



“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!”

- Rick Johnston
Information Mgmt. Systems

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Inside This Issue...

It’s TRUE: The Internet Has Run Out Of IP Addresses; Find Out What This Means To You...Page 1

Shiny New Gadget: The Best Portable Microphone For Your iOS Devices.....Page 2

BYOD To Work: Smart, Money-Saving Idea Or Security Disaster Waiting To Happen?.....Page 2

New: Star2Star Releases StarFax.....Page 3



a.bacall
"In return for an increase in my allowance, I can offer you free unlimited in-home computer tech support."

Technology Times

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

Alert: The Internet Has Run Out Of IP Addresses!

Although it sounds like a Nigerian Internet scam, it’s true. With millions of people coming online, the number of IP addresses is exhausted and a new standard for identifying computers and devices has come online: IPv6. So what is an “IP” address anyway and what will this NEW addressing system mean to you? First, let’s start at the beginning:



Every computer or device on a network has a unique identifier known as an IP address. This address is just like your home address; it acts as a unique identifier so other computers can send and receive information to you. Most computer networks, including all computers connected to the Internet, use the TCP/IP protocol to communicate (think of it as the common language all computers use to talk to one another). The IP part of the “TCP/IP” is your IP address or unique identification number. In order for all communication to work, every computer connected to the Internet or within its own private network must have a unique IP address.

Until the recent IPv6, there was only one standard for an IP address, which is made up of four groups of numbers separated by dots. For example: 216.27.61.137. This numbering convention gave us 232 possible combinations, or 4.3 billion unique addresses. Back in the early 80s when the Internet was just getting rolling, that was considered more than enough. Now with well over a billion people online and each person owning multiple devices requiring an IP address, 4.3 billion just isn’t enough.

IPv6 uses a 128-bit addressing system (where IPv4 used a 32-bit addressing system) creating a massive number of possible new addresses and combinations. That massive new total is 2 to the 128 power, or 340,282,366,920,938,463,463,374,607,431,768,211,456. (How would you even say that number?)

Fortunately, most devices and PCs manufactured within the last 5 years should have no problem processing IPv6 addresses. However, older legacy systems that were engineered without IPv6 in mind will have problems. The companies most affected will be companies providing mobile devices and ISPs, particularly those in emerging markets who are bringing on thousands of new customers for cable TV, smartphones and voice over IP phone systems. Of course, our clients won’t have to worry since we’re keeping up-to-date on IPv6 for you. But if you have any questions regarding IPv6 and how it will affect you, give us a call!

Want to Lock-in your IT Costs for the Next **THREE** Years? Sign up for IMS Total Care Services **TODAY!**

Shiny New Gadget Of The Month



iRig MIC Cast Portable Microphone

If you need to make voice recordings on the go for a Podcast, an in-person interview or even recording a presentation, your iPhone, iPod Touch or iPad isn't the best option because their built-in microphones are not designed to record high-quality audio.

For those occasions where quality matters, we recommend using the iRig MIC Cast with your iOS device. This small microphone plugs into your iPhone, iPod or iPad and turns it into a mini recording studio with the ability to capture high-quality audio. Best of all, it's tiny and light so it's easy to carry around for those impromptu opportunities that arise.

The iRig also comes with a mini stand for your device so you can conveniently prop it up on a table. It provides real-time monitoring of what's being recorded and works with all regular phone calls and voice-over IP app.

Bring Your Own Device To Work: Excellent Money-Saving Idea Or Security Disaster Waiting To Happen?

Maybe you've heard the term "BYOB" (bring your own bottle) when you were invited to a party with some friends. Now a similar trend is happening in business called "BYOD" (bring your own device) where employees are bringing their smartphones, tablets and other devices to work.

Considering the cost of new hardware, this trend seems pretty attractive for small business owners. Employees show up already equipped with the devices they need to work; you just give them a username and password and you're off to the races without as many out-of-pocket expenses as before. Plus, the employees are more than happy because they get to continue to use their device of choice. Cool? Maybe...

Based on surveys and chatter online from IT managers and executives, how to effectively monitor and manage employee-owned devices is murky at best; in many cases, this "wild west" device strategy is causing IT departments to work overtime to keep their network secure and data out of the wrong hands. For example, IBM started allowing employees to BYOD back in 2010. Approximately 80,000 of their 400,000 employees started using non-company owned smartphones and tablets to access internal networks. But instead of



IBM saving money, this situation actually increased costs in certain areas, namely in the management and security of those devices. Because of this, IBM has established guidelines on which apps the employees can or can't use. In addition, employee-owned devices are configured so that they can be wiped remotely in case devices are stolen or misplaced prior to being granted access to internal

networks. Cloud-based file-transfer programs such as iCloud, Dropbox and even Siri, the voice-activated personal assistant, are not allowed. Employees with greater access to internal applications and files will also have their smartphones equipped with additional software that performs the appropriate data encryption.

The bottom line is this: If you are going to allow employees to use their own personal devices to connect to your network, you need to make sure they aren't a conduit for viruses, hackers and thieves; after all, we ARE talking about your clients' and company's data here! That means written policies need to be in place along with 24/7 monitoring of the device to ensure that security updates are in place to watch for criminal activity. We also urge you to establish a policy for all employees who bring mobile devices into the workplace about what they can and cannot do with their devices. They might already be using their smartphone or tablet to access e-mail or company files without you even knowing it, leaving you exposed.

NEW: Star2Star Releases StarFax™ Personal

Star2Star Communications, maker of “The World's Most Reliable Business Communications Solution,” last week announced the availability of StarFax Personal, a new cloud-based fax service. StarFax Personal adds reliable, high-quality desktop faxing to any Star2Star system. Users can send and receive faxes to and from their desktop or laptop computers with no physical fax machine or other hardware. StarFax Personal is an add-on feature (called a Starlet) that operates within the same Revolutionary Next Generation Application Framework as StarScope 2.

Each StarFax Personal user is assigned a unique, personal fax number for incoming faxes. When a fax is sent to that number, the fax is received by the Star2Star system and stored “in the cloud” at a Star2Star data center.

Incoming faxes are stored as PDF files and can be viewed within the StarFax starlet or using a PDF viewer. Incoming faxes pass through an Optical Character Recognition (OCR) program, so all received faxes are fully searchable.

StarFax Personal users can send virtually any type of printable file (.doc, pdf, jpg, etc.) directly from the StarFax Personal software. Laptop users can send and receive faxes anywhere there's an Internet connection.

StarScope 2, StarFax Personal, and several future Star2Star applications all run on the Star2Star Application Framework.

Call us at 701-364-2718 or email us at info@imsnetworking.com for more information on Star2Star and what it could offer your business.

What Should You Do If YOUR Network Is Compromised?

Linked 
HACKED!

Back in June, 6.3 million passwords were reported stolen when a hacker was able to access LinkedIn's servers. The news made headlines instantly and everyone in the office (and online) was talking about it. Clearly this is a public-relations nightmare for the company and one that will, for sure, have a ripple effect for months, possibly years, as they deal with the fallout from their clients and potential lawsuits.

What's scary about this type of attack—or any major security breach to a big company—is that if it can happen to them, it can certainly happen to YOU. Although I'm not privy to LinkedIn's security procedures, I'm sure they don't take it lightly and have most likely invested a BIG chunk of change to keep their data secure, money that the “average” small business owner could never afford to logically spend. So IF this happened to your company, what should you do? How do you avoid a massive PR mess, the loss of both sales and the trust of your clients, and even potential lawsuits?

The first step would be to identify what type of attack it is and what machine(s) were affected so you can quickly contain the damage done (or being done) as best as possible and protect your assets. Naturally, you should consult with a professional security expert (like us) to make this containment happen as quickly as possible to “stop the bleeding.”

Next, you'll want to notify any and all parties affected as fast as possible. In the LinkedIn attack, they immediately notified the subscribers affected by forcing a password reset. The faster you can react to this, the better your chances are of limiting the damage done. We're not legal experts here but we *would* encourage you to talk to an attorney about the breach and about what you need to do in terms of making a public announcement as quickly as possible—particularly if a security breach exposed your employees, subscribers or clients to a cyber-criminal. In some cases where medical or financial information is involved, you may be required by law to report the incident not only to your clients, but also to authorities.

Of course, you can't saw sawdust, which simply means there's nothing you can do to un-do a security attack. Beefing up security AFTER the fact is good, but a better strategy is to avoid being complacent to the point of being negligent. After all, if a security attack happens and it's due to a simple security measure you could easily have put in place, it looks really bad.

If you're an IMS TCS client, you can rest easy knowing we're monitoring your network against such attacks to limit your risks and prevent you from being low-hanging fruit for hackers. If you're not an IMS TCS client, call us for a FREE Networks Security Audit to see just how secure your network REALLY is, and to find out how you can hire us to take care of this for you.

The Struggling Butterfly



A man found a cocoon of a butterfly. One day a small opening appeared. He sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to squeeze its body through the tiny hole. Then it stopped, as if it couldn't go further.

So the man decided to help the butterfly. He took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bits of cocoon.

The butterfly emerged easily but it had a swollen body and shriveled wings.

The man continued to watch it, expecting that any minute the wings would enlarge and expand enough to support the body. Neither happened!

In fact the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around. It was never able to fly.

What the man in his kindness and haste did not understand: The restricting cocoon and the struggle required by the butterfly to get through the opening was a way of forcing the fluid from the body into the wings so that it would be ready for flight once that was achieved.

Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our lives. Going through life with no obstacles would cripple us. We will not be as strong as we could have been and we would never fly.

3 Ways To Use Questions As A Negotiating Tool

In any kind of negotiation, your ability to ask the right questions—and ask them in the right way—determines the vision created that drives the decision your adversary will make. Who asks the questions determines who's in control of the dialogue, how your adversary feels about you, and what kind of critical vision you can create to land the deal-making advantage. Here are three questioning principles that will serve you well.

#1 - Always create vision with questions by starting questions with an interrogative—who, what, when, where, why, how, and which.

Interrogative-led questions are the key means of discovery. Never ask a question that can be answered with "yes," "no," or "maybe." When this happens, you lose control; advantage goes to your opponent. Here are some examples:

- **Wrong:** Is this the biggest issue we face? **Right:** What is the biggest issue we face?
- **Wrong:** Do you think we should bring Mary into the loop? **Right:** Where does Mary fit into this?
- **Wrong:** Does it fit into your needs? **Right:** How does it fit?

#2 - Take every opportunity to nurture your adversary—with your delivery and your phrasing—as you ask questions.

Nurturing must not be confused with being easy and soft. Rather, it's a human effort at communicating through behavior that brings down barriers. It allows open exchange of information that gives you access to their vision and concerns.

- **Not nurturing:** Adversary: *What will this option do for me?*
You: *Well, what's your biggest challenge at the moment?* (too aggressive)
- **Nurturing:** Adversary: *What will this option do for me?*
You: *That's a good question, Sam. Before we get into that, what is the biggest challenge you face?* (more respectful; puts Sam at ease)

#3 - Answer questions with a question, even if you think you already know the answer.

This is called a "reverse." A reverse assures that you're dealing with the real question *for you*, thereby allowing you to gather more insight and information for your side, giving the other side a chance to provide you with clarification.

- **Reverse:** Adversary: *How Much does it cost?* You: *Well, that depends on a number of different facets of control. What areas require control?*

Jim Camp is the leading global expert on negotiations. Over the last 25 years, he has trained and coached over 100,000 people to negotiate better, more profitable agreements in more than 500 multinational organizations. He is the best-selling author of both, **Start with No®** and **No: the Only System of Negotiation You Need for Work and**

