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The Tech Chronicle

Insider Tips to Make
Your Business Run
Faster, Easier, and
More Profitably

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The Future Of Leadership

The pandemic completely changed the way many people view work. If there's one thing for certain, it's that remote work will continue once the pandemic ends. If your business has switched over to a remote or hybrid environment, you may need to reevaluate your leaders to ensure their skills align with the new work environment. Strong remote leaders possess traits that are essential for success.

In fact, if you want your business to prosper in the future, you must ensure your leaders are good communicators since they might not be working in the same location as their employees. They also need to possess collaboration skills to ensure each facet of every project is covered. Additionally, your leaders should be able to align their values with those of your staff and customers. Empathetic and understanding leaders are the future, and you need to have a leader who will look out for their team while also taking care of any customer needs. If you interview a candidate who possesses these great characteristics, they should be a top contender for your leadership positions.

REASONS YOUR BUSINESS SHOULD BE USING A PRIVATE CLOUD

Gone are the days when everything was stored on a physical hard drive. Now, most businesses and private users utilize cloud computing to store their data. It's no secret

that cloud storage is the present and future of data storage, but have you thought about using a private cloud that only allows your business and permitted users to access necessary information? There are many benefits that come with using a private cloud, such as the following:

- It offers better security since nobody besides authorized users can use the storage or servers.
- Your team will gain greater flexibility to continue their work without the fear of IT issues since backups are done automatically on private cloud servers.
- It's often cheaper to use a private cloud than to maintain physical servers.
- Private clouds usually come with managed IT services, so there's no need to hire an IT team to work on-site. This will save you time and money.



Start From Zero

By Dane Maxwell

If you've picked up a business book over the last few years, you may have read chapters encouraging you to improve your skills. Not everyone shares the same skill sets, nor do we all have access to an equal amount of funds. So, how do you start a successful business without any of the necessary skills, resources or even confidence? That's where *Start From Zero* is able to help. Dane Maxwell takes readers on a learning journey to help them realize that success is within themselves and that anyone can become a successful entrepreneur by following his tips, regardless of their background. *Start From Zero* is an essential read for any new business owner who is dipping their toes into the entrepreneurial pool.



Do I Need A Compliance And Cyber Security Plan?

We talk a lot about cyber security and how incorporating the right practices can help fully protect your company from cyber-attacks, but there's another term that's often referenced when discussing cyber security that's just as important: compliance. While it's incredibly important for businesses to focus on maintaining the highest cyber security standards, they also need to ensure protocol meets compliance standards.

In regard to cyber security, compliance means creating a process to help protect the confidentiality and accessibility of information that's stored, processed or transferred. There is not an overarching standard for compliance when it comes to this. Instead, there are different guidelines and requirements for every industry, so it's important to be aware of your

company's needs. If you're not, you could be subject to fines and penalties in addition to being at greater risk for cyber-attacks.

Though they're related, there are still some glaring differences between cyber security and compliance. Cyber security is practiced for the company's own sake instead of to satisfy the needs of a third party. It's also present to protect a business from the risk of constant threats and needs to be continually managed and updated. IT compliance, however, is completed to satisfy external requirements and is driven by what the business needs more than anything else. Unlike cyber security, compliance is finished when the third party is satisfied with your process.

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July 2022



This monthly publication provided courtesy of Michael Millhouse.

BridgePoint Technologies is an information technology consulting firm that delivers managed IT services, mobile solutions and IT staffing to small and medium-sized organizations in Chicagoland since 2004!

... continued from Cover

Compliance and cyber security work best when they're aligned, so it's extremely important that your business has a plan for compliance and cyber security. On its own, compliance is incredibly important for various reasons. The first is probably the most obvious since you can be fined or penalized if you fail to comply with industry standards. Having the proper compliance program will prevent your company from being fined. Additionally, your compliance plan needs to include continuous monitoring and

“Compliance and cyber security work best when they’re aligned, so it’s incredibly important that your business has a plan for compliance and cyber security.”

assessment of networks, devices and systems that your company uses in order to align with regulatory cyber security requirements. It also sets up an action plan if your business is ever breached, since you need to communicate news of the breach to any parties that could've been impacted.

Every business, regardless of size, is susceptible to data breaches. It's only with strong cyber security and IT compliance plans that you can hope to plug every hole hackers may look to exploit. Compliance is an important part of risk management, and it's essential for the future success of any business.

A compliance plan alone is a great start, but having cyber security measures in place as well will help you be prepared if you're ever audited by a third party.

Whether you have teams or individuals who oversee security protocols, they all need to know the requirements for cyber security compliance and exactly how protected the company is. If your company utilizes a firewall, which it absolutely should, your teams need to know exactly how protective that firewall is. They also need the evidence to back up their claims so they can prove the

information they provide is accurate. Auditors want to see a handful of different documents, so make sure your team is prepared for any questions or requests.

Once you have the basics of your plans taken care of, you can focus on accurately documenting each step. From meeting notes to the list of items that an auditor may need, your entire team needs to document anything they do or see regarding cyber security.

There is another, much easier option to ensure your business stays compliant and is protected from cyber-attacks. You can hire a managed IT services provider. With a managed IT provider, you will have a dedicated team that ensures your company's sensitive information is protected and all of your cyber security holes are filled. They'll also ensure your business stays compliant with any third-party regulating bodies in the process.

Though technology is ever-advancing, you shouldn't have to worry about cyber-attacks on a daily basis. With strong security protocol, or with the help of a trusted managed IT services provider, you can rest easy knowing your company's information is as secure as possible.

SHINY NEW GADGET OF THE MONTH

Airmoto



Imagine you're driving with your family on vacation in the middle of winter. All of a sudden, the road feels much bumpier, so you pull over and get out to check your tires. To your dismay, you discover one of your tires has gone flat. The closest gas station is over a couple of miles away, and your spare can't handle the adverse conditions. So, what should you do? With Airmoto, you never have to worry about this situation.

Airmoto is a rechargeable compact air pump that provides up to 120 psi. In only 10 minutes, you can inflate your car's tires to the proper tire pressure. Airmoto can be used to pump up balls, bike tires and even truck tires. It's practical, not very heavy and quite affordable. Airmoto is the perfect addition to any roadside assistance kit.

Marketing Automation Tools Every Small Business Needs

Throughout the pandemic, there have been many businesses that seemingly didn't miss a step. Some transitioned over to a remote environment flawlessly, and it's due in part to their use of marketing automation tools. If you want to prepare your business for any situation, you need to automate the following functions:

- Appointment booking programs like Calendly allow your customers more flexibility when it comes to scheduling meetings.
- Automating e-mail marketing systems can lead to greater lead generation.
- Customer relationship management software will help you support your customers and ensure they are receiving the best possible service.
- You can also automate customer service to provide an overall greater customer experience with programs like LiveChat.

8 Tips To Reach The Top Of Your Field

I've been consulting business leaders for well over 20 years now, and in that time, I've worked with some of the brightest minds across various industries. At ghSMART, we have helped many people reach the top of their field, and you may be wondering how we helped them. A professor taught me a tactic years ago that has helped me reach the top of my field. Now, I enjoy sharing this information with our clients.



Essentially, there are three roles in every profession – rainmakers, doers and trackers. The trackers are those who track other people's work. They play an important role but will rarely leave a lasting impact on their field. Most people are doers, since they do the work that is provided to them by someone else. They're also important, but they probably won't reach the top of the field. Then there are the rainmakers. These are the people who are proactive and go above and beyond to achieve results. Rainmakers always push to reach their goals and often reach the top of their field in the process.

Just being a rainmaker is not enough to leave an impact, though. If you follow these eight tips, you'll be well on your way toward success.

- Go to the best schools you can while achieving the highest grades possible and establish your technical skills. You don't necessarily have to attend the best school possible, but it does help.
- Spend 20% of your time building relationships. Try to spend a day each week learning what concerns are affecting customers in your industry and work toward solutions.

- Keep a list of your 50 most important relationships and rank them in order of importance.
- Don't do tasks or offer advice if it is outside of your area of expertise. If you don't deliver great results, you will push your clientele away.
- Improve your public speaking skills. On average, 95% of professionals are not confident when speaking in public, so the 5% who are confident usually shine on a regular basis.
- Learn how to hire and delegate. You can't do everything on your own, so you need to surround yourself with a team you can trust.
- Price yourself high, but don't get greedy. You know how much your work is worth and you know how much the competition charges. For desired results, clients don't mind paying a little extra for good work.
- Mentor others to become rainmakers. Your team will only grow stronger.

As a caring and courageous rainmaker, you will rise to the top of your field – while your peers who rest entirely on their technical skills will not.



Dr. Geoff Smart is the chairman and founder of ghSMART, a leadership consulting firm that exists to help leaders amplify their positive impact on the world. Dr. Smart and his firm have published multiple New York Times best sellers. He stays active in his community and has advised many government officials.

Cartoon Of The Month



"I didn't see any compliance issues."

Free Report Download: The Business Owner's Guide To IT Support Services And Fees



You'll learn:

- The three most common ways IT companies charge for their services and the pros and cons of each approach
- A common billing model that puts ALL THE RISK on you, the customer, when buying IT services; you'll learn what it is and why you need to avoid agreeing to it
- Exclusions, hidden fees and other "gotcha" clauses IT companies put in their contracts that you DON'T want to agree to
- How to make sure you know exactly what you're getting to avoid disappointment, frustration and added costs later on that you didn't anticipate

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