4 Must-Have, Low-Risk Cloud Solutions

What's New

neoRhino IT Solutions is launching our YouTube Channel soon!

We're thrilled to provide you with a variety of shows such as bunking Technology Myths, product reviews from our staff, various training videos, client testimonials and much more.

Also, click any of the links below to follow us on social media, where we provide daily updates of what's new in tech & security as well as what's going on in our world. Be sure to subscribe to our YouTube channel to see our videos once they are uploaded by clicking the logo below as well. Thank you & enjoy!

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This monthly publication provided courtesy of David Pense, Network Engineer of neoRhino IT Solutions.

"As a business owner, you don't have time to waste on technical and operational issues. That's where we shine! Call us and put an end to your IT problems finally and forever!"

Your business has more competition than ever. They can eat you alive if you fall behind in today's technology "arms race."

Maybe your network needs greater security. Perhaps you haven't yet taken advantage of new cloud-based apps that help your team get more done in less time.

Today, if you don't know what's out there, it's just that much easier for competitors to pull ahead because the action is in the cloud.

To help you stay on top, here's a quick survey of four ways to put the cloud in your corner, along with examples of each.

Network Security

As devices on your network become more diverse and mobile, monitoring them in real time is absolutely critical to averting cyber-attacks. A good network-security tool probes for weak points and alerts you to potential threats. It can employ both hardware and software technologies. Today's environment demands a bevy of checkpoints, from access control to WiFi-intrusion monitoring.

But how do you protect against threats that evade your monitoring efforts? Due to the recent spread of "fileless" malware, no antivirus program is 100% "bullet-proof."

However, when evaluating basic software protection per user, look for features such as e-mail security, data loss prevention, network segmentation and behavioral analytics.

Ideally, it needs to scan quickly, take up little space on your devices and may even be able to recover files encrypted by ransomware.

Collaboration

With the wide array of cloud collaboration tools and apps available today, the trick is finding the best one – or the best combination – for your company. The built-in collaboration features within Microsoft Office 365's legacy production apps such as *Word, Excel & PowerPoint,* storage sharing through *OneDrive* as well as its dedicated *Microsoft Teams* app can improve efficiency in collaborative environments. They can make project and task management, team communications and collaboration, brainstorming, document processing and storage much easier to maintain. With cloud collaboration, you're no longer restricted to bringing aboard talent from your local area alone.

Contracts & Accounting

Contracts and proposals that get bogged down in logistics can hurt monthly revenues. Is your sales team still asking customers to sign and fax back important documents? If so, they're losing precious minutes every day. Then there's the cost of storing and managing physical files.

It all adds up. It's no wonder so many companies now use electronic signature apps, such as *DocuSign*, *Adobe Sign* and *Signnow*. They'll let you manage the signing of important documents entirely online, in addition to encrypting and storing files for you. Some are even court-approved and create a full audit trail.

Is Your Office Cloud-Ready?

For small business accounting, industry veteran *QuickBooks*, now with an online version, and upstart *Xero* can help you keep the books with relative ease. They both offer a clean, intuitive UI and affordable pricing with a comprehensive set of features. Of course, being cloud-based, they can be accessed from a variety of locations, adding flexibility to your workforce.

Business Planning

Does your company need to prove its mettle to investors? *Tarkenton GoSmallBiz* is specifically built for small businesses. You get highly customizable and detailed data fields to help simplify your planning process. Then it lets you create financial statements and projections without external spreadsheets.

Our Cloud Utilization Audit Can Reveal Costly Gaps In Your Company's Cloud Technology

If you'd like to know how well your company is (or isn't) taking advantage of today's cloud, we'd recommend a Cloud Utilization Audit. This customized report could be worth thousands to you in both cost savings and increased efficiency for your business. We've helped dozens of companies set up and run cost-effective, powerful and secure cloud networks. For your Cloud Utilization Audit, contact us at **(281) 779-4850** or send us an email at **info@neorhino.com** TODAY.

Windows Tip of the Month by Ed Bott

Open a File with an Alternative Program

File associations make possible one of the most convenient features in Windows. When you double-click a file with the extension .txt, it opens in Notepad; files with the .html extension open in your default Web browser; and files that end in .jpeg open in your default image editing program. Most of the time, that behavior is exactly what you want. But occasionally you need to open a file using a program other than the one with which it's associated.

To use an app that's different from the default association, select the file in an Explorer window (or Ctrl-click to select multiple files), right-click, and then click **Open With**. The resulting list shows installed programs that are registered as being capable of opening the type of file you've selected. If you don't see the program you want to use, click **Choose Another App** (Windows 10) or **Choose Default Program** (Windows 7) to see an expanded list. You might have to browse for the executable file of the program you want to use.

Just be certain that you *don't* select the **Always Use This App...** option, unless you intend to permanently change the default association for that file type.

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Free Report: What Every Small Business Owner Must Know About Protecting And Preserving Their Company's Critical Data And Computer Systems

This report will outline in plain, non-technical English common mistakes that many small business owners make with their computer network that cost them thousands in lost sales, productivity and computer repair bills, as well as providing an easy, proven way to reduce or completely eliminate the financial expense and frustration caused by these oversights.

Recieve your FREE report today by sending us an e-mail at in-fo@neorhino.com or call our office at (281) 779-4850.

Direct From the IRS:
W-2 Phishing Scam Alert!

The IRS has issued a nationwide alert on a dangerous e-mail scheme - a phishing scam that is spreading to many industries, school districts, non-profit institutions and tribal organizations. Please read (and share) the details of the IRS alert below.

"The Internal Revenue Service, state tax agencies and the tax industry issued an urgent alert today to all employers that the Form W-2 email phishing scam has evolved beyond the corporate world and is spreading to other sectors, including school districts, tribal organizations and nonprofits."

"This is one of the most dangerous email phishing scams we've seen in a long time. It can result in the large-scale theft of sensitive data that criminals can use to commit various crimes, including filing fraudulent tax returns. We need everyone's help to turn the tide against this scheme," said IRS Commissioner John Koskinen.

When employers report W-2 thefts immediately to the IRS, the agency can take steps to help protect employees from tax-related identity theft. The IRS, state tax agencies and the tax industry, working together as the Security Summit, have enacted numerous safeguards in 2016 and 2017 to identify fraudulent returns filed through scams like this. As the Summit partners make progress, cybercriminals need more data to mimic real tax returns.

So How Does it Work? Cybercriminals use various spoofing techniques to disguise an email to make it appear as if it is from an organization executive. The email is sent to an employee in the payroll or human resources departments, requesting a list of all employees and their Forms W-2."
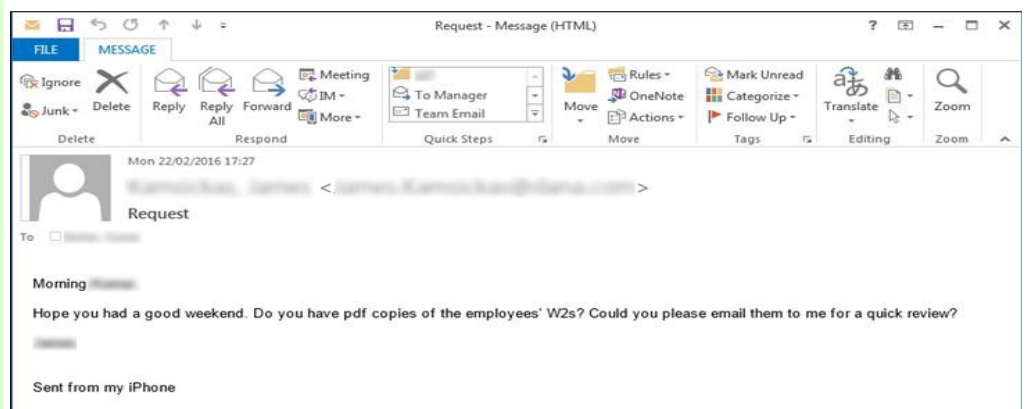
"Other Prevalent IRS Impersonation Scams Include:
- Requesting fake tax payments
- Targeting students and parents by demanding payment for a fake "Federal Student Tax"
- Sending fraudulent bills for 2015 related to the Affordable Care Act
- Soliciting W-2 information from payroll and HR professionals
- Imitating software providers to trick tax professionals
- "Verifying" tax return information over the phone
- Pretending to be from the tax preparation industry."

Take a good look at the sample W-2 phishing email attempt below this article.

The IRS will **NEVER** demand payment or threaten to seek legal action through requesting credit card information by phone or email. Do not give out any information. Hang up immediately. If you receive an unsolicited email that appears to be from either the IRS or an organization closely linked to the IRS, report it by sending it to phishing@irs.gov.

For more information, visit the IRS site here: https://goo.gl/7sH9xN . Stay safe!

Ever been at a loss for the right word or phrase? If you want a quick way to look up that pesky missing word, check out Writefull (writefullapp.com). Just type in the phrase surrounding the word you're looking for. Writefull instantly offers suggestions from a vast database of commonly used phrasing. Not only that, if you've ever wondered how to use a word or phrase in context, Writefull can help. For instance, it can show you examples of where the phrase "less people" vs. "fewer people" is more commonly used. What makes Writefull different from similar apps is that it goes beyond basic grammar to actually improving your writing. It's available for Windows, Mac or Linux devices or as an extension to Google Chrome. *LifeHacker.com, 01.23.17*
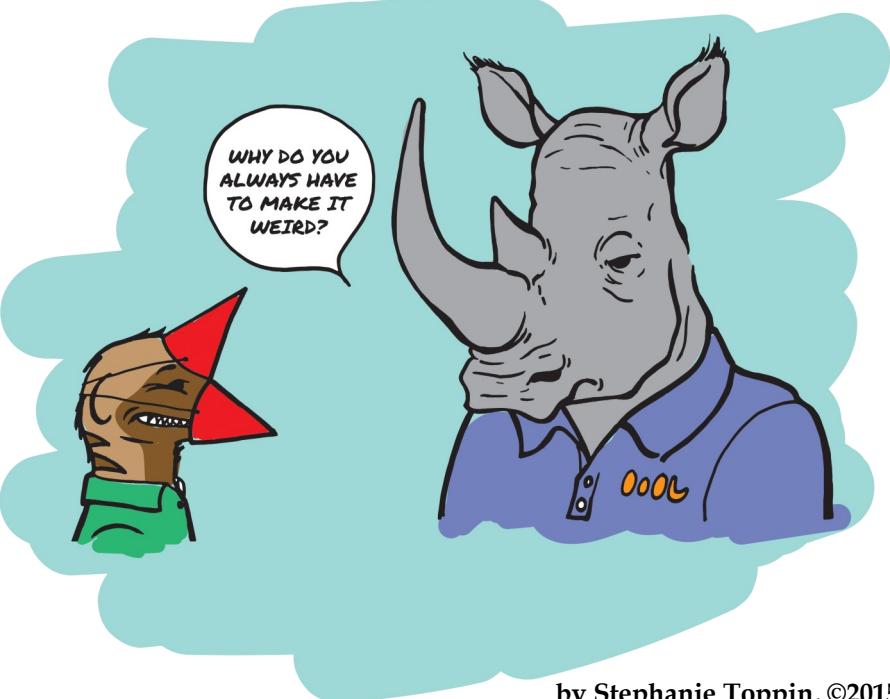
Bragi's Headphone earbuds stand out for sound, comfort and price. Apple has "cut the cord" by pulling headphone jacks from its iPhones. And, unfortunately, their EarPods just don't cut it for quality if you crave sweet sounds. Other Bluetooth earbuds offer high-fidelity sound – at a high price… Enter Bragi's Headphone. For just $150 you get earbuds that "scratch the sonic itch in all the right places." They're lightweight and fit in the ear comfortably. And in testing, they kept a consistent connection with paired devices. What really sets them apart, though, is the six-hour battery life, almost unheard of in earbuds. So what's not to like? Well, unlike Apple's EarPods, the Headphone's storage case doesn't charge them without plugging in. You'll need a USB connection for that. *DigitalTrends, 01.30.17*

Imagine a giant vacuum cleaner for smog… A 23-foot-tall tower, built in Beijing last year, sucks in smog, filters out dangerous particles and purifies surrounding air at the rate of 1 million cubic feet per hour. Carbon particles filtered from the smog are then compressed and turned into jewelry. Air around the tower is now reported to be 55% cleaner. Dutch artist Daan Roosegaarde, famous for design and architecture solutions to worldwide waste and pollution problems, came up with the idea after seeing kids in Beijing playing indoors due to the area's notorious smog. The tower's low-energy ionization technology is borrowed from indoor air filters. A similar tower in Rotterdam, Netherlands, runs on no more electricity than a water boiler. *Mashable.com, 01.23.17*

A new type of app installs instantly, with zero effort on your part. Google is working on a new breed of app. They're calling them "Instant Apps," and you may start seeing them soon. The idea is for the app to kick in as part of the UI on a web page. Let's say you're shopping for a camera bag… You google it on your Android phone and find one you like. Tap the "Buy" button and it's in your cart. Android Pay already has your info, so you don't need to go through the ordeal of pulling out your card, typing everything in and hoping you didn't get even one digit wrong… Just hit "Add to Cart" and your bag is on its way. *TechCrunch.com, 01.23.17*

WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO MAKE IT WEIRD?

Thank you for reading! See you next month!

neoRhino
IT SOLUTIONS

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