

## What's New?

**REFER A FRIEND**  
AND BE REWARDED

= **Referral Rewards**

We've decided to hold a special "refer a friend" event during the month of May. Refer us to the CEO/Owner of a small to mid-size business in Central Texas with 10 or more computers who could use some assistance with their technology needs.

They'll receive a FREE computer network assessment (a \$497 value).

Once we've completed our initial appointment with your referral, we'll give you \$100 Amazon gift card and you'll be entered to win this YETI cooler filled with beverages of your choice!



You can send us your referral in one of three ways:

1. Online at <http://bit.ly/CTTS-Referral>
2. Call (512) 388-5559
3. Email [Josh.Wilmoth@CTTSonline.com](mailto:Josh.Wilmoth@CTTSonline.com)

We'll be drawing a winner for the YETI Monday, May 20th, so don't delay! Get your YETI cooler just in time for Memorial Day weekend!



This monthly publication provided courtesy of CTTS, Inc.



## Are YOU Prepared For The End Of Windows 7?

On January 14, 2020, the world will bid a fond farewell to the beloved Windows 7 operating system. Well, sort of. Microsoft has declared that, after that date, it will no longer update or support the system. It's the final nail in the coffin for a trustworthy, oft-touted software package that's been running on fumes since newer versions hit the scene. And, as with any funeral, there are some arrangements to be made for the millions of businesses that have stuck it out to the end. Here's everything you need to know about the coming changes – and what you should do now to prepare.

### The End Of An Era

The news of Microsoft closing down Windows 7 support may come as a surprise to some of us, but the operating system has been on its last legs for a while. In fact, Microsoft stopped adding new features and honoring warranties for the platform back in 2015. When 2020

comes, it will cease releasing patches and updates for good.

This doesn't mean that Windows 7 PCs will suddenly stop working in January; you'll still be able to boot up in the operating system if you keep it installed. But if you value your privacy, your data and your sanity, it's time to upgrade.

Those Microsoft updates that pop up from time to time don't exist just to annoy you; they patch security vulnerabilities and protect you against new viruses and malware. Without that ongoing support, Windows 7 users will become fish in a barrel to sophisticated cybercriminals looking for a quick buck.

That's why it's essential that you call in the professionals to prepare your business for the switch to Windows 10 – or an alternative operating system – now, not later.

### It's A Requirement, Not A Choice

Upgrading your operating system well in advance of the Windows 7 end-of-life date may seem like a decision you should make for your peace of mind, but it's even more critical than that. Of course, as time leaves Windows 7 behind, it's certain that pieces of software will steadily become incompatible with the OS. Programs your company uses day-to-day suddenly becoming unusable will present serious headaches, but the real problem lies in the security of your network.

Windows developers are in a constant arms race with cybercriminals looking to exploit vulnerabilities in their platform. Each patch brings a host of bug fixes and security upgrades, but cybercriminals almost always find a new way in. Thus, the developers hastily put together a new patch, and the cycle continues.

**“Like maggots drawn to rotting meat, they flock to the abandoned platform and dig into the networks of those stubbornly clinging to the outdated OS.”**

When an operating system loses support from these developers, its users are left completely vulnerable to hackers. Like maggots drawn to rotting meat, they flock to the abandoned platform and dig into the networks of those stubbornly clinging to the outdated OS. This process is

expected to be especially nasty after Windows 7's end of life, since so many businesses still use the OS and likely will forget (or refuse) to upgrade.

If you value your business at all, it's not a choice. You need to upgrade before time runs out.

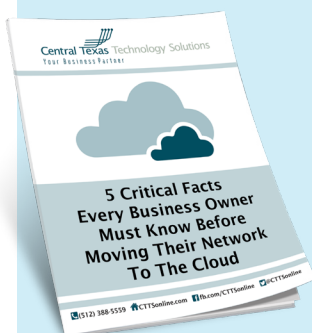


### Avoid The Crunch

Not only should you enlist your IT experts to facilitate the upgrade, but you should do it ASAP. As the clock ticks down on Windows 7, tech companies are expecting a flood of upgrade requests as businesses scramble to leave the OS behind before it's too late. Many of these IT providers will have a lot on their plate later in the year as they hurry to upgrade hundreds, if not thousands, of individual PCs. If you wait it out, you're likely to find yourself at the back of a long, long line, potentially to the point that you breeze past January 14 without a solution. If you do, you're almost certain to regret it.

Every day, the need for an upgrade becomes more urgent. Give the task the ample time required, and avoid needless stress. Reach out to your IT provider and ask them to start the upgrade process today.

## 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, nontechnical terms the pros and cons of cloud computing, data security, how to choose a cloud provider and 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.

Download your **FREE** copy today at [www.CTTOnline.com/CloudReport](http://www.CTTOnline.com/CloudReport) or call our office at **(512) 388-5559**.

## Should You Allow



The rapid proliferation of mobile devices entering the workplace appears to be like divine intervention to many business owners.

Mobile devices and their apps have transformed the way we live – how we communicate, travel, shop, work and so much more. This mobility transformation has been so radical, so revolutionary, that it is hard to imagine life without these devices.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) was born and employees followed with fervor. There's no sense pretending it's not happening or saying, "We don't let our employees do that." The truth is, they're doing it already and will likely continue to burrow non-compliant devices into your network with or without your permission.

A majority of enterprise employees are permitted to use their own smartphones and tablets for work purposes. This raises the inevitable question: how will you support workforce desire to use personal apps and devices while allowing them to be productive in a safe environment that protects corporate data?

Contact us today to discuss what options are available for your business: (512) 388-5559

## Expect, Inspect, Correct



It's no coincidence that we have so many ways to say we made a mistake: botched, flubbed, mishandled, misjudged, mucked, messed, screwed or goofed up – just to name a few.

As a leader, you'll hear each of these (some more than others, and likely some more explicit than the ones I've named here) pretty often. When you do, it's important to first try to remember that whoever made the mistake probably didn't mean to.

### Put yourself in their shoes.

Ask yourself if you have ever made a mistake. A bad decision? Have you ever said something you regret? Ever disappointed your boss? Jumped to the wrong conclusion? Done something foolish or outright stupid? Everyone has.



Sometimes a simple reminder of our past failings enables us to be a little more tolerant of others' missteps.

### Mistakes don't have to be the end of the world.

Mistakes are inevitable and are often essential to learning and progress. They should guide you, not define you, on you and your employees' journey to success.

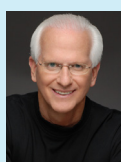
Mistakes show effort, and if you learn from them, they can be some of the best tools for growth.

I've heard it said before that the only people who don't make mistakes are those who do nothing at all.

To me, the most interesting part about errors is the gradual evolution in how they're classified. First, they start as mistakes. Then they turn into lessons, followed by experiences and finally as gifts that help us succeed.

Therefore, the only real mistake is the one from which we learn nothing.

Keep that in mind as you're dealing with your employees or considering your own shortcomings. It's one thing to recognize that mistakes are learning opportunities – it's another to actually implement that concept in your organization.



*Robert Stevenson is one of the most widely recognized professional speakers in the world. Author of the books *How To Soar Like An Eagle In A World Full Of Turkeys* and *52 Essential Habits For Success*, he's shared the podium with esteemed figures from across the country, including former President George H.W. Bush, former Secretary of State Colin Powell, Anthony Robbins, Tom Peters and Steven Covey. Today, he travels the world, sharing powerful ideas for achieving excellence, both personally and professionally.*

**Read These Top Tips To Avoid Getting Hacked!**

Everyone knows how damaging data breaches can be to a business, but few actually realize that 81% of these hacks are not the result of elaborate scams carried out by sophisticated hackers.

**They happen because of poor passwords.**

Do what you can to prevent your business from being targeted:

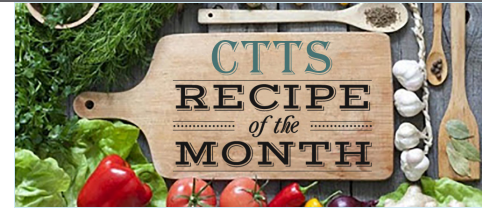
- Demand that your employees create strong passwords: between 8 and 10 characters in length, with letters, numbers and symbols scattered throughout.
- Instruct them to avoid real dictionary words and to steer clear of the boneheadedly obvious ones like “12345” or “password.”



- You can test the strength of your password online at Microsoft’s Security and Safety Center.
- If you can, enabling two-factor authentication can go a long way toward your overall security.

Even if you use a secure password yourself, you’d likely be amazed (and terrified) to discover how many members of your team do not.

In 2019, a strong password is essential. Make sure every one of your employees takes care to create a secure one.



**Extra RAM: Peach Mango Smoothie**

This fruity fresh drink is energizing, immune-boosting and loaded with nutrients! Be on the lookout for a post about this month’s

recipe on our social media channels!

**Time:** 5 minutes

**Serves:** 2

**Ingredients:**

- 1 cup peaches
- 1 cup mangoes
- 1 ripe banana
- 1 handful spinach
- 1/2 cup lemon or orange juice
- 1/2 tsp powdered turmeric
- 1/4 tsp grated ginger

Combine all of the ingredients in a blender and purée until completely smooth. Pour into a tall glass and enjoy cold.



This recipe is brought to you by:  
**Kara Matthews**

**Did you miss it? Check Out This Month’s Top Tech Tip:**



**Tech Tip #118: The Sweet Truth About Cookies**

What are computer cookies? Many have heard about “cookies” and know they have something to do with our Internet browsers, but what is the real deal?

Find out more in this month’s top Tech Tip Tuesday article!



**By Jamie Myers**

**Read it Here: <http://bit.ly/Tech-Tip-118>**