



The Tech chronicle

Log4j Issue

FTC enforcing the patching of Log4j java security issue.

Recently the US FTC issued a warning to fix the flaw and protect against this vulnerability.

Log4j is one of thousands of critically important services that must be protected.

FTC made it clear they are not playing around with this issue. Equifax was hit in 2019 with a \$700 million fine.

Read more in our January 21 blog article.

February 2022



This monthly publication provided courtesy of Carlos Soto. Franchise owner since 2005.

Our Mission: To build a community of successful-minded entrepreneurs that inspires excellence, encourages collaboration and expands the capacity of all members to achieve great things.



Cyber Security Is More Important Now Than Ever – Is Your Business Prepared?

Over the past few years, instances of cyberthreats have increased at an alarming rate, and they don't seem to be slowing down anytime soon. Awareness around cyber security has certainly improved over the past year, with 9 in 10 Americans stating that they are somewhat concerned about hacking that involves their personal information, financial institutions, government agencies or certain utilities. But while awareness has increased, so have the rates of cyber-attacks.

Last year, people had more data breaches from January to October 2021 than in all of 2020. As we continue through 2022, there's no reason to assume this year will be any different. In order to ensure that your business is protected this year and every year after, you should take the proper precautions

regarding cyber security. If your business falls prey to a cyber-attack, you risk tarnishing your brand's reputation and will have customers questioning whether it's safe to do business with you.

Below are a couple of the best cyber security practices you can put in place to fully prepare for cyber-attacks and threats.

HIRE A MANAGED SERVICES PROVIDER

Small and mid-size businesses have seen an increase in cyber-attacks since 2018, but larger corporations are no exception for hackers. The NBA, Kia Motors and the Colonial Pipeline are just a few examples of big businesses that fell victim to cyber-attacks last year. No matter if your business is big or small, hiring

Continued on pg.2

Continued from pg.1

an MSP is the most affordable and best way to protect your business.

MSPs are designed to identify and resolve any weak points in your IT infrastructure. MSPs are focused on being proactive and will also focus on IT support and advanced security. You'll get around-the-clock monitoring, data encryption and backup, network and firewall protection, security awareness training and so much more. With MSPs, you get a team of dedicated IT professionals who are available to assist with any tech dilemmas that may arise. It's the quickest and most cost-efficient way to fully protect your business.

TRAIN YOUR EMPLOYEES

If your employees have not been trained to be cyber-secure, they need to be trained on this subject immediately. Security should also be built into the devices they use to access company data. This becomes even more important if your employees are working remotely. Multifactor identification and ensuring that your employees create complex and non-repetitive passwords go a long way toward keeping your business protected.

"Multifactor identification and ensuring that your employees create complex and non-repetitive passwords go a long way toward keeping your business protected."



Educate your employees about the most common forms of cyber-attacks. They should be aware of phishing e-mails and texts and should be taught to never open any links if they don't know who the sender is. Hackers have also started to frequent social media, and they often target small businesses through various platforms. Make sure your employees aren't clicking on any social media spam links that could put your network at risk. Lastly, make sure they aren't accidentally downloading any malware that could create disastrous outcomes for your company.

A cyber-attack can have cataclysmic effects on a small business, and every business owner needs to make sure their network is protected. If you don't know where to start, give us a call and we will find a way to help you make your company as cyberprotected as possible.

'I DIDN'T KNOW'

Unfortunately, That Excuse Doesn't Replenish Your Bank Account, Resolve A Data Breach Or Erase Any Fines And Lawsuits.

It's coming ...

- That day a hacker steals critical data, rendering your office useless
- That day when your bank account or credit card is compromised
- Or that day when your customers' private lives are uprooted

Cybercriminals and hackers are constantly inventing NEW ways to infiltrate your company, steal your assets and disrupt your life. The ONLY way to STOP THEM is this:

You Must Constantly Educate Yourself On How To Protect What's Yours!

You can keep yourself up-to-date by just checking out our blog. It is filled with tidbits of information from a wide range of subjects. Certain things may be obvious and some not. You may come across an ahh-ha moment when you find a new tip or trick or note of interest.

Read them at your leisure, daily or weekly, it's up to you. We are constantly looking for new and interesting articles to post and share.

Check out our blog site today
at www.ctmaryland.com and just click on the blog link

Get More Free Tips, Tools and Services At Our Website
www.ctmaryland.com or call 240-399-9600

It's always something

On Tuesday we received an email that indicated that we had received a secure fax.

Nothing out of the ordinary really.

However, upon further scrutiny, we saw that the return email address was from an address in Japan.

It also had a line in the email that stated that "The sender has been verified as safe." Well, that just makes us feel safer doesn't it?

There was an attachment to the email; however, once again something was not right.

The attachment had an .html extension which means that it wasn't a document, but a website link that will probably trick you into giving up some information.

We write this to help remind you to always be aware of what is in your inbox. Although it may look real, please pay attention to the small and perhaps almost invisible clues that indicate that the mail is not legitimate or safe to open.

We are coming into tax season, so be more aware than before because scammers are hot on the trail of new victims and are always prowling for new ways to get your information or your money.

How To Create More Opportunities



To put it simply, in life, perspective is everything. Every activity, job and situation usually has multiple angles, depending on how you view it. By changing our perspective in our business and personal lives, we are creating a very positive mindset that will open us up to a plethora of new opportunities.

There's a rocky cliff that rises up at the back of my property, and atop that small cliff is a boulder. I normally wouldn't give a second thought to this giant rock that sits in my yard since it's nonliving. I mean, it's just a rock, right? But as I observed it more and more, my perspective completely changed.

You see, while the rock itself may be nonliving, it is actually thriving with life. There are beautifully colored skinks that live in the crevices of the boulder, and I even saw a big black rat snake make its home there, too. When I took a second to think about it, I realized that this boulder sustains its own ecosystem.

By simply taking a moment to drop your own preconceived notions and making an effort to observe, you will find life and opportunities in something you may have previously missed. But changing your perspective is easier said than done. In order to change your perspective, you may have to do a little digging. You'll have to evaluate why you see things the way you do. You may need to reach out to others and consider their perspectives to get an idea of how others think. And lastly, you'll have to reform your own perspective so you can grow and find new opportunities.

Dig deeper within yourself and truly concentrate on what you're focusing on so you will see so much more. You'll quickly discover that the opportunities are endless.



Mike Michalowicz has always believed that he had the formula to success and has proved it on multiple occasions. He is the creator of Profit First, which is used by hundreds of thousands of companies across the globe to drive profit. He is the author of multiple books, including Get Different and The Toilet Paper Entrepreneur. Mike is a former small business columnist for The Wall Street Journal and served as a business makeover specialist for MSNBC. Mike currently leads two new multimillion-dollar ventures as he puts his latest research to the test. He also is a highly sought-after keynote speaker on innovative entrepreneurial topics.

■ Break Through The Digital Dilemma And Take Your Business To The Next Level

In the digital age, companies are growing faster than ever before, and the companies that are succeeding all have one thing in common: a growth mindset.

Companies that aren't looking to grow get stale quickly, and this becomes more apparent with each technological advancement. In order for your business to succeed, you will need to develop a growth mindset within your company. There are a few things you can do to adapt and create a mindset that will catapult you to the top of your industry.

The first thing is to continue promoting a learning and mentoring ideology within your business. There's always room for growth; you just need to encourage it. You should also encourage innovation by establishing areas where external

and internal sources can communicate. Also, stay informed and ahead of your industry by paying attention to new technology. Lastly, don't be afraid of feedback. It can help your company grow and help you to discover any shortcomings.

■ Facebook Recently Launched Its Metaverse, And it's A Privacy Nightmare!

Facebook is in the process of unveiling hardware and other technology to support its metaverse, even calling this new network "Meta." The social media platform has seen a recent decrease in users who cite mistrust as a key factor in their departure. A Facebook whistleblower, Frances Haugen, has stated that the virtual reality world could give Facebook another opportunity to steal even more personal information from its users.

Haugen said users will be required to set up many sensors throughout their home, which will encourage them to detract from reality and enter the virtual world. The idea of adding sensors into users' homes is a privacy nightmare. It gets even worse if you consider the fact that employers who use Meta may require their employees to have the sensors in their homes so they can participate in meetings. Trust in Facebook is already low, and Meta will have to ensure their system is safe if they hope for success.

■ It's Been Coined The 'Great Resignation,' But Why Are Employees Walking Out In Drones?

Everywhere you look, it seems like more businesses are putting out "Help Wanted" signs. Limeade, an organization that specializes in employee well-being, recently released the results of a study that focused on why people were leaving their jobs. Burnout was the top reason most employees quit. Through surveys and conversations with your team, you can discover if burnout is an issue in your business. Introducing mental health days and finding ways to equally distribute workloads can help prevent burnout.

People who recently left their jobs also stated that they wanted a more flexible or caring culture. Employees need time for themselves and will become unhappy if they feel work is taking away from that time.

