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WorkSmartWire is brought to you by WorkSmart, an Information Technology provider offering services and solutions to business, government, and education throughout North Carolina and surrounding states.

WorkSmart partners with clients to provide managed services, onsite and helpdesk support, computer network design and implementation services, and web development.

WorkSmart is headquartered in Raleigh-Durham with branch offices in Charlotte and Greensboro and onsite support partners across the U.S.

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Letter From The Editor:

They say an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure and never has it been more true than in IT today. Threats to your business can come from outside and within, and can take many different forms. This is the perfect time to vow to take the necessary steps to stop these threats and ensure business continuity. In this issue, find information and suggestions to help you start the new year off right.

Ron Unger
CEO
WorkSmart

Top IT Resolutions for 2009

If you haven't already done so, now is the time to create the annual list of things you must do this year to make sure your technology and business will run smoothly and successfully. It's easy to start the year with the best of intentions, but pressing business matters overtake us as time marches on and what we promised to do ends up at the bottom of the list.

Here are 20 resolutions from simple maintenance disciplines to disaster avoidance to just plain good business sense to help you get started. Make them your own and you are sure to have a trouble-free year!

Sample:

I will write or hire someone to write a disaster recovery plan for my business so I know how to keep my business running in case of fire, theft, power failure, flood or system failure.

Read more here:

Contact WorkSmart

919.484.1010

info@worksmart.com

www.worksmart.com

7 Things to Know About Virus Writers

When you think of the people who spend their time writing viruses with malicious intent, what do you envision? Many of us have a pre-conceived notion of who these nefarious individuals are, where they reside, and what motivates them. But what exactly is in the heads of these virus writers?

It's important to make the distinction between hackers and virus writers. Hackers are those who devise ways to break into networks. Some hackers are actually professionals whose job it is to try to break in to networks to test security. Virus writers tend to be younger and less sophisticated in their skills, and are not always aware of the damage their activities can inflict.

As the saying goes, it's better to know thy enemy. For 7 things you should know about virus writers, click here.

IT Staffs Go Rogue

There's nothing like a disgruntled employee to wreak havoc in an organization. But did you know that your own IT staff are some of the most lethal? It's particularly true when it comes to the status of your software licenses.

One of the most popular sources the "software police" rely on for notification of illegal copies of software is your former employees. No one knows your IT environment better and all it takes is one unhappy staff member or laid off technician to instigate a visit from a software compliance cop.

The penalties can be severe, with fines of up to $250,000 per title and imprisonment, for an organization that knowingly or unknowingly obtains, uses, or possesses software illegally. To learn how to protect your company, click here.

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