
IT Prevention tips for Businesses

IT prevention is a fundamental aspect for businesses to work consistently and avoid hiccups. Stable and / or growing businesses want to make sure IT is supporting their employees, not stopping them from achieving their best.

Always try to prevent IT issues before they happen.

And it can be easier and cheaper than curing. If done properly.
How do you prevent IT issues before using expensive cures?

To help small and medium businesses we have prepared 7 steps to prevent IT issues in your business.

1. Documentation

There is no more basic activity than the documentation of your IT infrastructure. With it you can know all the Hardware / Software present in your offices and who is using what. You are able to identify and work on the issues whenever they arise immediately. If you have no documentation, you can run an IT Audit to document all of it (either by using internal resources or hiring an external teamⁱ).

2. Reporting / monitoring

Every time you make a change in the IT infrastructure of your office, update and report all the activities in your documentation. You never know when you will need the latest passwords or admin rights to your server. Ever heard of disputes between CEO and IT managers? They can happen.

3. Use free resources

Windows offers plenty of free resources to fix recurring bugs on Windows 10 by yourself.ⁱⁱ

4. Backup

Some events cannot be predicted: thunders, strikes, lockouts, national or local government legislation or regulation. But a backup can avoid losing time from getting back your information in due time. If you know where it isⁱⁱⁱ. Nothing sounds more desperate than a manager that loses all the information, because there was no backup.

5. Hack yourself

Poor passwords / user behavior / old infrastructure / missing patches: these are all steps that do not get enough attention in some businesses. Until they bleed money.

There are plenty of free tools^{iv} as well if you want to run a small cyber security test.

If you do not feel confident and want to work with a professional, you can hire a trusted partner to perform a penetration test: it can uncover potential weaknesses from the systems that are most

vulnerable to thieves breaking in via the Internet. Plenty of hackers have been able to access emails / websites / internal networks and they have stolen money from bank accounts or your IP because the security level was not up-to-date or ready for external attacks. Or one of your employees left angry stealing some information. (From BizTech Magazine^v)

6. Perform a GAP Analysis

A penetration test can identify the areas that require the most security-based attention. Responses may include enacting better procedures to ensure that software patching will be performed on a more consistent or more thorough basis, or updating user provisioning and access policies. Other improvements may involve shoring up data backups and continuity of operations to limit the damage of a successful breach. Company leaders should gain a clear understanding of just where to put their attention and how best to focus security spending. (From BizTech Magazine^{vi})

7. Life-cycling^{vii}

Normal wear and tear can result in lower machine efficiency and every sound business needs to have a life-cycling plan in place. The benefits are the following:

- Give your employees an optimal infrastructure supporting them, not preventing them from adding value to your business
- Have a financial plan to forecast your investments

These are some simple steps to prevent IT issues before they arise and put your business in a corner. To cure is a lot more expensive than to prevent.

If your business needs a professional team to handle your IT, feel free to contact us at:

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ⁱⁱ <http://www.computerworld.com/article/3155816/microsoft-windows/fix-windows-10-problems-with-these-free-microsoft-tools.html>

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