

April 2009

Dates to Remember:

1st - April Fool's Day
5th - Palm Sunday
10th - Good Friday
12th - Easter
15th - Taxes due
22nd - Earth Day
24th - Arbor Day

In History:

1775 - Paul Revere made his legendary midnight ride to warn that the British were coming
1789 - Captain Bligh and 18 crewmen were set adrift during the Mutiny on the Bounty
1812 - Louisiana, having initially been owned by France, was admitted into the Union
1861 - American Civil War began
1909 - Robert Peary is the first man to journey to the North Pole
1961 - Yuri Gagarin of the USSR was the first man to orbit the Earth in space
1968 - Martin Luther King was assassinated

Little Bits:

A byte, in computer terms, means 8 bits. A nibble is half that: 4 bits. (Two nibbles make a byte!)

A keyboard has its creator's last name on it, in a straight line. His name was Mr. Qwerty. His creation is the format of most keyboards in existence today around the world.

In 1981 *Bill Gates* made the bold statement " 640kb of memory ought to be enough for anybody"

The average human body contains enough: iron to make a 3 inch nail, sulfur to kill all fleas on an average dog, carbon to make 900 pencils, potassium to fire a toy cannon, fat to make 7 bars of soap, phosphorous to make 2,200 match heads, and water to fill a ten-gallon tank.

The width of a bolt of lightning is only about six inches, on average.

Contact Info:

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Laptop Security

Most businesses today utilize at least one laptop or tablet computer in their technology arsenal. A few added precautions applied to these devices can help meet the challenge of protecting your business.

Hard drive encryption:

Data breaches cost companies an average of \$300,000 in losses a year according to the Computer Security Institute. If you have employees accessing your network remotely, in addition to utilizing a Virtual Private Network (VPN) and a strong password, hard drive encryption can be a powerful tool to put in place on the laptop hard drive.

Laptop tracking:

According to the FBI, laptop theft has jumped 48% in the past two years, and 12,000 laptops are lost or stolen in airports each week. It is now possible to track laptops with software

and even remotely wipe its hard drive. Absolute Software offers Computrace for about \$100 for a 3-year subscription per device.

Password key fob:

A secondary password, created by a security token, can be another means to lock out unauthorized users. Both your users regular password as well as a second password, as required by a key fob, will be required to log on.

Employee awareness:

Also, be sure to train employees to recognize and not open suspicious files or fall prey to "social engineering" hackers, who pose as IT personnel, generally over the phone, to gain network access. Make sure your employees know to speak only to Blue Oak Technology Solutions personnel.

When you need us:

Please don't get me wrong, Scott loves to hear from each and every one of our clients! It's just that sometimes — make that *most* times — he is working on a client account. And just like when he works on your equipment, he wants to give it all of his attention. This means you'll probably get voicemail anyway, and then he'll call me to contact you to schedule it! So, you know how you learned that the shortest distance between two points is a straight line? The same applies here: the quickest way to service, either by phone or on site visit, is a call to Traci — the keeper of the schedule! And, besides, I love to hear from all of you too!

To Vista or not to Vista....The series Part One—Security

(We are asked frequently about the benefits of upgrading to Vista, and what impact it might have on a business. In this multi-part series, we will attempt to answer many of those questions.)

Security was and is the number one driver of Windows Vista development. The reduction in security updates and vulnerabilities translates directly to decreased management costs for customers and less time spent on applying updates and cleaning up malware infections.

Security challenges constantly evolve and data show that Windows Vista is better-equipped to handle today's security challenges than Windows XP. Information collected by the Microsoft Malicious Software Removal Tool illustrate that the infection rate for Windows Vista-based computers is 60.5 percent less than that of computers running Windows XP.

To help protect the contents of a hard drive, even if it falls into the wrong hands, some versions of Windows Vista include BitLocker™ Drive Encryption. Organizations can also block USB data storage devices to prevent users from taking sensitive data, while still allowing something like a mouse to be plugged in and used.

Users with administrator accounts can place PCs and networks at risk by installing unauthorized software or making other improper changes to their systems. Additionally, computers running with administrator privileges are more vulnerable to viruses and other attacks. User Account Control (UAC) in Windows Vista enables IT staff to issue Standard User accounts instead. Running as

Standard User has been demonstrated to reduce the impact of vulnerabilities.

Connecting to an unprotected wireless network is a significant security risk—too great for most organizations to tolerate. Anyone in the area can capture and view vulnerable network traffic, which might include user names and passwords, e-mail messages, instant messages, and Web sites. Windows Vista will allow users to take advantage of wireless hot spots that are available but unprotected; however, the Windows Vista user interface (UI) alerts users to the risks associated with unprotected networks, so that they can make more informed decisions about which applications to use while connected.

Additionally, the Windows Vista operating system will never automatically connect to an unprotected or ad hoc network, reducing the risk of inadvertently connecting to a malicious wireless access point. An IT administrator can also block the user from connecting to any unprotected network through Group Policy, if preferred.

Windows Search, a feature of Windows Vista that facilitates fast, efficient access to information, also protects corporate data from accidental disclosure. Search results are trimmed based on user access permissions to ensure users only see search results for content they are allowed to access.

Lastly, the capabilities of Windows Vista can help organizations comply with ever-growing regulatory requirements. The User Account Control feature of Windows Vista makes it easier to standardize desktops and enforce compliance with regulations.

On the Lyte Side:

