

# TECHNOLOGY TIMES

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

## Here’s A Perfectly Legal Way For You To Save A Bundle Of Money On Taxes While Updating Outdated Computer Equipment, But You Have To Act FAST...

*How To Ensure The Heat Doesn’t Fry Your Server (And Your Profits!)*

Please forgive me for the headline if it seems a bit “sensational,” but I really needed a way to get your attention about a perfectly legal way to save quite a bit of money on taxes while updating outdated computer equipment that is going to quickly pass you by if you don’t act soon.

Thanks to the **recently updated** tax deduction titled “Section 179 election” (see [www.section179.org](http://www.section179.org) for details), the Federal Government allows you to buy **up to \$25,000** in machinery, computers, software, office furniture, vehicles or other tangible goods and take the full expense deduction in the current year, thereby **REDUCING** your taxable income on your **current year’s tax return**.

It’s important to note that this is significantly less than the 2013 deduction allowances, but is still real money in your pocket! But you have to act now, as once the clock strikes midnight on December 31st, Section 179 can’t help your 2014 profits anymore.

## But Here’s How I’m Going To “Sweeten The Pot” And Help You Save Even MORE Money

In the spirit of saving you money, I’ve decided to “sweeten the pot” and make the following offer to anyone looking to take advantage of this end-of-year deduction. Call us before December 15, 2014, to discuss potential hardware purchases in your business, and not only will we provide you with a full action plan to implement your new technology before December 31st, we will also send you a **FREE** copy of the book *1001 Deductions And Tax Breaks 2014: Your Complete Guide To Everything Deductible* – a smart business owner is always looking for more ways to save money!



“Enabling People to Provide Great Products and Services - Anytime, Anyplace, Anywhere”

- Rick Johnston, Information Management Systems

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Fargo, ND

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## Common Security Issues

It's probably safe to say that the security of your networks and systems is something you are concerned about. In truth, the majority of businesses do have security measures in place. The question you therefore need to ask yourself is if the measures you have implemented are sufficient enough. To help answer that question, here are five common security flaws business owners should be aware of.



### 1. Open wireless networks

Wireless networks are one of the most common ways businesses allow their employees to get online. With one main Internet line and a couple of wireless routers, you can theoretically have the whole office online. This method of connecting does save money, but there is an inherent security risk with this and that is an unsecure network.

### 2. Email is not secure

Admittedly, most companies who have implemented a new email system in the past couple of years will likely be fairly secure. This is especially true if they use cloud-based options, or well-known email systems like Exchange which offer enhanced security and scanning, while using modern email transition methods.

### 3. Mobile devices that aren't secure enough

Mobile devices, like tablets and smartphones, are being used more than ever before in business, and do offer a great way to stay connected and productive while out of the office. The issue with this however is that if you use your tablet or phone to connect to office systems, and don't have security measures in place, you could find networks compromised.

### 4. Anti-virus scanners that aren't maintained

These days, it is essential that you have anti-virus, malware, and spyware scanners installed on all machines and devices in your company and that you take the time to configure these properly. It could be that scans are scheduled during business hours, or they just aren't updated. If you install these solutions onto your systems, and they start to scan during work time, most employees will just turn the scanner off thus leaving systems wide-open.

### 5. Lack of firewalls

A firewall is a networking security tool that can be configured to block certain types of network access and data from leaving the network or being accessed from outside of the network. A properly configured firewall is necessary for network security, and while many cable modems include this, it's often not robust enough for business use.

How do I ensure proper business security?

The absolute best way a business can ensure that their systems and networks are secure is to work with an IT partner like us. Our IMS Total Care Services can help ensure that you have proper security measures in place and the systems are set up and managed properly. Tech peace of mind means the focus can be on creating a successful company instead. Contact us today at 701-364-2718 or [info@imsnetworking.com](mailto:info@imsnetworking.com) to learn more.

This entry was posted in General Articles C, Security News and General and tagged 2014Sep29\_Security\_C, business security, Business security failures, Business security tips, Ensuring business security is working, is my security working? QS\_3, Security. For more information on this article: <http://www.techadvisory.org/2014/10/5-common-security-issues-2/>

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## Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:



### Pebble Steel

Pebble Steel does more than just tell the time — this smart watch displays e-mail, text messages, caller ID and other notifications from your favorite apps, reading them straight from your iPhone or Android phone. Pebble cleverly vibrates on your wrist to alert you of incoming calls, meeting reminders or approved notifications. Leave your phone in your pocket as you go about your day-to-day activities.

The long-lasting battery life and the easy-to-use design makes this watch both stylish and necessary in this day and age, and its e-Paper screen makes it easy to see in both direct sunlight and even underwater.

Pebble Steel is available on Amazon.com for \$149.99. With this gadget, whose battery can go for a week without charging, the integration of technology in your life will be smoother and much more hands-free.

## Star2Star's Complete UC System Receives Excellence Award

Star2Star Communications, makers of the World's Most Scalable Cloud Communications Solution, today announced that the company has received the Internet Telephony Excellence Award for the fourth consecutive year.



The award is presented each year by Internet Telephony Magazine to honor products and services that have made significant contributions in advancing technology in unified communications. This year's award arrives on the heels of Star2Star's fourth consecutive placement on the prestigious Inc. 500|5000 list.

"We're very pleased to receive this award", said Michelle Accardi-Petersen, CMO for Star2Star. "We just completed another year with zero downtime, which underscores the quality and reliability of our system", she continued.

Star2Star's complete, scalable UC solution unifies customers' voice, video, fax, instant messaging and presence management into a single, easy-to-use system.

#### About Star2Star:

Founded in 2006 in Sarasota, Florida, Star2Star Communications delivers the World's Most Complete and Scalable Cloud Communications Solution. Star2Star's award-winning, patent-pending Constellation Network overcomes the reliability and quality limitations of other communications technologies.

In the past four years, Star2Star was named to the Forbes Most Promising Companies list, the Deloitte Technology Fast 500 twice, and the Inc. 500|5000 four times. Star2Star also recently received Inc. Magazine's Hire Power Award honoring the top private business job creators in the country.

IMS has been a Star2Star partner since 2010.

Want to find out what a Star2Star phone system can do for your business? Give us a call today at 701-364-2718 or email [info@imsnetworking.com](mailto:info@imsnetworking.com).



## Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Set To Expire In 2015

Microsoft has announced that as of July 14, 2015, it will discontinue support for its 11-year-old server operation system, Server 2003. This follows in the wake of its recent discontinuation of support for Windows XP this past spring. Failure to upgrade your server off of this operating system dramatically increases any company's cyber-security risks.

With server migrations taking on average 200 days from planning to completion (industry average), if you still have a server running this software active on your network, now is the time to start planning.

End of support for Windows Server 2003 means:

- **No further updates or security patches released.** 37 critical updates were released for Server 2003 in 2013 alone. No updates will be released after 7/14/15.
- **Loss of compliance.** Various industry regulations and industry standards will no longer be able to be achieved if you are using Server 2003 actively on your network.
- **Increased security risks.** Any server running this operating system will be completely exposed to serious hacker attacks aimed at taking control of your network, stealing your data or crashing your systems.

## Free Server 2003 Migration Plan Gets You Started

As your preferred Microsoft Partner, we are committed to helping your company by offering a Windows Server 2003 Migration Plan for FREE.

To secure your FREE Server 2003 Migration Plan, call us today at 701-364-2718.

## Hacked Accounts

How do I know if my email or social network account has been hacked?

- There are posts you never made on your social network page. These posts often encourage your friends to click on a link or download an App.
- A friend, family member or colleague reports getting email from you that you never sent.
- Your information was lost via a data breach, malware infection or lost/stolen device.

If you believe an account has been compromised, take the following steps:

- ✓ Notify all of your contacts that they may receive spam messages that appear to come from your account. Tell your contacts they shouldn't open messages or click on any links from your account and warn them about the potential for malware.
- ✓ If you believe your computer is infected, be sure your security software is up to date and scan your system for malware. You can also use other scanners and removal tools.
- ✓ Change passwords to all accounts that have been compromised and other key accounts ASAP. Remember, passwords should be long and strong and use a mix of upper and lowercase letters, and numbers and symbols. You should have a unique password for each account.

If you cannot access your account because a password has been changed, contact the web service immediately and follow any steps they have for recovering an account.

<http://www.staysafeonline.org/stay-safe-online/keep-a-clean-machine/hacked-accounts>

## The Lighter Side: How Balloons Teach Teamwork



Once, in a seminar of about 50 people, the speaker decided to change his presentation to prove a point. He decided to do a group activity. He gave each person a balloon and asked them to write their names on it with a marker.

All the balloons were gathered up and put into a small room. The attendees were all let into the balloon-filled room and were asked to find the balloon with their own name on it within 5 minutes. As expected, everyone was frantically searching for their name, colliding with each other, pushing around others and creating utter chaos.

At the end of the 5 minutes, no one had found their own balloon.

The presenter then asked the attendees to randomly pick up one balloon and give it to the person whose name was written on it.

Within minutes, everyone had their own balloon.

"This is what is happening in our lives," the presenter explained. "Everyone is looking frantically for their own happiness, not knowing where it is."

Our happiness lies in the happiness of others. Give happiness to other people, and you shall find your own.

This is the purpose of human life.