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**7 Essential Things C-Level  
Executives and Managers  
Must Know About the  
Future of IT Infrastructure**  
Tuesday, April 18th at 1pm

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# 7 Ways To Dodge A Data Disaster

**Y**ou stride into the office early  
one Monday morning. You  
grab a cup of coffee, flip on  
your computer and start checking  
e-mail...

A note pops up that rivets your  
attention:

*"Your files have been encrypted. Send  
\$5,000 within five days or they will all  
be destroyed."*

You start sweating as your throat  
constricts and your chest tightens.  
Sure enough, every time you try  
to open a document, the same  
message appears. Your phone  
rings. It's Bob in accounting, and  
he's having the same problem. All  
files across your entire network  
have been encrypted. You contact  
the local police.

They suggest you call the FBI. The  
FBI says they can't help you. What  
do you do next?

a) You pay the five grand,  
desperately hoping you'll get your  
data back, or...

b) You calmly call your IT pro, who  
says, "No problem, your backups  
are all current. No files were lost.  
Everything will be restored by  
noon, if not sooner."

If your answer is "b," you breathe a  
sigh of relief and get back to work  
as your backup plan kicks in...

Ransomware attacks are more  
common than ever, especially at  
smaller companies. That's because  
small companies make easy  
marks for hackers. The average  
small business is much easier to  
hack than high-value, heavily  
fortified targets like banks and big  
corporations. According to Time  
magazine, cybersecurity experts  
estimate that several million attacks  
occur in the US alone every year.  
And that figure is climbing.

So how can you make sure you  
never have to sweat a ransomware  
attack or other data disaster? One  
sure solution is having a solid

*Continued pg.2*

backup plan in place. When all your data and applications can be duplicated, you have plenty of options in the event of an attack. Here then are seven ways to make sure you're in good shape, no matter what happens to your current data:

**Insist on regular, remote and Redundant processes.** A good rule of thumb is 3-2-1. That means three copies of your data is stored in two off-site locations and backed up at least once per day.

**Don't cheap out on disk drives.** Less expensive arrays that save money can leave your data at risk. Get features like a redundant power supply and hot spare disks.

**Guard against human error.** Make sure people doing backups know exactly what to do. Take people out of the loop and automate wherever possible. And watch for situations where backups aren't a part of someone's regular duties.

**Check backup software settings routinely.** When new software or updates are put into service, a change in the way the settings are configured can cause incomplete backups, or backups that fail. Do the people who maintain your backups include this on their regular to-do list?

**Make sure critical files aren't getting left out.** As resources are added and

priorities shift, documents and folders can get misplaced or accidentally left off the backup list. Insist on a quarterly or

annual meeting with your backup management team to make sure all mission-critical files are included in your organization's data recovery systems.

**Address network issues immediately.** Any component in your network that isn't working properly can introduce another point of failure in your backup

process. Every juncture in your network, from a misconfigured switch to a flaky host bus adapter, can hurt your backups.

**Ask for help with your data backup and recovery system.**

You cannot be expected to be an expert in all things. Yet data is the backbone of your business – its protection and recovery should not be left to chance. Leverage the knowledge, skill and experience of an expert who stays current with all the latest IT issues.

**Data Recovery Review Reveals Backup System Vulnerabilities**

Don't let *your* company become yet another statistic. Just one ransomware attack can result in a serious financial blow if you're not prepared. Visit <http://bit.ly/Recovery-Review> TODAY or call (512) 388-5559 by April 30 for a FREE Data Recovery Review, ordinarily a \$300 service. We'll provide you with a complete on-site assessment of your current backup system to check for and safeguard against any gaps that could prove financially lethal to your business.

## 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, non-technical terms the pros and cons of cloud computing, data security, how to choose a cloud provider, as well as 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.

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## Amazon Recommendation Of the Month



Along with selling hundreds of Dell Desktops, Laptops and Servers every year, we get asked all the time about Microsoft Surface Tablets. For those that need the versatility of a tablet and the performance of a laptop, the Microsoft Surface Pro 4 is a great choice. The Surface Pro 4 powers through tough tasks, while being lighter than ever at 1.73 pounds. The 12.3 inch display has extremely high contrast and low glare. Go from laptop to table with the multi-position Kickstand and keyboard. And jot down notes and ideas with Surface Pen. The new Surface Pro 4 runs quieter, cooler and more efficient than before. It has a battery life up to 9 hours and a 8MP camera so you can video conference your colleagues with confidence. Microsoft sells the Surface direct making it impossible for us to pass along any discounts when purchasing. That's why we recommend purchasing directly from Amazon.com. Use the link below to see what they have available today. Reach out anytime if you want to discuss what model makes the most sense for you.

<http://bit.ly/Surface-Tablet>

## The Misnomer Of Failure

So you think you're a failure, huh? Let me get one thing off my virtual chest right now: you're not. I realize you may be experiencing failure. You may have had a string of failures. You may have been told you are a failure. But it doesn't mean that's who you are. You are not a failure unless that's who you decide to be.

But before I prove you're not a failure, I want to share a personal story. Oh, and by the way, when I said "my virtual chest," I didn't say that because you are reading my article. I say it because my muscle definition is equivalent to Tweety Bird's. If that little yellow feathered turd and I got into a fight, he would own me.

### I Am A Failure

My little story. In years past, I was an entrepreneur in the traditional sense, starting businesses and growing them. Today I am an author, which, not so interestingly, is just like any other form of business. You need to sell what you do and do what you do, really well. The only difference is, instead of having 30 employees reporting to you, you have one part-time assistant... who is either in India or is a family member or both.

I have failed a lot. I have lost all my money. I have crashed more start-ups than I have grown. I have offended probably everyone (including myself a couple times). And now I am failing at my fastest rate ever. Why?

If you asked anyone on the street - I mean anyone, including my mother - how "prolific" I am, they would say,

"Who's this asshole you're talking about?" (Note: My mom wouldn't call me an asshole, she would call me a douche.) But here's the deal: failure is the ONLY way to success. Every day I take a shot at achieving my vision, and fail. And regardless of what your vision is, the only way you will get there is by failing your way to it.

### Find Purpose

If you want to stop being buried by failure, you need to define your life's purpose. And if you don't know what your life's purpose is...your life's purpose (at least for now) is to find your life's purpose. Constantly ask yourself, why am I here? What do I need to do? And be willing to listen to the answers that you present yourself.

When you find your purpose, you'll get into the groove - where your hidden talents reveal themselves and you lose all sense of time. You're living your purpose when you build energy as you do it. You're living your purpose when you experience failure and you see it as another step up the ladder.

### My Virtual Chest

In regards to my virtual chest situation, I am done with that bad failure, and am now a weight-room loyalist. Interestingly, I am now experiencing good failure constantly (those damn weights are heavy).

Tweety Bird can go suck it.



MIKE MICHALOWICZ (pronounced mi-KAL- o-wits) started his first business at the age of 24, moving his young family to the only safe place he could afford—a retirement building. With no experience, no contacts and no savings, he systematically bootstrapped a multimillion-dollar business. Then he did it again. And again. Now he is doing it for other entrepreneurs. Mike is the CEO of Provendus Group, a consulting firm that ignites explosive growth in companies that have plateaued; a former small business columnist for The Wall Street Journal; MSNBC's business makeover expert; a keynote speaker on entrepreneurship; and the author of the cult classic book The Toilet Paper Entrepreneur. His newest book, The Pumpkin Plan, has already been called "the next E-Myth!" For more information, visit [www.mikemichalowicz.com/](http://www.mikemichalowicz.com/).



**As of January 31, “outsiders” can now Skype into the White House Press Room.**

This enables journalists outside the Washington, DC, area to ask questions during White House press briefings. It's part of the Trump administration's strategy to keep in touch with people outside the beltway. Journalists attending via Skype must be at least 50 miles from the DC area. All political questions aside, it's just another example of business (or, in this case, government) taking advantage of available technologies. Or, in this case, finally catching up... Skype, the world's largest video calling service, is nothing new – it's been around since 2003. Sometimes it just takes a while for users to figure out how to make tech work to their advantage.

*Yahoo.com, 01.31.17*

**Anti-malware programs can't even touch this new kind of attack...** “Fileless” attacks became all the rage among hackers in 2016. According to a report by

cybersecurity firm Carbon Black, fourth quarter 2016 saw a 33% rise in these “non-malware” attacks compared to the first quarter. Experts expect the trend to continue through 2017.

Cyberbad-guys carry out these attacks in any number of ways. Their “en vogue” method at the start of 2017 was hijacking PowerShell and WMI (Windows Management Instrumentation) to do their dirty deeds. Brian Kenyon, chief strategy officer for Symantec, said recently, “Fileless infections are difficult to detect and often elude intrusion prevention and antivirus programs.” Reports show the Democratic National Committee hack last year used a fileless attack. *DarkReading.com, 12.27.16*

**“DIY” data security kits can offer basic protection.** Are you a do-it-yourselfer willing to take defending your company's data into your own hands? If so, you can find a variety of low to no cost products that provide basic safeguards. Koozali SME Server,

for instance, bundles security and other server apps for small businesses. These include file sharing, directory access, redundant backups, firewall and web hosting. Its makers claim you can be up and running with it in less than 20 minutes. It's based on Linux, yet allows you to network Windows and MacOS as well as Linux-based devices. It's all free and there is no paid version. However, because no support is provided, you may need to contact a professional for assistance.

*SmallBusinessComputing.com, 12.21.16*

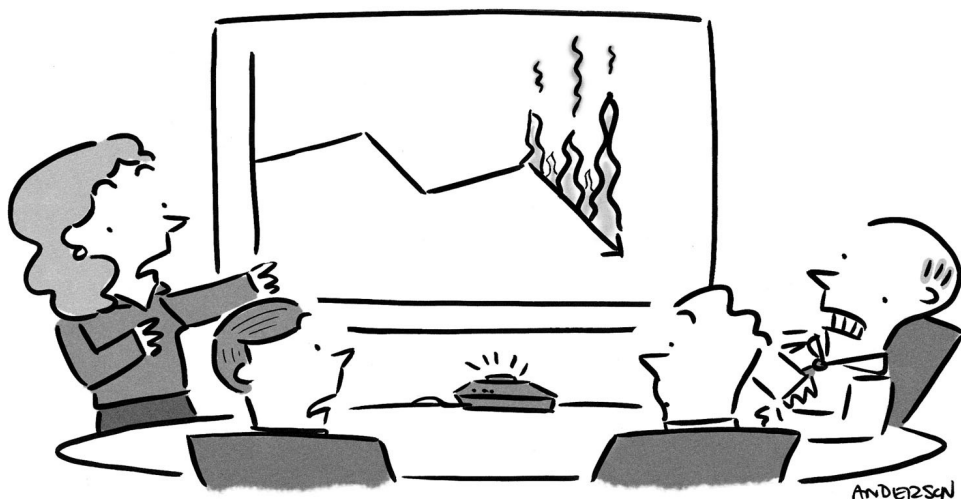
**Cassette audio tapes (remember those?) are making a comeback.**

Compact disk sales are declining, yet vinyl records have enjoyed a resurgence over the past several years. And last year, cassette sales rose to 129,000 units, an increase of 74% over 2015. So what's up with cassettes – why so popular all of a sudden?

Actually, the numbers are still miniscule compared to the 105 million CDs sold in 2016. Yet the bump in cassette sales reflects a growing appetite for tangible items that fans can cherish. Also, it doesn't hurt that artists like Justin Bieber, Eminem and Prince brought tape reissues to market. Or that online retailer Urban Outfitters has exclusive deals to sell their cassettes, as well as vintage gear to play them on.

*TheVerge.com, 01.23.17*

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“So now sales aren't just bad, they're also on fire.”