



**Dimensional
Dispatch**
7th Dimension
Newsletter

January 2018

"INSIDER TIPS TO MAKE YOUR BUSINESS RUN FASTER, EASIER AND MORE PROFITABLY"

IN THIS ISSUE

2017: A Year in Review

From new and old tech to cyber-attacks, here are a few tidbits from 2017.

Tech That Died in 2017

Microsoft pulled the brakes on the Kinect and the Windows 10 Mobile. **Apple** discontinued the iPod Nano and the iPod Shuffle. One of the most iconic farewells of 2017 was when **AOL** announced the end to AOL Instant Messenger. (Cnet.com 12.27.2017)

The Top 5 Gadgets of 2017

According to TIME

5. **Samsung Galaxy S8** -The Galaxy S8's exquisitely curved display certainly made it the among most attractive phones of the year. Not to mention its eye-popping OLED display, which for a long time was the best you could ask for on a phone.
4. **DJI Spark** - DJI's palm-sized drone is a big step in the direction of making drones easier and more convenient for the average person. The Spark's standout feature is that it doesn't require a remote control for navigation.
3. **Microsoft Surface Laptop** - Between its light and elegant design, sharp screen, and long-lasting battery, the Surface Laptop is solid choice for anyone seeking a new Windows computer.

2. **Apple iPhone X** - The iPhone X's edge-to-edge screen and facial recognition system will undoubtedly set a new standard for phones to come. That, combined with a sharp camera, long battery life, and large screen packed into a more palatable size, make Apple's iPhone X a top pick.

1. **Nintendo Switch** - That "play anywhere, anytime" approach, combined with a stellar games roster, makes the Switch a true knockout. (Time.com 11.20.2017)

Biggest Cyber-Attacks of 2017

The cyberattacks highlighted the alarming vulnerability of our personal information. Coming to light in 2017 was the announcement that all of **Yahoo's 3 billion accounts** had been hacked. In April, the Shadow Brokers leaked hacking tools believed to be belonging to the **NSA**. The **WannaCry** ransomware hit **150 countries** with more than **300,000 machines**. In June, **200 million voter records** were discovered exposed online. In July, **Equifax** was breached exposing the personal information of more than **145 million people**. (Cnn.com 12.20.2017)



3 "Must-Do" IT Resolutions for 2018

With ever-increasing cyber-attacks, this quick to-do will get you geared up for 2018.

Page 2



8 Tips for Creating the Most Secure Password

Use these tips to create a secure password.

Page 3

3 “Must-Do” IT Resolutions for 2018

If you have illusions that your company is safe from cyber-attack in 2018, consider findings in a recent report by the Herjavec Group, a global information security firm:

- Every second, 12 people online become a victim of cybercrime, totaling more than 1 million victims around the world every day.
- Nearly half of all cyber-attacks globally last year were committed against small businesses.
- The world’s cyber-attack surface will grow an order of magnitude larger between now and 2021.
- The US has declared a national emergency to deal with the cyber threat.
- There is no effective law enforcement for financial cybercrime today.

Your company’s information and financial well-being are at greater risk in 2018 than ever before. Strive to implement these resolutions starting TODAY.

Resolution #1: Tune up your backup and Business Continuity. The #1 antidote to a ransomware attack is an up-to-date backup copy of all your data and software. Yet managing backups takes more than just storing a daily copy of your data. For one thing, if your business is at all typical, the amount of data you store grows by 35% or more PER YEAR. If your data management



budget doesn’t expand likewise, expect trouble.

Resolution #2: Harness the power of the cloud—but watch your back. Huge productivity gains and reduced costs can be achieved by making full use of the cloud. Yet it’s a double-edged sword. Any oversight in security practices can lead to a breach.

Resolution #3: Set and enforce a strict Mobile Device Policy. Mobile devices open gaping holes in your network’s defenses. Require that users agree with acceptable-use terms before connecting to your network. Install a Mobile Device Management System on all connected

devices. A good system creates a virtual wall between personal and company data. Also,

establish a strong protocol for when a connected device is lost or stolen. Make sure features

that allow device owners to locate, lock or wipe (destroy) all data on the phone are preset in advance.

FREE NETWORK AND SECURITY AUDIT RESOLVES YOUR BIGGEST DATA SECURITY PROBLEMS AND MAKES YOUR SYSTEMS RUN LIKE A FANCY SWISS WATCH

Ever asked yourself why some business owners and CEOs seem so blithely unconcerned about data protection? Don’t let their ignorance lull you into a false sense of security. Call us at (916) 221-0855 to schedule a FREE Network and Security Audit. It’s your best first step to a safe and prosperous 2018.



*1/1000: millibitcoin
1/100000000: satoshi*

Bitcoin: A (Very) Brief Overview

According to Coindesk, a news site specializing in cryptocurrencies, Bitcoin is a form of digital currency, created and held electronically. No one controls it. Bitcoins aren’t printed, like dollars or euros – they’re produced by people, and increasingly businesses, running computers all around the world, using software that solves mathematical problems.

It’s the first example of a growing category of money known as cryptocurrency. Bitcoin is decentralized, meaning no single institution

controls the bitcoin network. Rather, all Bitcoin transactions are maintained by a network of computers, similar to the way Wikipedia is maintained. The record of all Bitcoin transactions that these computers are constantly updating is known as the blockchain.

The price of Bitcoin fluctuates constantly and is determined by open-market bidding on Bitcoin exchanges.

FAST FACTS

95%

A recent study by a password manager shared that 95 percent of people share up to 6 passwords.

61%

61 percent of people are more likely to share work passwords than personal ones. (Inc.com 2.18.2016)

TOP 10 PASSWORDS OF 2017

1. 123456 (Unchanged)
2. Password (Unchanged)
3. 12345678 (Up 1)
4. qwerty (Up 2)
5. 12345 (Down 2)
6. 123456789 (New)
7. letmein (New)
8. 1234567 (Unchanged)
9. football (Down 4)
10. iloveyou (New)

FORTUNE.COM 12.19.2017

8 Tips for Creating a Secure Password

You've got one for every site and every application you use—e-mail, online banking, social media, and your CRM system. With so many password protected sites to keep track of, the inclination is to always use the same password for every site, or to make it so easy you can't possibly forget it (like using Password123). Unfortunately, this compromises all of your data and makes it easy for cyber-attackers to steal sensitive, confidential information.

Studies have shown that password security is still the weakest link in keeping data safe. There are some simple things you can remember when creating a password that can help protect your information.

Here are 8 tips to consider:

1. Make sure you use different passwords for each of your accounts.
2. Use special characters and numbers.

3. Mix up upper case and lower case letters.
4. Make sure your password is a minimum of 13 characters.
5. Be sure it's not something that can be guessed easily (zip code, phone number, birthdate, your name).
6. Randomly replace letters with numbers, e.g. shake becomes \$h@ke.
7. Avoid entering passwords when using unsecured Wi-Fi connections (like at the airport or coffee shop)—hackers can intercept your passwords and data over this unsecured connection
8. Reverse the spelling of a word, e.g. partnership becomes pihrsrentrap.

Not all cyber-attacks can be avoided, but don't make it too easy for them. Be proactive and update all of your passwords so they meet the above criteria.

Unsure if your if your passwords and password lockout policies are up to date? Is your password information for sale on the Dark Web? Call us at (916) 221-0855 to schedule a Dimensional Dark Web Scan and Password Security Audit.



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IT without limits

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We love having you as a customer, and quite honestly, we wish we had more like you!

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