



“As a business owner, I know 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!”

- Scott Phillips, Synergy Computing

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"With me it's been one mistake after another. Just look at my eraser!"

Technology Times

“Insider Tips To Make Your Business Run Faster, Easier, And More Profitably”

The Single Biggest Cause Of Computer Crashes, Data Loss, Hacker Attacks, Viruses, And Other Computer Problems

Want to know how to eliminate close to 80% of the computer problems you experience AND get more life, faster speed, and better overall performance from your PC? The answer is simple...



The vast majority of computer problems can be solved with one simple step: regular maintenance. That’s right; nearly 80% of all computer problems stem from neglecting to perform routine maintenance such as cleaning your registry, installing security updates, and monitoring performance.

Why Do PCs Have So Many Problems?

Your computer is not a simple appliance like a TV. Once connected to the Internet, it’s exposed to a barrage of sophisticated hacker attacks, viruses, spyware, and other programs that can instantly install themselves to gain access to your data and take control of your machine. Plus, adding new programs and other general use of your system will gradually slow your computer’s performance over time; that’s why that brand-new PC you just bought a month ago is suddenly not loading programs as fast as it used to. Regular maintenance will not only keep your computer network running like new, but it will also help you avoid crashes, downtime, and data loss resulting from faulty hardware or corrupted software.

The Smart Way To Avoid These Issues

Given the fact that no business can operate without access to e-mail, the Internet, and other important systems and files, it often puzzles us why so many people cringe at spending money on maintaining their PCs. Trying to do it yourself is never a good idea (unless you happen to be a very savvy computer expert) and waiting until something breaks to bring in a technician is like putting on a seat belt AFTER the accident. That’s why we recommend...

Shiny New Gadget Of The Month

Pico Solar Charger



Do you like to camp, hike, and spend time outdoors but can't live without your iPod or cell phone? We've got the solution!

Pico Freeloader Solar Charger is a compact and lightweight solar powered charger that can give you 35 hours on mobile phone, 14 hours on iPod, or 1.5 hours on GPS, all on a single ten hour charge. The crystalline solar cells will soak in the sun's rays by day, and when night falls, you can plug your phone or GPS in and charge it up in just a half hour! Now when you trek through the wilderness, you can do it with peace of mind knowing your vital devices will stay charged in case of emergency.

What's particularly nice about the Pico is that you can recharge its internal lithium ion via USB in the event of a cloudy day or in the middle of winter. Oh, did we mention it's only \$39? Maybe this is the new Christmas gift you get for everyone!

...outsourcing the care and maintenance of your computer network to a professional. Not only will they do a better job, but over time a well maintained computer network will significantly reduce your overall IT costs AND allow you to focus on more important issues like sales, profits, management, and customer service.

Call Us For A FREE Diagnostic Audit Of Your Network

Call us on or before October 31st and, at no cost or obligation, we'll come to your office and run a series of diagnostic tests to find hidden problems, viruses, and other computer nasties causing your PCs to run slow, freeze up, and cause problems. For free we will:

- ⇒ Run a virus, spyware, and malware scan
- ⇒ Check the integrity and reliability of your data backup
- ⇒ Check critical firewall and security settings
- ⇒ Look for fragmented data, corrupted registry files, and unnecessary programs that slow down performance
- ⇒ Check security updates and patches

To claim your FREE diagnostic service, call us at 805-967-8744 or go online to www.synergyinc.net/halloween.



New GPS Cell Phone Tracking Helps Parents Keep Track Of Their Trick-Or-Treaters

This month, everyone's gearing up for a little Halloween fun (aside from Christmas, it's the biggest revenue-producing holiday of the year). If you're like most parents, you want your little trick-or-treaters to be safe while out gathering the goodies, so here's a cool "high-tech" way to go beyond the glow sticks and reflective costumes: a GPS-tracking phone.

Three major carriers let you track the actual location of your child: AT&T, Sprint, and Verizon. Verizon's Chaperone service and Sprint's Family Locator use GPS to pinpoint your child's location (which means you need a GPS-enabled phone), and even let you set up zones where your child is allowed to go—giving you an automatic alert (to either your cell phone or computer) if they leave that zone. Verizon can even send a text message to both parent and child if the child strays too far out of pre-set boundaries.

AT&T's FamilyMap service will use GPS, if it's available, or triangulation based on the location of the cell phone tower. The latter isn't quite as accurate, but works better indoors.



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Please (___) Mail, (___) Fax, or (___) Call me immediately with the following FREE info:

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- 12 Surefire Signs Your Business is Ready for a Server and How It Will Skyrocket the Speed, Security, and Reliability of Your Computer Network.
- What Every Small Business Owner Must Know About Protecting And Preserving Their Company's Critical Data And Computer Systems
- What Every Small Business Owner Should Know About Backing Up Their Data To Get A FAST, Easy, And Economical Recovery In The Event Of A Disaster
- Ultimate Small Business Owners Guide To Setting Up A 'Work From Home' Program Or Remote Network Access
- Small Business IT Advisory Guide for Choosing an Honest Repair Guy
- Office Move Checklist
- How To Pick A Good Password

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CALL us direct: 805.967.8744

FAX this form: 805.456.3839

MAIL this form: 5662 Calle Real #425, Santa Barbara, CA 93117

E-MAIL your request: info@synergyinc.net

The Lighter Side...

The Shredder

A young executive is working late one evening. As he comes out of his office about 8 p.m., he sees the big boss standing by the shredder in the hallway with a piece of paper in his hand.

“Do you know how to work this thing?” the CEO asks. “My secretary’s gone home and I don’t know how to run it.”

The young executive, excited about this opportunity to shine says, “Yes, sir!” He promptly turns on the machine, takes the paper from the CEO and feeds it in. “OK!” says the boss, “I just need the one copy.”

You Know You’re In Trouble When...

- Your accountant's letter of resignation is postmarked Zurich.
- You see the captain running toward the railing wearing a life jacket.
- A black cat crosses your path and drops dead.
- Your secretary tells you the FBI is on line 1, the District Attorney is on line 2, and CBS is on line 3.
- They pay your wages out of petty cash.
- The pest control guy crawls under your house and never comes out.
- Your pacemaker has only a thirty-day guarantee.

Security Alert! Ads For Fake Anti-Virus And Anti-Spyware Programs Are Multiplying

Not long ago one of our clients was browsing the web when a warning popped up on his computer screen, alerting him that his PC had been infected with a virus. Although the alert looked real, he was skeptical and closed the alert by clicking on the “X” in the upper right hand corner of the notice.



Can you guess what happened next? His browser was hijacked, pop up ads started sprouting up everywhere, and he couldn’t get any of his programs to work even though he rebooted his machine. Although this is an extreme example, the number of fake anti-virus software scams has increased tenfold in the first quarter of this year. Court records reveal one instance of why this has become a hot new trend with hackers: One company (Innovative Marketing) took in more than \$160 billion worldwide last year “selling” fake anti-virus programs.

Here’s How They Nail You:

Online scammers simply create and place fake ads under the name of well-known anti-virus corporations without their permission, and without the knowledge of the site selling the ads. But instead of installing a legitimate anti-virus program, it installs a virus that either instantly infects the PC or creates a warning that then sells the user a fake clean-up program.

How To Avoid Getting Tricked

1. Use Firefox as your browser rather than Internet Explorer.
2. Keep your computer updated with the latest anti-virus and anti-spyware software, and be sure to use a good firewall.
3. Never open an email attachment unless you are POSITIVE about the source.
4. Do NOT click on any pop-up that advertises anti-virus or anti-spyware software. If a virus alert appears on your screen, DON'T click on it, even to “close” it. Instead, hit control + alt + delete to bring up the Task Manager. From there, delete the "rogue" from the list of running programs, and call us immediately: 805-967-8744
5. Do not download freeware or shareware unless you know it's from a reputable source. Many freeware and shareware programs come bundled with spyware, adware, or fake anti-virus programs.



Should You Really Trust Every App You Install On Your Phone?

Nope — some of them are plundering your personal information and beaming it to potential bad guys. (Do hackers ever sleep?) Two researchers revealed that they'd researched one seemingly benign wallpaper app and found that it was sending phone numbers and subscriber information (like names and addresses) to a remote computer.

The app in question came from Jackey Wallpaper, and it was uploaded to the Android Market, where users can download it and use it to decorate their phones that run the Google Android operating system. It includes branded wallpapers from My Little Pony to Star Wars.

Essentially, these apps collect your phone number, subscriber identification, and even your voicemail phone number as long as they are programmed automatically into your phone. It sends the data to a web site, www.imnet.us. That site is evidently owned by someone in Shenzhen, China. The app has been downloaded anywhere from 1.1 million to 4.6 million times.

“Apps that seem good but are really stealing your personal information are a big risk at a time when mobile apps are exploding on smartphones,” said John Hering, chief executive, and Kevin MaHaffey, chief technology officer at Lookout, in their talk at the Black Hat security conference in Las Vegas. “Even good apps can be modified to turn bad after a lot of people download it.”

Five Metrics To Track On Your Blog

Want to turn your ho-hum blog into a true marketing magnet for your business? Then you have to give it a little TLC and attention. With so much content online, the “build it and they will come” strategy is the worst you can use. Since you can't improve what you don't measure, here are 5 key things to track on your blog:

- 1. New vs. returning visitors:** If you are getting a lot of new visitors but no one is returning, you might need to improve your content. Other tips would be changing the placement of your RSS/email subscription buttons and adding a subscribe button at the bottom of each post.
- 2. Referring sites:** Knowing where you are getting most of your visitors from helps you focus more on those areas. Are they coming from Twitter? Then Tweet more frequently. Facebook? Then put more focus on your pages and content there. Pretty obvious, but are you doing it?
- 3. Keywords:** If you know what keywords or key phrases you want to rank high on, make sure you use them in your headlines and content. Google's Ad Keyword tool can help you determine different variations or synonyms for your main keywords; and Google Analytics can alert you to what keywords people are typing in to find you.
- 4. Commenting:** The more people comment on your blog the better it is for interaction and ranking. Encourage folks to post their thoughts by writing about controversial topics and asking for visitors to weigh in with their opinion. You can also ask questions such as, “What's YOUR biggest computer pet peeve?” or similar.
- 5. Top content:** Keep track of what topics are most read and commented on by your visitors. The goal is to find common threads and exploit them in future posts.

Who Else Wants To Win A \$25 Gift Card?

“Take my monthly Trivia Challenge and you could win too!”

The Grand Prize Winner of last month's Trivia Challenge Quiz is...drum roll please... Nobody! Nobody was the first person to correctly answer my quiz question from last month:

What was the name of the singing cowboy in the musical Oklahoma!?
a-Curley, b-Lucky, c-Frankie, d-Petey

The correct answer is a, “Curley.” Now, here's this month's trivia question. The winner will receive a gift card to Starbucks.

What rocker had a top ten hit in 1983 with "Pink Houses"?
a-Michael Jackson, b-Don Henley, c-John Mellencamp, d-Lionel Richie.

Call me right now with your answer! 805-967-8744