

# TECH NEWS

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Issue 1



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## How To (Finally) Hit Your Top 5 New Year's Resolutions Thanks To High-Tech

Thinking about setting the “usual” New Year’s resolutions of losing weight, being more organized and getting out of debt, but have a feeling deep down you aren’t going to follow through? We’re here to help! Below are 5 common New Year’s resolutions and simple techie ways to keep you on track.

### #1: Be More Productive

If improving your time-management skills is one of your New Year’s resolutions, this will be a BIG help: Turn off the automatic send and receive for your e-mail (I can almost hear the gasps of horror). Admit it, you’re addicted to e-mail and if you’re like most people, you’re checking it *constantly*. In fact, there’s a good chance it’s the first thing you do in the morning and the last thing you do at night. If you want to stop the constant temptation to lose focus on your work, simply turn off the automatic send and receive function, forcing you to click on the “Send And Receive” button at set times. If that’s too “cold turkey,” you could at least turn off the sound and icon popup so you’re not distracted by it while working.

### #2: Save Time

After e-mail, checking social media sites can be another huge time suck. If you (and possibly your staff) are wasting a lot of time on Facebook, good content filtering software can keep you in check by preventing you from accessing these sites from your work PC. You can also allow certain people in your company access while blocking others; so if you have a web manager or marketing manager who needs to access these sites for work but find it too tempting for YOU, we can configure the system to assist you with that temptation.

### #3: Get Out Of Debt And Start Saving More

If you feel like you can’t get a handle on

where your money goes, check out [www.Mint.com](http://www.Mint.com). This site automatically compiles all your bank statements, retirement and credit card accounts to give you one snapshot of where you’re spending money – and it’s FREE! Best of all, you only need to set it up once and it will automatically update your finances and put them into easy-to-read graphical reports – and since Mint.com connects to almost every US banking and financial institution with internet banking capability, you won’t have to manually enter your information over and over again. The site offers ways to save money, allows you to set financial goals and keeps track of those goals automatically.

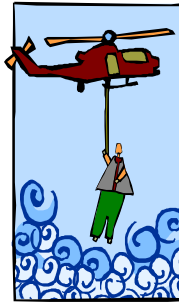
### #4: Lose Weight

Pearson’s Law states that anything measured improves, and anything measured and reported upon improves exponentially; so if you want to lose weight, you might sign up for [www.MyFoodDiary.com](http://www.MyFoodDiary.com) and start tracking everything you eat. This site allows you to set and track your weight loss goals by allowing you to post what you ate and then counting calories for you. If nothing else, it will help you think BEFORE you eat because you need to track the calories!

### #5: Get Organized!

If you’re like me, you’ve got a million things going on – from business, family and everything in between, it’s easy to get overwhelmed and forget tiny (but important!) details. Using Evernote can help. Evernote allows you to capture and organize any files, notes, web sites, audio or hand written notes in one easy-to-learn interface. And with the mobile app, you can capture a to-do item or reminder at any time without the fear of losing it.

## The Difference Between Backup, Disaster Recovery And Business Continuity



If you think “data backup” is synonymous with “disaster recovery” and aren’t sure what “business continuity” means, you’re not alone. Most of the business owners we talk to make the mistake of not knowing the difference and end up paying the price when data is lost, a network goes down or a disaster prevents them from accessing their physical office and the server inside.

First, data backup simply means a copy of your data is replicated to another device or location. Tape drives, offsite backup and even USB devices provide data backup. Data backup is obviously important. However, the more important consideration is whether or not your backup solution provides easy *disaster recovery*, or the ability for you to recover all your files, software and functionality quickly, easily and without corruption. For example, if your server died, you wouldn’t be able to quickly get back to work if you only had file-level backup. In order for you to start working again, your server would need to be replaced, all software re-installed, data re-installed and then the whole system would need to be configured with your settings and

preferences. This process can take days – and that’s if you have all your software licenses and a clean copy of your data.

Then there’s business continuity. This is the ability for your business to continue to operate even after a major disaster. For example, if you ran an accounting firm and your building burned to the ground, you may not be able to work until you setup a new temporary office. However, if you had your network in the cloud your employees could continue to work from home or some other location, giving your business continuity.

Of course, you need all three at some level. At a minimum you need to make sure you have in place the right backup and disaster recovery plan for your tolerance for downtime, and a plan for how your business could continue to operate if you could no longer access your building, server or data. You should review your plan annually. If you want a simple and easy way to get all of this handled, give us a call! We specialize in planning, implementing and managing these projects so you don’t have to. Call us today 630-236-6625

**We are *HIRING!* Immediate positions available for Sales and Engineers/Tech Support. Email resumes to [resumes@osgusa.com](mailto:resumes@osgusa.com). Thank you.**



## The Top 10 Technology Trends 2012

During the Symposium ITxpo 2011, Gartner unveiled its prediction for the top technology trends in 2012.

Mobility and social media are taking a front seat for the ride into the future. Many of these technologies will drive the future of your business if they aren't already:

- 1) Media tablets and beyond
- 2) Mobile-centric applications and interfaces
- 3) Contextual and social user experience
- 4) Internet of Things
- 5) App stores and marketplaces
- 6) Next-generation analytics
- 7) Big Data
- 8) In-memory computing
- 9) Extreme low-energy servers
- 10) Cloud computing

### *Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:*



### ***Car Interior Preheater***

It happens every winter - you want to heat up the car before you get in, but you hate to leave the car running unattended. Ideally, you could turn on the heater without starting the car.

Now you can do just that. With the car interior preheater, you can set the programmable, battery-powered heater to begin running 20 minutes before you enter the car. The rotating vents allow you to push 180 degree air to pre-defrost the windows or to blow hot air throughout the vehicle.

This mini heater comes with an A/C adapter for charging and has a handy remote that will power the heater from as far as 200 feet away.

No more shivering in the car as it warms up or running the risk of keeping your empty car running. Get yours today for around \$120.

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### Need Tech Support?

Email: support@osgusa.com

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For a complete list of services please visit:

<http://www.osgusa.com/network-support.html>

## Monthly Contest

Win a \$25 Starbucks gift card! First person to submit the correct answers by email to [anorton@osgusa.com](mailto:anorton@osgusa.com) wins. Entries are judged by date/time received and correctness. Include your name and phone number, the question number and the answer.

1. What Animal is the Symbol for the World Wild Life Fund?  
a) Giant Panda b) Tiger c) Panther d) Sea Turtle
2. What Bird is Used as the Sign of Peace?  
a) Swallow b) Robin c) Pigeon d) Dove
3. What is The Most Common Non-Contagious Disease in The World?  
a) Osteoporosis b) Tooth Decay c) Fibromyalgia d) Alzheimer's
4. Which Ocean Goes to The Deepest Depths?  
a) Atlantic b) Pacific c) Indian d) Arctic

Congrats to last month's winner Brian Nichols!

## I'd Love To Hear From YOU!

Is there an article you would like to comment on? Is there a topic you want me to research? Have a funny story or a resource you want to share with the other subscribers? Send it to me! We are always looking for new and useful content to add to Tech News.

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"Ummm."