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In this Issue:

- BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) and the Post-PC world
- iPad Mini, iPad refresh, iPhone 5
- Windows 8 has no...**START button!**
- **Windows RT is NOT the same as Windows 8**
- New PC / Laptop Recommendations
- Best Practices and FREE stuff

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 BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) and the Post-PC world

BYOD: Bring Your Own Device instead of or in addition to, a company-issued device
Post-PC: Smartphones and Tablets (NOT PCs) are becoming primary sources of info
Server: Repository of information internal to an organization
Cloud: Somewhere on the Internet, as in where email or shared info are stored

Today's technology "era" is called "**Post-PC**" because while PC/laptops are still important for creating information, other devices such as smartphones & tablets are the preferred devices for **VIEWING** (aka "consuming") information -- they've gone FAR beyond Blackberry's email and instant messaging capabilities! Information doesn't have to be on organization-owned servers, it can be stored (and backed up) in the "cloud" -- which just means rented server space somewhere else on the world-wide web of the Internet. Today's BYOD devices come with an assumption of "always online, high-speed data access", and software isn't delivered on CDs and DVDs, rather it is purchased and

delivered from online "app" stores from Amazon, Apple, Google, Microsoft, and others.

Just FIVE years ago, organizations relied on central servers to securely store their information, and employees used company issued desktops and laptops to create and view information, remote desktop access to view information ONLY on an individual's office computer, and perhaps company Blackberries to communicate (voice and email). What a difference five years make!

Any organization's current technology challenge is migrating from "there" to "here" by moving applications and data into "the cloud", embracing their user's desire to use their own devices (can I **EDIT** my company email and documents/spreadsheets on my new iPhone 5 or Samsung Galaxy S3?), while at the same time SECURING confidential information from outside eyes (easy information access and data security and confidentiality have always been at opposite ends of the spectrum!).

With today's emphasis on smaller-screen smartphones and tablets, make sure YOUR website is "mobile friendly". Contact Leslie Turner (head of Professional Nerds Web Services): leslie@professionalnerds.com or call him directly at 630-901-7265.

 iPad Mini, iPad refresh, iPhone 5

Recently Apple introduced the iPhone5 with a larger 4" 'Retina' display screen, a faster processor, new iOS v6 capabilities, a new, smaller "Lightning" power & video connector, 4G/LTE data speeds, 8M-pixel auto-focus camera/scanner, and lots of other goodies. This is a very good $200 upgrade for users of Android phones (v2.3 or earlier) or iPhone4 (or previous). Earlier this year, the "new iPad" (aka iPad 3) was also released ; Apple is "refreshing" it to also have the smaller "Lightning" power/video connector and keeping it's 9.7" 'Retina' display, along with its $500 entry price point. Apple has also been selling the (non-Retina) 9.7" iPad2 starting at a lower $400 price.

But what's REALLY new is Apple's introduction this week of the iPad Mini, a smaller 7.85" tablet with a starting price point of $329 (just in time for the Holiday shopping season)! Along with iPhone5 and the 'refreshed' iPadm, iPad Mini shares the smaller "Lightning" power/video connector, iOS v6 functionality, AND a huge library of tablet size apps (not just up-scaled smartphone apps). If you have an iPhone, you're already familiar with how to configure and operate an iPad / iPad Mini (and vice versa).

Oh, and if you haven't heard of AirPrint, that's Apple's printer specification which has been around for 2 years, and is now built into most major printers. With it, your iPhone/iPad/Mini can print anything (email, email attachments, and even photos) wirelessly to your printer. With an AirPrint printer's dual-paper trays (8.5x11" regular, simultaneous with 4x6" photo paper), "iPhoneography" (taking a photo with your iPhone) becomes the 21st Century version of Polaroid's Instant Photography. Snap the photo with your i-Device, wirelessly send it to your AirPrint-enabled printer, and your photo prints out in less than 60 seconds!

There's loads of additional information and specifics about these; check Google News or your favorite online news source. Or just call or REPLY to Professional Nerds; we believe the only "dumb" question is the one you DON'T ask!

 Windows 8 has no... **...START button!**

This week Microsoft is releasing Windows 8, which is designed to be a unifying platform across Windows 8 smartphones, Windows 8 tablets, and Windows 8 PCs and Laptops. When you make an omlette, you have to break some eggs. In this case, the "egg" which got broken was via the removal of the familiar Windows START button (XP) or globe (Vista/W7). While Windows 8 is capable of running without it, IMHO users face an unnecessary learning curve in coping with this omission. To help you out, Stardock Systems has created a $5 app called "Start8" which adds a reassuringly familiar Start button back to your desktop. If you're operating in a mixed environment of Windows XP, Vista, and Windows 7, adding Start8 to a new Windows 8 PC or laptop just makes sense. Click this Start8 link for more information.

Microsft is also releasing a new tablet called "Surface", with the same $500 initial price point as Apple's iPad. There will be two versions of this, one with Windows 8 Professional, and the other with Windows RT. On the Surface (get it?), both appear identical, and the Windows RT version even comes with FREE Microsoft Office 2013 (you have to pay for it on Windows 8 Professional, just as today with Windows 7). Sounds like a great deal....BUT !   Just as an iPad doesn't run Mac OS X applications (only iOS apps), Windows RT only runs new Windows apps, and isn't compatible with older Windows "Win32" programs. While the offer of free Office 2013 sounds appealing, if you have other Windows programs, you'll need to get "app" versions of these. Makes Windows 8 Pro on "Surface" sound like a better deal, doesn't it? Beware of store sales personnel!

 New PC / Laptop Recommendations

If you're shopping for a new PC or laptop, here are Professional Nerds' suggestions of features to look for:

a) Processor: Get an Intel **Core i5** or i7, 2.5GHz or better

Skip Intel's Core i3 (slow and cheap), and AMD processors unless you know EXACTLY what you're getting

b) Windows 7 **64-bit** (Home or Pro) with Service Pack 1.

   - DON'T get 32-bit versions -- they'll limit future growth

   - Do take advantage of Microsoft's offer of a $15 upgrade from Windows 7 to Windows 8

c) Windows 8 (also see section above):

   - DON'T upgrade to Windows 8 until it gets its first Service Pack bug fixes!

   - Approach VERY carefully, because there are TWO versions of Windows 8 !

   - **Windows 8 RT will NOT run standard Windows programs** (aka "applications"), rather only "apps" designed for smartphones and tablets designed for Windows 8. And yes, these are DIFFERENT than apps designed for Android or iPhone/iPad !

   - Windows 8 for PC no longer has a START button; it's an entirely new interface.

   - Stardock offers a $5 "**Start8**" program which adds the Start button back in

d) The cheapest PCs these days will have 4GB memory, 500GB disk, and laptops will have built-in WiFi wireless. Better ones which will last longer (technologically) will have extra capacity consisting of **6-12GB memory** and 1-2TB (1,000-2,00GB) disk space.   It helps if you know what you already have (current disk capacity, current free space) to determine future needs.

e) Your new PC/laptop should have built-in **USB 3.0** ports - NECESSARY as disk capacities become ever larger. These have 10x the transfer speed of USB 2.0. Compared to an older USB 2.0 PC/laptop with 250GB of data, a USB 3.0 system can transfer 2,500GB (2.5TB) in the same amount of time.

f) If you don't already have one, DO get a backup disk drive. Professional Nerds recommends the Western Digital Portable USB 3.0 My Passport, which comes with backup software. It can be ordered online from Amazon.

g) Save money by **DOWNLOADING software** from sources such as Amazon.com; your online Amazon account will even keep track of your license keys.

h) Avoid seller upsell. By that, I mean things such as installation services (let Professional Nerds handle that!), extended warranty, and security software. Remember, AT&T and Comcast high speed internet users already get free McAfee or Norton Internet Security as part of your high speed internet subscription.

Best Practices

McAfee Internet Security FREE for AT&T DSL/U-Verse subscribers

   Windows only, 4-10 licenses, 3.0Mbps or higher service

Norton Internet Security FREE for Comcast high-speed internet

   Windows or Mac, 7 licenses

FREE Sophos AntiVirus for Mac

   Home Edition

Free AntiVirus for **ANDROID** smartphones and tablets

   Lookout Mobile Security

Backup for EVERYONE - 500GB portable USB drive $75

   no power cord required, auto backup software included

STRONG passwords for EVERYONE

At least 8 characters and numbers, both upper/lower case

[Mail Chimp Newsletter service](#)

FREE for lists of up to 1,000 names!

[LogMeIn Remote Access](#)

FREE remote control for office/home PCs

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Purchasing new technology?

Professional Nerds has a complete set of product recommendations (PC, laptop, wireless, printers, etc); [click here to download the PDF](#).

As always, if you have any questions, just ask Professional Nerds! 1-877-486-3737.   Not just Windows, but experienced with Websites (standard and small screen mobile), Macs, iPhone, iPad, Android, QR Codes, DropBox, iCloud, etc., and integrating your technology devices to work together and share their information!

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