are the only ones doing their research to release newer and scarier viruses and malware on the web, think again. It is comforting to know that there are also very capable people doing what they can to make the internet a safer place - like Professor Dawn Song, associate professor at the University of California at Berkeley and MacArthur Foundation fellow.

In a nutshell, Professor Song has been looking at different ways to make the internet experience more secure. Her two initiatives - WebBlaze and BitBlaze - are aimed toward developers who want to create better and much more secure programs and applications.

WebBlaze is a compilation of different strategies from Song and other like minds who tackle different problems and solutions in all sorts of platforms, and BitBlaze is an analysis

First person to submit the correct answers by email to anorton@osgusa.com will receive a \$25 Starbuck gift card!

Entries are judged by date/time received and correctness. Include your name and phone number, the question number and the answer.

- 1) How many continents exist on our planet?
- 2) What is the longest river in the Americas?
- 3) What is the largest country in the world?
- 4) What is the largest ocean in the world?

tool for malicious software. While we won't go into too much detail (it involves very complicated math), the gist is that Song and her colleagues are drawing up some very solid solutions to constantly evolving security issues on the web.

It's exciting to see developments like these in the security industry. As threats continue to evolve, so does the means through which they are fought. The more we use the internet and the more the online experience becomes integral to the day-to-day operations of businesses big and small, the more important securing your data and information becomes. And because of efforts such as Professor Song's, we can expect security programs to be much more effective and efficient as time passes.

If you are looking to assess and beef up your security systems, we'd be happy to sit down with you and take a look at improvements that can make your business and your data much more secure. 630-236-6625

Hide Windows Desktop Gadgets Quickly

If you are using Windows Gadgets (or those small mini-applications that are embedded on your desktop that show things like news, or weather updates) you may want to declutter your workspace.

In Windows 7, you can do just that. Simply right-click on the desktop, go to View, and then clear the check mark on Show desktop gadgets. This will hide the gadgets. If you want to bring them back, just restore the check mark again.

Why Choose Managed Services?

If you're a small or medium-sized business that's still hesitant about Managed Services, you're missing out on a lot. Advantages of Managed Services include better control of costs and a more comprehensive and up-to-date IT system that's dependable and stable.

Many large businesses prefer the use of Managed Services to meet their IT needs, but many smaller organizations continue to be skeptical of this solution. Here are five reasons that will make you think twice about dismissing Managed Services:

Managed Services help control costs. In any kind of business, it's important to be as cost-effective as possible. Especially in IT, where unbridled or poorly managed systems cost way more than they're worth, it's essential to have a system that works with your budget but doesn't compromise on quality. Managed Services is the most feasible and practical way to accomplish that, especially in the long term.

Managed Services help you deal with increasingly complex IT solutions. With both hardware and software components of IT systems constantly evolving, businesses with limited resources may very well find themselves left behind after a while. But with Managed Services, you are able to enjoy the advantages of the latest IT solutions at a fraction of the cost - enabling you to provide the best possible service to your clients.

Managed Services give you a better, more dependable IT infrastructure. Especially for smaller businesses, it can be tedious to maintain an in-house IT arm; and you run the risk of stretching resources too thinly, which can compromise the quality and output of your IT department.

Managed Services allow you to have a stable and dependable IT arm that's dedicated to meeting your specific needs in a cost-effective manner.

Managed Services offer more comprehensive and complete IT solutions. More often than not, small and undermanned IT departments are more of a burden to the organization they belong to - errors are more likely to occur, response and problem solving is a slow process, and staff members are probably overworked and underpaid, making them both unhappy and less productive. Managed Services, on the other hand, are completely the opposite, allowing you to utilize efficient and comprehensive solutions that are tailor-made to fit your specific requirements.

Managed Services help you maintain compliance. With the marketplace becoming more and more competitive, meeting different regulatory compliances has become a fundamental need. From Sarbanes-Oxley to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), smaller companies can often find themselves lost. It's Managed Services that can

help companies understand the requirements of these regulations.

If you want to know more about how Managed Services can directly benefit your day to day operations, please do not hesitate to give us a call - we'd be happy to sit down and discuss a custom solution that works for you. 630-236-6625.

At Your Service,

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