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4 Ways Technology Can Improve Your Business

It boosts productivity. Technology like task management software can change how you work through a day. Everything is listed out, and you can check it off as you go. You can even make dependent tasks so tasks are automatically created for anyone who may be next in line to work on a project.

It's crucial to marketing. You need online and social media marketing. This is where people are. Understanding how social media marketing works can increase the number of people who know about your company, which increases your customer base.

It's essential for security. Technology and security go hand in hand. As your business relies more on technology, you need to rely more on security to protect your networked equipment, like all of your employees' PCs and your many servers.

You can't communicate without it. With things like e-mails, VoIP phone services, and direct messaging through social media sites, technology has made communication easier than ever. When you know how to use all these forms of communication, it puts you above the competition. *Pixel Productions Inc., 7/20/2019*

10 EASY WAYS TO DEFEAT STRESS AT WORK

1. Take a walk. A 15-minute walk will refresh your mind.

2. Work outside. Weather permitting, working in the sun can boost your mood.

3. Meditate. Use a meditation app like Calm or Headspace to lower blood pressure and de-stress.

4. Take deep breaths.

5. Make a checklist. Write it out and focus on one task at a time.

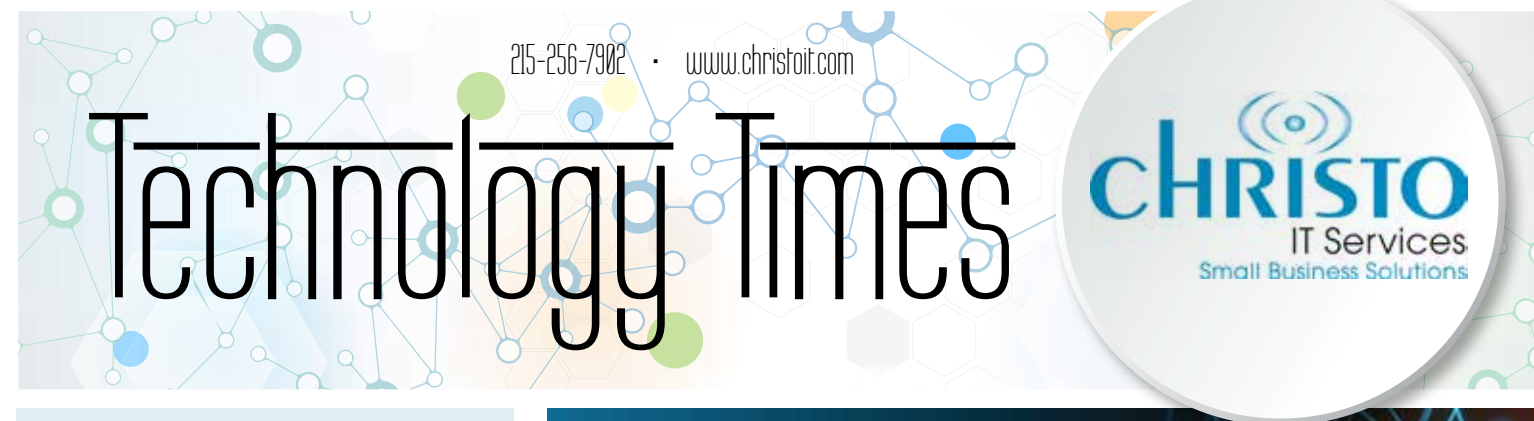
6. Talk to a friend. Have a conversation about a problem. Talking it out can change your perspective.

7. Watch an informative video. It can be on anything. Videos are a great distraction for 5-10 minutes.

8. Listen to soothing music.

9. Take a 20-minute nap. Nothing does wonders for stress like a power nap — just be sure to set a timer!

10. Trust your instincts. If you feel you need a break, take it. Don't push yourself if it isn't necessary. *Small Business Trends, 7/19/2019*

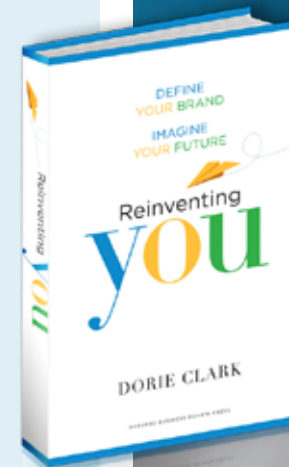


Reinventing You

By Dorie Clark

It's always important to move forward and to learn, try new things and expand our horizons, but we don't always know where to start. This is where *Reinventing You: Define Your Brand, Imagine Your Future* by Dorie Clark comes in. *Reinventing You* is a guide to reinventing yourself professionally. Maybe you want to move past your current role, try a new career path or just add new skills to your résumé.

Clark's book is a step-by-step guide to figuring out exactly what you need to do to make this happen. Clark helps you identify your top strengths and abilities while also helping you develop your personal brand, all so you can move forward. (This book is also great for business owners who are thinking about revamping themselves and their business!)

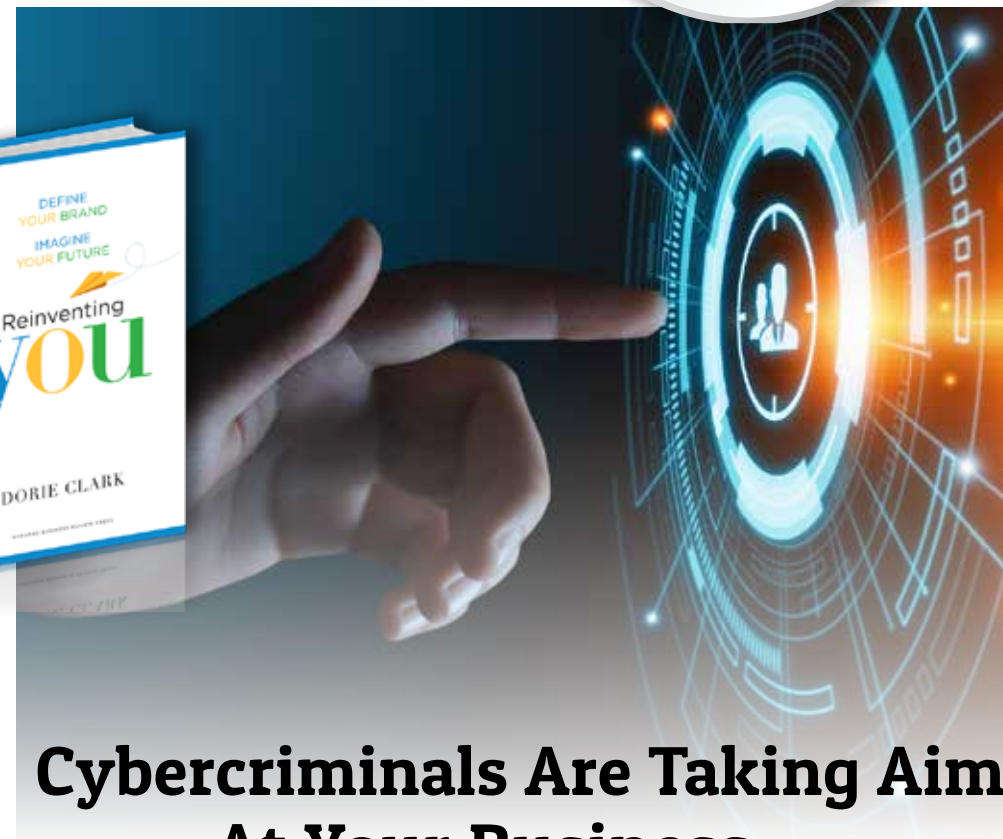


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This monthly publication provided courtesy of Chris Schalleur, CEO of Christo IT Services.

"As a business owner, you don't have time to waste on technical and operational issues. That's where we shine! Call us and put an end to your IT problems finally and forever!"



Cybercriminals Are Taking Aim At Your Business ... Is Your Network Protected?

Cybercriminals love to test your defenses. They love to see how far they can get into the networks of businesses all over the globe. Cybercriminals really love going after small businesses because they can all too often sneak onto a network, copy data and move on. Through the use of ransomware, they can hold your data hostage and refuse to cooperate until you pay them some amount of dollars — and if you don't pay up, they threaten to delete all your data.

But protecting yourself is not as hard as you might think. While cybercriminals and hackers are an everyday threat to businesses, you can take steps to

significantly reduce that threat and take that target off your back.

The first thing you need to do is understand why cybercriminals target small businesses and what makes your particular business vulnerable. There are many things small businesses do and don't do that open them to attack and data theft. These may include not having enough (or any) security in place or not training employees on security protocols.

Realistically speaking, the biggest threat to your business does, in fact, come from your

Continued on page 2

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own employees. This doesn't mean they are intentionally harming your business or leaving your network exposed to outside threats. It means they don't have the proper training and knowledge to protect your business from a cyberthreat.

For instance, your team needs to be trained to use strong passwords, and those passwords *must* be changed periodically (every three months is a good rule of thumb). A lot of people push back on strong, complicated passwords or use the same password for everything, but this is just asking for trouble and should not be allowed at your company.

Once strong passwords are in place, enable two-factor authentication (2FA) on everything



you possibly can, from network access to every account you and your employees use. This is an additional layer of security on top of standard password protection. This feature is generally tied to a mobile number or secondary e-mail, or it may be in the form of a PIN. For example, when 2FA is enabled, after you've put in your password, you will be prompted for your PIN for the associated account.

Another thing you must do to get that target off your back is to get anti-malware software installed. Every workstation or device should have some form of this protection. Not sure what to use? This is when working with a dedicated IT company can come in handy. They can help you get the right software that will meet your specific needs without slowing you down. They will install software that is compatible with your PCs and other networked equipment. Plus, they will make sure anti-malware software is working and is regularly updated.

On top of this, you want to have an active firewall in place. Every business should have its network protected by a firewall; like anti-malware software, firewall security comes with a number of different settings, and you can customize it to fit the needs of your network. Firewalls help keep attackers and malicious software off your network. When paired with a good anti-malware software, your layers of security are multiplied. The more layers, the better protected you are.

Finally, with all of this in place, your employees need to know what it all means. Keep your team up-to-date on your business's security protocols. This includes items like your password policy, malware protection policy and proper e-mail and web-surfing etiquette. The bad guys are never going to stop attacking, but you have the power to protect your business from those attacks.



SHINY NEW GADGET OF THE MONTH

HD Mask Surveillance Camera USB Spy Cam

Sometimes, you don't want security cameras in plain sight or you don't even want to go to the trouble of installing cameras. Meet the HD Mask Surveillance Camera USB Spy Cam. This device makes video monitoring easier than ever.

The HD Mask is a tiny camera disguised as a USB charger. At a glance, you would have no idea it was a camera. Even better, it actually works as a USB phone charger, which really sells the disguise. It records as soon as it's activated with motion and has many practical purposes, from keeping an eye on pets to monitoring certain areas of your office for security purposes. You can access the footage right on your smartphone and watch in real time. Learn more at HDMask.com.

Know The Signs Of Burnout Before It's Too Late

When we work too much and neglect to take care of ourselves, the result is burnout. But burnout doesn't just show up overnight. The signs of burnout can appear over days, weeks or months. Here are the major signs of burnout:

- Feeling exhausted
- Lacking energy
- Loss of drive
- Feeling angry or frustrated
- Quick to temper
- Sleeplessness
- Depression



On top of these, what you once loved to do now feels like a burden. You can combat burnout by taking a break. If you are overworking, stop. Work fewer hours in a day and focus on taking care of your mental and physical well-being.

What A Football Coach Can Teach You About Getting Better



Woody Hayes spent 28 seasons as the head football coach at Ohio State University, and then he was fired after a now-infamous incident in the 1978 Gator Bowl.

With time running down in the fourth quarter and the Buckeyes already in a position to try a game-winning field goal, Hayes called a pass play. A Clemson player intercepted the pass and was knocked out of bounds along the Ohio State sideline, securing the victory for the Tigers.

Frustrated by the play and the opponent's celebration among his troops, Hayes lost his temper and hit the Clemson player.

For most Ohio State fans, however, that's not the legacy of Woody Hayes. Some, naturally, see his legacy in his coaching record – 238 wins, 72 losses, 10 ties, 13 Big Ten titles, and three National Championships. That proved more than enough to land Hayes in college football's Hall of Fame. The OSU Woody Hayes Athletic Center is also named in his honor.

Others, however, see his legacy in a chair – the Wayne Woodrow Hayes Chair in National Security Studies. In keeping with his wishes, donations made in his honor following his death in 1987 were directed toward academics, which led to the creation of the chair. Hayes, who once grilled Richard Nixon about foreign policy, always took academics as seriously as he did football.

I remember Hayes for all of those things, but I remember him most for something he said during a pep rally when I was a student on the Columbus campus: "You're either getting better or you're getting worse," he told the crowd. "Status quo is a myth."

I used to think that was coach talk, but time and experience taught me the truth in what he meant. In a competitive world, if you stay the same, you get passed by. It highlights the incredible importance of the "innovation imperative": keep making your value better, because your competition keeps getting better.

Regardless of how good you've become, you can't afford to stay the same because status quo is a myth.



Mark Sanborn, CSP, CPAE, is the president of Sanborn & Associates, Inc., an "idea studio" that seeks to motivate and develop leaders in and outside of business. He's the best-selling author of books like *Fred Factor* and *The Potential Principle* and a noted expert on leadership, team building, customer service and company change. He holds the Certified Speaking Professional designation from the National Speakers Association and is a member of the Speaker Hall of Fame. Check out any of his excellent books, his video series, "Team Building: How to Motivate and Manage People," or his website, marksanborn.com, to learn more.

Free Report Download: If You Are Considering Cloud Computing For Your Company, DON'T, Until You Read This...



If you are considering cloud computing or Office 365 to save money and simplify IT, it is extremely important that you get and read this special report: **"5 Critical Facts Every Business Owner Must Know Before Moving Their Network To The Cloud."**

This report discusses in simple, nontechnical terms the pros and cons of cloud computing, data security, how to choose a cloud provider and three little-known facts that most IT consultants don't know or won't tell you about cloud computing that could end up causing you MORE problems and costing you more money than you anticipated. **Even if you aren't ready to move to the cloud yet**, this report will give you the right information and questions to ask when the time comes.

Get your **FREE** copy today at www.christoit.com/cloudreport or contact us at info@christoit.com or at 215-256-7902

Cartoon Of The Month

