

# TECHNOLOGY TIMES

*“Insider Tips To Make Your Business Run Faster, Easier And More Profitably”*

## What's New

Tax time is here!

Make sure you don't get scammed by someone saying that your taxes are wrong or weren't mailed in or there's an issue with your Social Security number. It's bogus. We are also hearing about ATT and Spectrum internet issue/scams that are bogus. The scam works this way, they call and pretend to be ATT or Spectrum and say that you are experiencing issues with your internet (who isn't these days) and they need to remote into your computer to 'help you'. Don't fall for this. It's a scam and it preys on the elderly, be sure to talk to your parents!

April 2022



This monthly publication provided courtesy of John Kistler, Business of JBTech, a St. Louis based IT Company for almost 30 years!

Our Mission: To build a community of successful-minded entrepreneurs that inspires excellence, encourages collaboration and expands the capacity of all members to achieve great things.



## Work Smarter, Not Harder – Tech Tips That Will Take You To The Next Level

Most business owners want nothing more than for their businesses to be successful. This is much easier said than done since there are so many variables involved. One of the most frequent that can be difficult to control is employee productivity. With so many businesses operating remotely, productivity has become more of a concern than ever before.

Even for employers who have employees working in a physical office, there has always been a concern over how to increase productivity. In the age of the Internet and cellphones, distractions are everywhere. Additionally, employees seem more prone to burnout these days, and working them too hard will lead to turnover or even a decrease in productivity and quality of work.

If you want to ensure that your business stays as productive as possible, you must have the right tools in your toolbox. There are many

different apps and websites designed to increase productivity, and we've gathered five of the best.

### Barracuda

Have you ever caught yourself or your employees scrolling through social media during work? Social media is incredibly addictive and even the most productive employees can find themselves drawn to Facebook or Instagram when they have the opportunity. Barracuda will allow you to ensure that this never happens in your workplace. If you have employees who are constantly on websites that are irrelevant to their job, you can block their access with Barracuda. Now those minutes spent scrolling through Instagram can be spent on more productive tasks.

### SharePoint

Have you ever needed an important document that you didn't have access to? Did you have to e-mail someone

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and ask them to send you the file or share access with you? If this is a common problem in your workplace, you need to try SharePoint.

SharePoint will serve as a database for important files that anyone in your business may need at any time. You won't have to wait for someone to share the files with you anymore. Keep in mind that SharePoint still requires a level of organization so that files are easy to find.

### TimeCamp

TimeCamp is one of the most useful productivity apps available right now. With TimeCamp, you can track how much time your team is spending on any given project. It will break it down by specific apps and websites so you can see where most of their time was spent. You'll also get to see analytics and determine how they are performing. TimeCamp will help you keep your budget in check and ensure that no task or project goes over budget.

If clocking has been an issue in your business, TimeCamp can help there, too. This program can be used as an easy attendance-tracking tool as it has functions for clocking in and out, tracking overtime, automating payroll and reporting leaves. It's simple to use and comes with endless benefits.

**“To get the most out of your business, you must ensure that productivity is maximized wherever possible.”**

### Slack

If your company is operating remotely, or if you have certain employees who aren't working in the office, how are you communicating with each other? E-mails can be easily missed, and unless you provide your teams with work phones, texting is iffy at best. Slack takes all of the confusion out of the mix and gives you the best group messaging option.

Employees will stay up-to-date on recent developments within the company. You can also create specific groups if you need to get a message out to a particular team or group of people. Slack has worked wonders for many organizations throughout the pandemic and is a foolproof way to increase productivity.

### Asana

Asana is one of the best project management tools on the market. With this program, you can plan projects in advance and set up task lists to ensure that everything gets completed on time. You can also keep your team informed about any new developments with Asana's messaging and commenting system. If you're overseeing a team that is working on the same project, then Asana is a must-have for your company.

To get the most out of your business, you must ensure that productivity is maximized wherever possible. There are many new websites, apps and programs designed to encourage productivity in the workplace. You just have to find what works best for your business. If you're unsure of where to begin, give some of these programs a try.

## Do You Safeguard Your Company's Data And Your Customers' Private Information BETTER THAN Equifax, Yahoo and Target Did?



If the answer is "NO" – and let's be honest, the answer *is* no – you are leaving yourself and your company open to massive liability, *millions* in fines and lost business, lawsuits, theft and so much more.

Why? Because you are a hacker's #1 target. They know you have access to financials, employee records, company data and all that juicy customer information – social security numbers, credit card numbers, birth dates, home addresses, e-mails, etc.

Don't kid yourself. Cybercriminals and hackers will stop at NOTHING to steal your credentials. And once they have your password(s), it's only a matter of time before they destroy your business, scare away your customers and ruin your professional and personal life.

### Why Not Take 4 Seconds Now To Protect Yourself, Protect Your Company And Protect Your Customers?

Our 100% FREE and 100% confidential, exclusive CEO Dark Web Scan is your first line of defense. To receive your report in just 24 hours, visit the link below and provide us with your name and company e-mail address. Hopefully it will be ALL CLEAR and you can breathe easy. If your company, your profits and your customers are AT RISK, we'll simply dig a little deeper to make sure you're protected.

Don't let this happen to you, your employees and your customers. *Reserve your exclusive CEO Dark Web Scan now!*

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## Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:



## Garmin Venu 2 Plus Smartwatch

One of Garmin's newest smartwatches is setting the standard for the industry. The Garmin Venu 2 Plus smartwatch comes in three different sizes and in various colors. With the Venu 2 Plus, you can connect the smartwatch to your mobile device, make phone calls and send text messages – all hands-free. The best functions of this smartwatch all relate to health and wellness since it gives you greater insight into your stress, hydration and respiratory levels. It can also keep track of your sleep patterns, heart rate and so much more. The smartwatch holds nine days of battery life, so it's perfect for backpackers and hikers. If you're looking for a great smartwatch, look no further than the Garmin Venu 2 Plus.

## Are You A Good Remote Leader?

We have reached a new age in the workplace. Back in the 1980s, business books and seminars encouraged managers to meander around the office, chat with colleagues and try to gather valuable information around the water cooler. Now managers are working remotely, and it's a completely different world.

It's not always evident who the great leaders are in a remote setting, and you may have wondered at some point if you are even good at it. Truthfully, we don't have enough data yet to accurately evaluate what differentiates a great remote leader from the rest. But from my insights and experience running a fully remote company for 25 years, I've put together five questions that help determine if a remote leader is above average or not.

- Are you great at setting goals?
- Are you great at hiring?
- Are you great at delegating?
- Does your compensation system reward high performance?
- Do you always do what you say you will do?

If you can answer yes to all five of these questions, it's likely that you are a great remote leader. These are essential leadership qualities for any setting, but they become amplified with remote work. If you set unclear goals in an office, you can easily clarify when your team has questions. This becomes more difficult when working remotely.

If you aren't great at hiring, you will notice these mistakes quickly in an office environment – but it's difficult to tell if you hired the wrong person



in a remote setting. Additionally, you have to be great at delegating tasks and following up to make sure the work is being completed in a remote setting, because you can't physically see the process.

In a traditional office setting, peer pressure plays an impactful role in influencing your employees' behavior. When you remove the peer pressure, compensation becomes the biggest driving force, so you need to make sure your compensation system is rewarding the right behaviors.

If you're wondering about the final question's role in an office, it's actually quite simple. You need to build and maintain trust in your workplace, and this becomes more difficult in a remote setting. That's why it's important that you always follow through on your words.

The remote workplace is here to stay, and it may take some adjustment to become the same caliber leader that you were in a traditional office setting. If you ask yourself those five questions every day and make the necessary adjustments in the categories you fall short in, before you know it, you'll become a great remote leader.



*Dr. Geoff Smart is the chairman and founder of ghSMART, a leadership consulting firm that exists to help leaders amplify their positive impact on the world. Dr. Smart and his firm have published multiple New York Times best-sellers. He stays active in his community and has advised many government officials.*

## CMMC-AB Registered Practioner

For all of you who sell to the government, starting in 2026 you'll need to have a minimum of cyber hygiene, called CMMC level 1 up to level 3, or higher if you do substantial business with Uncle Sam. Please make sure that you are starting your CMMC journey to develop good cyber security practices and processes along with documentation. That's the key, to have your good processes documented so that if/when you need to pass the assessment you have everything they need to certify you.

## ■ Retain Top Talent By Teaching Them To Grow

Throughout the course of 2021, Americans left their jobs in droves due to a combination of factors. In fact, an analytics firm, Visier, estimates that 1 out of 4 workers left their jobs in 2021. If you own or operate a business, this news can be worrisome. One of the best ways to try to retain your employees is to coach and encourage them to grow so they don't feel stagnant and bored with their work.

If you don't know where to begin, you should start by evaluating your employees. Decide if they're a master in their role, are still growing or are just beginning. Keep an eye on your beginners and

growers to ensure they are satisfied with their work. If they're not, have an open and honest discussion with them. For employees who have mastered their jobs, encourage them to try a new role or take on different responsibilities so they can learn new skills.

## ■ Increase Your Productivity With A Voice Assistant

Even before the pandemic, people were using voice assistants like Siri or Alexa to help them keep track of their day-to-day schedules. Now that so many people are working from home, these virtual assistants are more valuable than ever before.

They can help boost your

productivity to new levels if you use them properly.

Utilizing a voice assistant for these five tasks will help you increase your productivity while you work from home.

- Program your digital assistant to remind you of any of your meetings at least 10 minutes before they begin.
- Ask your digital assistant for news and weather updates to keep you away from unproductive websites.
- Create a to-do list and use your digital assistant to add and remove items.
- Have your digital assistant read, listen and respond to your e-mails.
- Create a morning and evening routine for yourself, then program your digital assistant to help you follow these routines. They can be programmed to wake you up, dim your lights, turn off computer screens and so much more to keep you on track.

## **Thank you so much for your referrals!**

We'd like to take the time to thank you all for referring us to your family, friends and co-workers. We strive hard each and every day to continue to give you the best IT support in the St. Louis area. We know that times are challenging right now and that's why we try to set ourselves apart from the other companies that provide IT services. We know you have a choice and we want to be your choice.

1. We answer our phones live so you don't have to wait for support.
2. We still do break/fix work for that laptop/PC that you need repaired because times are tough and not everyone has money to buy a new computer.
3. We build our own house brand of computers because we know that high quality parts make a high quality machine. Some of you still have JB PC's from before 2010 that are still working.
4. We are constantly on the hunt for new services to help keep you secure. This month we've instituted 24/7/365 support for our managed clients, there's a flyer here to go over it, and the price isn't wildly expensive. Today, people are crazy busy, we want to help take some of your troubles away no matter what time it is.

**Thanks again for helping us grow! We appreciate it!**