CCSI
Essential Stream

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CREATIVE COMPUTER SOLUTIONS
INCORPORATED
"Creating Clients For Life!"

15th Year Anniversary

January 2015

In this issue. . .

Lunch & Learn

Reserve the Date and Have Lunch on Us!

Mobility in the Workforce
Wed, Feb. 11, 11AM-1PM

Richard Schuman of Allworx Phone Systems will be speaking on "Mobility in the Workforce" - How effective are you with
Staying in touch with your customers?

To register by Feb 9th, click on this link:

February Lunch and Learn

5 Payroll Mistakes to Avoid So That You Can Sleep At Night
Wed, Mar. 11, 11AM-1PM

Eric Sawyer of Barrett Business Services, Inc. will be speaking on avoiding mistakes with your payroll.

To register by March 9thh, click on this link:

Letter from the President

The end of support (EOS) date for Windows Server 2003 is fast approaching. Are you ready? On July 14, 2015, Microsoft will stop releasing critical patches for Windows Server 2003. With 37 critical updates in 2013 alone, running unsupported software presents significant risks and complications for your business that will only increase in severity as time goes on.

While most of our clients are already updated, We are currently working with the last of the stragglers to get them updated prior to the end of life for Server 2003 and are excited to help them get their systems into a supportable state.

Why Should You Act Now?
Migrating away from Windows Server 2003 is an investment in your organization's future -- and there has never been a better time to begin the migration process. Transform your data center with a modern server solution running Windows Server 2012 R2 to take full advantage of:

- New levels of performance and efficiency
- Simplified management
- Comprehensive virtualization capabilities
- The latest disaster recovery and business continuity features
- Energy and space savings through reduced server footprints

How CCSI Can Help
Our team of Microsoft experts will guide you through the migration process with a strategy that's custom built for your environment, applications, and workloads.

Let us know if you would like more information about the Windows 2003 end of life and how we can help you prepare.

Scott Huotari, President

Windows Server 2003 End-Of-Life Support Approaching Rapidly: Do You Have a Plan?
used with permission from HTS

It's hard to believe Windows Server 2003 was originally released almost 10 years ago and is now quickly approaching its end-of-life. Microsoft has announced the official date for end-of-life support as July 14, 2015. While many businesses are well aware of this fact and have started planning, there are still a large number that haven't given it much thought yet.

Do you have a plan for the end of Windows Server 2003?

Even if your Windows 2003 server is stable at this time, do you want to risk running your business applications on a server that will never again be supported after July 15, 2015? Also, concerning is that many of these servers are running applications and use device drivers originally developed for a 32-bit operating system. (64-bit is now the

Business Continuity Tip
How to Use Social Media in Disasters

If disaster struck this weekend, would you know how use social media channels to communicate important information such as office closures or employee updates?

During a disaster, your employees and customers are looking to you for real-time information. Social Media can be a great tool, but requires a good social strategy to use it effectively including:

- Preparing social media outlets before a disaster.
- When and how to respond during a crisis.
- Steps to take after a crisis is over.

Download Agility's Social Media Checklist for simple steps to develop a rock-solid Social Media communication plan.

Laugh a Little

"All I'm saying is before you spend all that money on a nose job, maybe buy a peeler."

A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination.

- Nelson Mandela

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standard.)

Consider also that most software providers will ultimately force their customers to migrate to newer, fully-supported platforms. This will be so that they can continue to provide the support - and security - promised in their service level agreements, which will not be possible once the Windows 2003 server OS is officially unsupported.

Unfortunately, from our past experiences we have found that the a majority of businesses neglect to plan their server migration and upgrade with enough lead time, often resulting in a last minute, frantic, and stressful migration to ensure continuity of service, support, and security.

Read more

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Are you prepared for disaster?
used with permission from HP Technology at Work

It's a scene every business hopes to never see: the office walls sagging and blackened by soot, the ceiling collapsed, the floor covered in dark, stagnant water. And the network, servers, and data essential to running your business? Reduced to scrap metal in the blink of an eye.

The numbers are stark. To survive disaster and ensure a quick and affordable restoration, businesses need to have an IT recovery plan in place. Forty three percent of businesses that close after a natural disaster never reopen, and of those that do, more than 29 percent close within two years [1]. Yet nearly half of all employers either don't have a disaster recovery plan, or don't know if they do [2]. There's no better time than now to start, so here are five things to keep in mind as you're preparing for whatever comes your way.

1. Understand the threats
Creating an IT disaster recovery plan can be a lot less daunting than it might seem at first. For one thing, you don't need to have contingency plans for every possible disaster scenario. instead, focus on the threats most likely to affect your business. Local authorities should be able to help you understand where your vulnerabilities lie.

Read more

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4 ways to deal with interruptions
by Joe Serio, www.joeserio.com

One of the biggest problems you're dealing with at work is probably interruptions. And it's also one of the biggest excuses you're using for not getting your stuff done.

Of course, there are times you just can't avoid being interrupted, especially if it's your supervisor who's interrupting you. There are so many more times you allow yourself to be interrupted and then blame it on someone else.

The fact of the matter is most people experience interruptions but don't realize that very often they are the ones in the driver's seat, not the person interrupting.

The reasons you allow interruptions can be wide-ranging, but most often they're driven by your inability or unwillingness to be "less than friendly" to people. For whatever reason, you don't know how to say no.Here are a few pointers on decreasing the interruptions in your life:

Read more

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