MONTHLY Essentials

Carolinas IT
Experience Peace of Mind

June 2018

Risk Management, Disasters are Looming

Before purchasing our house, I acquired a home inspector to go through our would-be home. He checked our roof, attic, heating and air, crawl space, deck, moisture levels, and probably hundreds of other things. Our home inspection report detailed many items that needed to be resolved, but fortunately, few were significant.

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Carolinas IT Welcomes Brendan Ahern and Katie Bowman!

Carolinas IT is pleased to welcome 2 new employees to our team this month. Learn more about Brendan Ahern and Katie Bowman.

Read More

Hurricane Season is Here - Are You Ready?

Hurricane season officially began on June 1. If your business was impacted by a natural disaster, would you be prepared? The last thing you want to deal with is losing your data or your clients' data. Each month, we'll be sharing some tips on how you can reduce your risk for impact from powerful storms.

To minimize your potential for disastrous effects, here are some tips on protecting your infrastructure and network:
- Make sure you have offsite backups of data.
- Check the status of UPS batteries and make sure they can perform an automatic shutdown of servers.
- Move important equipment away from windows and off of the floor.

Get More Information

Read More

Pro Services Can Help With Your IT Projects

Are you preparing to upgrade your infrastructure or considering a migration to Microsoft Exchange? Our Professional Services team is available to help with any of your upcoming IT projects. Here are three project recommendations worth considering:

UPS upgrades - It's important to have a working uninterruptible power supply (UPS) for every

workstation at your business. When the power goes out, you want to have enough time to continue operations and shut down successfully on your UPS, which runs on battery backup. You also want to have network integration so all your devices are aware a power event has occurred and can shut down automatically. A good UPS will have reporting and testing capabilities to ensure your devices are ready when a power event occurs.

There are several UPS options available for PCs or servers and network equipment. Your account manager can review the options with you to determine what is the best fit to protect your data and minimize interruptions to your business.

VMware upgrades - The End of General Support for vSphere 5.5 is September 19, 2018. To maintain your full level of support and subscription services, VMware recommends upgrading to vSphere 6.5. VMware has extended the general support for vSphere 6.5 to a full five years from date of release, which means the general support for vSphere 6.5 will end November 15, 2021.

vSphere 6.5 provides a highly available, resilient, on-demand infrastructure that is the ideal foundation for any cloud environment. It offers innovation that will enable digital transformation for the enterprise, and makes the IT administrator's job simpler, freeing up their time, so they can innovate rather than maintain status quo. vSphere 6.5 is also the foundation of VMware's hybrid cloud strategy moving forward and is required for cross-cloud architectures.

The benefits of upgrading to vSphere 6.5 include:
- Simplified architecture with streamlined operations
- Modern user interface
- Comprehensive built-in security
- Proactive data center management
- Advanced processor support

Office 365 Migrations - Did you know that Office 365 is more than just Outlook, Word, Powerpoint, and Excel? The full suite of services can solve just about any business objective you have.

Have you ever chatted with an employee and weeks later tried to remember the name of a file you were discussing or what restaurant you were considering for a future event? Yammer is a persistent chat application across your organization that allows you to search the entire history of your chat, just as you would your inbox. You can also upload and retrieve files at any time. Yammer makes collaboration easier for your entire team. And speaking of collaboration....

Scheduling a meeting outside your organization with several members can be difficult if you can't see their calendars. Avoid the back-and-forth email game of trying to figure out what time and day works best for everyone with Bookings. This application allows you to send a link to your calendar availability for those outside of your organization.

There's so much more to discover with Office 365. As your business grows, Office 365 grows with it, offering you the ability to add the services and storage you need. Today's workforce is on-the-go, working remotely from their home, the airport, and countless other places. Office 365 gives your employees the ability to work from anywhere, including tablets and mobile devices.

Contact your account manager for more information or to schedule these upgrades today!

Register Now for Techstravaganza!

Techstravaganza is September 27 at the Brier Creek Country Club in Raleigh, NC. Our fourth annual event features breakout sessions in two different tracks- Security and Compliance and IT. We'll also have roundtable discussions with attendees and presenters.

Agenda Highlights:
- Learn about the latest cyber threats and trends in our keynote presentation from the FBI.
- Discover some of the advanced features of Office 365.
- Get an in-depth analysis of the pros and cons of blockchain.
- Find out what the top mistakes of cloud migration are.
- Hear what changes to data privacy we can expect to see in 2019 as a result of the Cambridge Analytica incident.

We invite you to join us for a Networking Reception from 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM following our event. Space is limited so register now!

When:
Thursday, September 27
8:30 AM - 5:30 PM

Where:
Brier Creek Country Club
9400 Club Hill Drive
Raleigh, NC 27617

Map it

Watch this video to find out why you should attend!

Interested in sponsoring? We have several levels available.

Contact Jennifer Noto for more information or to reserve your sponsorship package today!

Register Now

Employee Spotlight

Brian Williams is a Senior Network Engineer and has been with Carolinas IT almost a year. Originally from Franklinton, NC, Brian is part of Professional Services team and works on implementing the solutions for our clients. "I really enjoy tackling the complex networks of our customers and discovering how all of the moving parts fit together," he says. "I am able to help clients build a better infrastructure for their business."

Outside of work, Brian enjoys playing disc golf, practicing forging and leather-crafting, and "spending time failing to train his dogs."

Industry Updates

The IT industry is constantly evolving with the needs of the business. Protecting your network and data is key to keeping your business secure. Here are some great reads to keep you in-the-know.

DHS Unveils National Cybersecurity Risk Strategy

Five Educational Tech Trends Redefine the Connected Campus

Step Aside Ransomware: Why Cryptojacking is the New Kid on the Block

How to Botch a Cloud Migration in 3 Easy Steps-and how to Remedy it

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