

# TECHNOLOGY TIMES

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

## XP Calls It A Day. Are You Prepared?

Microsoft Windows is the most popular operating system (OS) used by businesses. Did you know that on April 8, 2014, Microsoft will be pulling support for XP? What this means is that businesses using Windows XP will be left without support – paid and free, and security updates. What this means for your company is a potential increase in IT infrastructure upkeep and an increase in security problems. Are you prepared for this?

April 2014 is rapidly approaching and it would be a good idea to prepare your organization for the end of XP. Here are four questions you can ask yourself in order to help you get your business ready, with our suggestion for the best way to go about upgrading.

### 1. What systems use XP?

This should be the first question you ask yourself. You should take some time and look at all laptops and desktops currently in use, and in storage (if any). Take note of how many of these systems use XP. You should also look at other systems like Point of Sale, alarms, and basically anything with an operating system. If these run XP, take note, because you will need to make replacements.

### 2. Do we need Windows 7 or 8?

No matter what you do, you are going to have to upgrade to a new operating system. There are two viable options – Windows 7 or Windows 8. Despite what Microsoft’s marketing machine will tell you, Windows 8 may not be the best option for your business. This is especially true for businesses still running XP. The reason for this is because if you are still running XP then your systems are likely older, and may not be able to run Windows 8 efficiently.

Another reason to consider Windows 7 is that it is an older OS, but still supported by Microsoft and will continue to be so until at least 2015 for mainstream support and 2020 for extended support.

The final reason to still consider Windows 7 is that it is generally easier to update to from XP, and it also has a larger market share, with over 45% of Windows systems are running Windows 7. However, if you are buying completely new systems, Windows 8 could be more viable.

### 3. Do we need to update hardware and software?

Chances are high that if you use Windows XP, there are a number of important/essential programs that your business relies on. You should

*Continued on Back Page...*



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

- Rick Johnston, Information Management Systems

September 2013

Fargo, ND

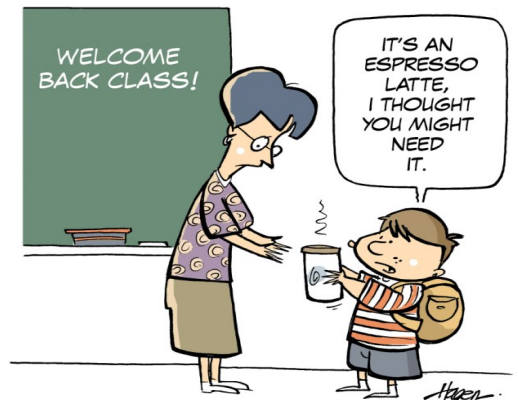
XP Calls It A Day. Are You Prepared?.....Page 1

Could Terrorists Really Use Software To Crash Your Car?.....Page 2

Shiny Gadget Of The Month.....Page 3

Information Management Systems’ New Partnership: Cisco Meraki .....Page 3

The Lighter Side.....Page 4



## Could Terrorists Really Use Software To Crash Your Car?

A recent AOL online article titled “The Scary Truth Of How Terrorists Could Crash Your Car” freaked a lot of people out by implying that terrorists could easily hack into your car’s computer systems and wreck your car (or hundreds of cars at a time) at speeds exceeding 100 mph. While that is a scary thought to consider, the facts are quite a bit less severe than the article suggests. Nothing like some great sensationalist journalism, eh?

What really are the facts? Could you really be hacked driving your car?

- ◆ Cars are more and more dependent on software and electronics to run everything in the car, including GPS, music, brake systems, your power train, throttle and more.
- ◆ A new car is a rolling computer with 80 to 100 microprocessors and 100 million lines of software code.
- ◆ Researchers from the University of Washington and UC San Diego recently were able to successfully hack into an ordinary sedan, lock and unlock the doors, turn the engine on and off and listen to a conversation going on.
- ◆ In another experiment, researchers compromised an auto repair “pass-through device” that helps technicians diagnose problems, which then allowed them to install software on every car that touched that device, potentially allowing them to control a wide range of auto functions on those cars.
- ◆ New studies are being done on how to use wireless connectivity in cars to help avoid accidents, route traffic more effectively and make our travels even safer (over 90% of accidents are due to human error, and smarter cars can potentially fix that).



But the truth of the matter is that, although cars are packed with computers, very few systems can currently be controlled wirelessly from outside the car. In all reality, someone would likely need to install an additional attachment to your car’s computer system to really take it over.

Stay tuned, however, as I’m sure that this is going to be an ongoing discussion for many years to come.

## Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:



### Nest Learning Thermostat

The Nest Learning Thermostat is an electronic, programmable, and self-learning wifi-enabled thermostat that optimizes the heating and cooling of homes and businesses in order to conserve electricity. And if the company's claims are correct, this smart little device can save you 20% off your energy bill each year.

Nest is built around an operating system that allows interaction with the thermostat via its easy-to-use control wheel or through your iPhone, iPad, Android phone or computer. Control your thermostat anywhere with an easy-to-use interface. This smart thermostat can determine whether or not you're around or whether the sun is shining on the thermostat and instantly adjust accordingly—saving your money. There's no need to program your device either as Nest works to figure out your patterns and schedules to fit you.

Since the Nest is connected to the Internet, you can instantly access your device settings or energy history and schedule from any device, anywhere. The company also pushes updates to your thermostat regularly to fix bugs, improve performance and add additional new features.

The Nest thermostat is available online for \$249 at [www.nest.com](http://www.nest.com), or at many stores locally.

## Information Management Systems Announces: New Partnership With Cisco Meraki

Information Management System's is proud to announce a new partnership with Cisco Meraki.

Cisco Meraki is a wireless networking solution with Cloud Networking Architecture. This is an integrated networking platform built for management.

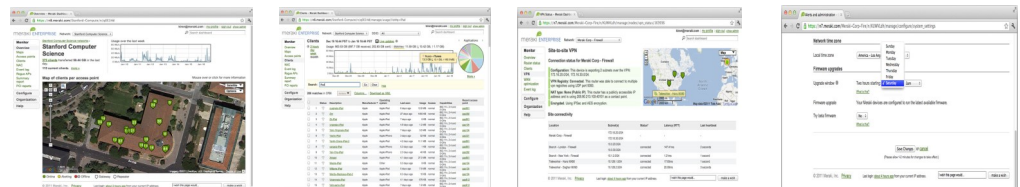
What is cloud networking? Cloud networking provides centralized management, visibility, and control without the cost and complexity of controller appliances or overlay management software.

Cisco Meraki products are built from the ground up for cloud management, and come out of the box with centralized management, layer 7 device and application visibility, real time web-based diagnostics, monitoring, reporting, and much, much more. Cisco Meraki deploys quickly and easily, without training or proprietary command line interfaces.

Meraki's founders invented Cloud Networking while working as graduate students at M.I.T. Cisco Meraki now has a complete line of cloud networking products that power over 20,000 customer networks, including massive global deployments with tens of thousands of devices.

### Key Benefits:

- Rapid deployment with self-provisioning, self-optimizing hardware
- Control applications, users and devices
- Built-in multi-site management
- Automatic monitoring and alerts
- Future proof and always up to date, with seamless over-the-web firmware updates and new features delivered quarterly



Please contact us at 701-364-2718 if you have any questions.

Information provided by: <http://meraki.cisco.com/products>

take stock of these programs and systems and find out if they are supported by and will run on Windows 7.

For hardware, you should check and see that this is compatible with, and meets the [minimum requirements](#) for Windows 7. If hardware doesn't meet the requirements, even if you are choosing to upgrade to Windows 8 (which requires slightly more computing power), you will need to upgrade your systems and hardware.

If you determine that upgrades are needed, you should develop an upgrade plan that will minimize downtime and disruptions, while having all upgrades done before April.

#### 4. What about Microsoft Office?

Microsoft Office 2013 was released last year, and what this means for companies using older versions of Office, like 2007 and 2003, is that support will be soon ending. In other words, it is time to upgrade Office as well. When Microsoft pulls support for Office 2007, you can bet that there will be an increase in the potential of security breaches and maybe even a lack of document support.

If you are running an older version of Office, it will be worth upgrading to at least Word 2010, or even Office 365. Again, you will need to be sure that your systems can support any changes.

#### What is the best way to go about upgrading my systems?

Microsoft ending support for XP may not seem like a big issue, after all, many users should be able to simply install Windows 7 or 8 and be on their way. But, many businesses have other systems, like servers, networks, computers, etc. that they also need to consider. This can quickly turn a seemingly easy update into a never ending and costly nightmare.

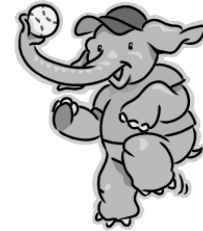
This is why we recommend contacting us as soon as possible. We can be a big help in not only preparing your systems, but also helping you find the system that will best fit into your organization for the future at a budget you can afford.

If you are still running XP, please contact us today at 701-364-2718 or [info@imsnetworking.com](mailto:info@imsnetworking.com) in order to be ready for the cessation of service in less than a year from now.

*By: Editor: Posted in General Articles A, Microsoft Windows—News & Tips—Tagged 2013, July 30, Windows\_A, Death of XP, Microsoft Windows, QS\_3, Upgrade from Windows XP, Windows, Windows XP Stoppage of Service*

### The Lighter Side:

### Truly Random Facts



- ◆ If you have 3 quarters, 4 dimes, and 4 pennies, you have \$1.19. You also have the largest amount of money in coins without being able to make change for a dollar.
- ◆ The numbers '172' can be found on the back of the U.S. \$5 dollar bill in the bushes at the base of the Lincoln Memorial.
- ◆ President Kennedy was the fastest random speaker in the world with upwards of 350 words per minute.
- ◆ In the average lifetime, a person will walk the equivalent of 5 times around the equator.
- ◆ Rhode Island is the smallest state with the longest name. The official name, used on all state documents, is "Rhode Island and Providence Plantations."
- ◆ When you die your hair still grows for a couple of months.
- ◆ Every year about 98% of the atoms in your body are replaced.
- ◆ Elephants are the only mammals that can't jump.
- ◆ The average person makes about 1,140 telephone calls each year.
- ◆ You burn more calories sleeping than you do watching TV.
- ◆ The first product to have a bar code was Wrigley's gum.
- ◆ In ancient Rome, it was considered a sign of leadership to be born with a crooked nose.
- ◆ The word "nerd" was first coined by Dr. Seuss in "If I Ran the Zoo."