Tips To Make Your Business Run More Profitably
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Client Spotlight:

Coalfield Services Inc.

Coalfield Services, Inc. has been a longtime, appreciated, and very supportive client of PRONETS. Established in 1997, they specialize in turn-key design, fabrication and construction services needed to install ventilation fan, personnel elevator, hoisting and material handling systems for the mining industry, as well as general industry applications.

CSI also specializes in heavy lift crane, rigging and millwright work including removal, transportation, installation and alignment of commercial and industrial products.

Their trained staff and state of the art equipment are sure to fulfil your structural and engineering needs.

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NOVA LABS Releases CyberSecurity Game

In a brilliant move to acquaint users with the dangers posed to network security, PBS' NovaLabs has released an online game to educate the public about cyberattacks, phishing and hacking attempts, malware and viral threats and more.

The game has an easy to use interface that stresses the importance of protection against various cyber threats.

From the game's website:

"The Cybersecurity Lab is a game designed to teach people how to keep their digital lives safe, spot cyber scams, learn the basics of coding, and defend against cyber attacks. Players assume the role of the chief technology officer of a start-up social network company that is the target of increasingly sophisticated cyber attacks. In the game, players must complete challenges to strengthen their cyber defenses and thwart their attackers. The Lab also features stories of real-world cyber attacks, a glossary of cyber terms, and short animated videos that explain the need for cybersecurity, privacy versus security, cryptography (cyber codes), and what exactly hackers are."

There are four major gameplay components of the Lab:

Coding Challenge: An introduction to very basic coding skills. Players program a robot to navigate a maze, using drag-and-drop commands.

Password-Cracking Challenge: A series of "password duels" teach players the basics of how attackers might try to crack their passwords and how they can make better, more secure passwords.

Social Engineering Challenge: Players are presented with two apparently similar emails or websites. They must first identify the differences between them and then decide which one is a scam attempting to steal their information or money. This challenge also includes a number of audio recordings and transcripts of phone calls; players have to decide if they should trust the caller or not.

Network Attacks: As their companies grow, players must buy defenses to defend themselves against a series of cyber attacks. The better that players do in the three challenges, the more resources they'll have to buy defenses.

Play the game online for free at http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/labs/lab/cyber/ and prepare to gain a greater understanding of what risks the average user and network are exposed to on a daily basis. (*Image Credit: NOVA LABS & PBS*)

"October's poplars are flaming torches lighting the way to winter". ~Nova S. Bair

Did you know…

A few simple changes to the way you approach data security in the cloud can save you some headaches. The recent scandal surrounding celebrity photos that were leaked from cloud storage has heightened our awareness of the risks of relying on the cloud to keep your data safe and secure.

Larry Alton, contributing writer at Entrepreneur, offers these really great ways to ensure the integrity of your personal and private information.

1. Periodically refresh passwords and security questions. – hackers are constantly finding new ways to phish users with seemingly legitimate personal detail questions. Keep them fresh by changing them often.
2. Enable two-step authentication – This method allows you to add a pin or an additional method to sign on to your account, giving you another layer of secure protection.
3. Store sensitive data offline – keep really sensitive information on portable media and contained in a safe deposit box.

To quote Mr. Alton, "These high-profile stories about cloud storage breaches should concern everyone. They demonstrate how vulnerable our data can be when they are stored online. A combination of safe credential practices and data storage alternatives can help you protect sensitive data from malicious parties."
(Read the full article online at entrepreneur.com/article/237232).

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Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future. – John F. Kennedy

4 Ways To Increase Your Profits and Productivity

"There are always opportunities through which businessmen can profit handsomely if they will only recognize and seize them." – Jean Paul Getty (an American industrialist and founder of the Getty Oil Company".

Remember that a 10% improvement in employee productivity across 20 employees seems small but is quite significant. How about we do the math: 20 employees X 8 hours per day X 10% = 16 hours/day X 5 days/week – 80 hours each week. The equivalent of 2 additional employees without the expense!

#1: Setup a company-wide Wiki or knowledgebase.

This will make it easy for your team to share knowledge, quickly, easily and intelligently. Whether it's a new client onboarding process, new product launch, simple steps to enter an order into your systems or process checklists for anything your employees do on a regular basis, a Wiki is a time saving tool.

We now offer access to the same ticketing & scheduling system that we use internally at PRONETS. It includes a complete knowledgebase system as well. Give us a call for details.

#2: Upgrade any computers that are more than 3-4 years old

Since computers double in speed and power every 18 – 24 months, a three-year-old computer is slow compared to today's standards. The time your employees wait on their computer costs the company much more than a new computer would in the long run.

If you are not in a position to buy new computers outright, we offer several HaaS (Hardware as a Service) plans to spread the payments over several months that include complete onsite & remote support.

#3: Give your team members 2 or 3 monitors each

Studies have been performed that show employees are 30%+ more efficient with dual monitors compared to one.

#4: Increase Internet Speed and Setup Internet Failover

One of the biggest complaints we run across is that Internet speed is too slow. And yes, Internet bandwidth used to be quite expensive. It's a fair price commodity now and the ISPs compete agressively to win your business. This upgrade alone can increase your team's productivity immensely. With Internet speeds being so fast and cheap, consider installing a secondary Internet connection and a firewall that load balances or acts as fail-over to ensure your team stays connected.

- **Adapted from Technology Times/MIS Solutions**

Charitable Causes

• **The Special Olympics** is committed to reaching out to individuals with intellectual disabilities. PRONETS was proud to sponsor a monetary gift during the month of September.

• Creek Bottom Brews will be hosting a **Breast Cancer Awareness** event in October to raise money for the cause. Please check their website for more info: cbbrews.com.

For IT & Computer Networking Solutions: **pronetsinc.com**
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