PolarPassage
"Tips To Make Your Business Run Faster, Easier And More Profitably"

The 5 Most Dangerous Pieces Of Information To Give In An E-mail

In the book *Spam Nation*, investigative journalist and cybersecurity expert Brian Krebs revealed the single most effective (and relied upon) way cybercrime rings gain access to your bank account, credit cards and identity. Ready for it? E-mail.

Whether it's opening an attachment infected by a virus, or a phishing scam where you unknowingly give up your login to a critical web site, e-mail still remains the most popular and reliable way digital thieves can rob you blind, steal your identity and wreak havoc on your network. Worst of all? You're INVITING them in! While there are a number of things you need to do to protect yourself, here are five pieces of information you (and your team) should NEVER put in an e-mail.

1. **Your social insurance number.** Think of this as your "bank account" number with the government. You should never e-mail this to anyone because it can be used to open credit cards and steal your identity.

2. **Banking information.** Your bank account numbers, routing number and online banking login credentials should never be e-mailed. Further, avoid sending a voided, blank check as an attachment to an e-mail.

3. **Your credit and/or debit card information.** NEVER update a credit card via an e-mail! If you need to update a card with a vendor, there are two safe ways to do this. The first is to log in to your vendor's secured site by going to the URL and logging in. Do NOT click on a link in an e-mail to go to any web site to update your account password or credit card! Hackers are masters at creating VERY legit-looking e-mails designed to fool you into logging in to their spoof site, which LOOKS very similar to a trusted web site, to enter your username, password and other financial details, thereby gaining access. Another way to update your account is to simply CALL the vendor direct.

4. **Login credentials and passwords.** You should never share your passwords or answers to security questions with anyone for any site, period.

5. **Financial documents.** An ATTACHMENT that includes any of the above is just as dangerous to e-mail as typing it in. Never e-mail any type of financial documents (or scans of documents) to your CPA, financial advisor, bank, etc.

Remember: Banks, credit card companies and the government will never ask you to click a link to provide them with any of the five items above. If you get an e-mail requesting you to update any of the above information, there's a good chance it's a phishing e-mail from a hacker. Don't be fooled!

"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!"
Chris Davis
Founder & CTO
Polarverse IT Services

July 2015
Waterloo, On

Inside This Issue…

WHY DO I HAVE TO GO FIRST?

THERE'S NO I IN TEAM DAVE

An Urgent Security Warning For Businesses Running Microsoft Server 2003
(And A Limited Free Assessment Offer)

On July 14, 2015, Microsoft is officially retiring Windows Server 2003 and will no longer be offering support, updates or security patches. That means any server with this operating system installed will be <u>completely exposed to serious hacker attacks</u> aimed at taking control of your network, stealing data, crashing your system and inflicting a host of other business-crippling problems you do NOT want to have to deal with.

This is a threat that should not be ignored; if you don't want cybercriminals running rampant in your company's server, you MUST upgrade before that deadline. To assist our clients and friends in this transition, we're offering a **Free Microsoft Risk Assessment And Migration Plan**. At no cost, we'll come to your office and conduct our proprietary 25-Point Risk Assessment — a process that's taken us over 12 years to perfect — to not only determine what specific computers and servers will be affected by this announcement, but also to assess other security, backup and efficiency factors that could be costing you in productivity and hard dollars.

After performing this Assessment for dozens of companies like yours, I'm confident that we will not only be able to expose a number of security risks and issues that you weren't aware of, but also find ways to make your business FAR more efficient and productive.

To request this Free Assessment, call us direct or send us an e-mail today. Due to staff and time limitations, we'll only be able to offer this until the end of July or to the first 10 people who contact us. *(Sorry, no exceptions.)*

Free Report Download: If You Are Considering Cloud Computing For Your Company—Don't, Until You Read This…

If you are considering cloud computing or Office 365 to save money and simplify IT, it is extremely important that you get and read this special report, "**5 Critical Facts Every Business Owner Must Know Before Moving Their Network To The Cloud**."

This report discusses in simple, non-technical terms the pros and cons of cloud computing, data security, how to choose a cloud provider, as well as 3 little-known facts that most IT consultants don't know or won't tell you about cloud computing that could end up causing you MORE problems and costing you more money than you anticipated.

Even if you aren't ready to move to the cloud yet, this report will give you the right information and questions to ask when the time comes.

Get Your FREE Copy Today: http://www.polarverse.com/cloudreport

Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:

Navdy

Many of us realize how dangerous it is to check e-mail or text messages while we're driving, but we don't feel like we can afford to ignore our phone. Brand-new product Navdy to the rescue!

Navdy is a transparent Head-Up Display (HUD) that projects information as if it's floating six feet in front of you. It's very similar to what commercial airline pilots use. Navdy works with any car, and with all iPhones and Androids.

Using the apps you already have on your phone, and with no service plans required, Navdy allows you to focus on the road and not on your phone.

As a phone call comes in, Navdy's built-in camera allows you to simply swipe in midair to answer calls (or dismiss them), so you no longer have to fumble with buttons or touch screens. Plus, Navdy's voice recognition uses the voice commands you're already familiar with, whether you use Google Now or Siri.

Any notification on your phone (such as text messages or social media) can be played, read aloud or disabled, based on your preferences. Navdy even allows you to keep your teenagers safe by giving you parental controls.

The product is rumored to retail at $499, but is available now for pre-order for $299. Just visit their web site at: www.navdy.com

Chris' Desktop

What a month July was! I had a last minute trip to New Orleans for a conference with one of my vendors - datto! datto is my flagship product as it allows me to super fast restore servers and workstations that have gone down allowing my clients to have as little downtime as possible. It just makes our Business Continuity solution complete! A number of our clients upgraded to our new Ultra 360 Plan last month and are now enjoying 24/7 support and unlimited support time!

Back to New Orleans! I brought my wife and daughter along and while we didn't have much time together cause of my conference everyone had a great time! Jillian handled the travel well including a 12 hour stop over in D.C. that we couldn't avoid cause of last minute bookings. I had one night free and we did the local Hard Rock Cafe and then walked up and down Bourbon St, I probably lost a pound in sweat due to the humidity and having Jillian riding my shoulders. At the end of the conference we did a parade to a local club, everyone carried datto umbrellas and we had a police escort - it was very cool!

Thanks datto for making our trip to NOLA possible!

Jillian's Toddler Times

I flew in a plane! Papa says I was in a plane before I could walk but I don't really remember it well, I didn't like the landings though they hurt my ears! We went on a family trip to New Orleans where it rains necklaces at night! I found about 7, they kept dropping near me and I kept picking them up and putting them on. During the day papa had to work so momma and I went to the pool, park and aquarium! I really enjoyed seeing all the fish but the sharks were kinda scary. And every night papa brought me something from his day, I like the toy sharks the best!

I'm having a birthday party with my friends this month I'm going to be 3!

Business Continuity Solutions

We offer a collection of critical services that help companies avoid data loss and recover quickly in the event of a disaster. Our Continuous Protection stores data in a simple non-dependent backup chain to allow recoveries
from all data points, and keep points for as long as desired. We offer Instant Recovery, the most important component of an Intelligent Business Continuity solution. No matter the disaster, small to large, you need to be up and running as soon as possible. Time is money.

Listen to Polarverse's interview https://goo.gl/3j2B9L or request our free report at http://polarverse.com/bdr/ or just call us 519.489.0646

Vacation Alert!
The ONE Thing You And Your Employees Should NEVER Do When On Vacation

'Tis the season when you and your team will be taking a little time off to head to the beach or your favorite vacation spot, and while we know we should completely disconnect from work, most of us will still check e-mail and do a little work while away — and that could end up causing some issues if you're not careful while working remote.

So before you head off to have a little fun with your laptop tucked under your arm, keep this in mind: never automatically connect to "any available network." Not all Internet connections are secure, so if you're going to log in to the company's network, e-mail or other critical cloud apps that are hosting sensitive information, ONLY do so on a trusted, secured WiFi and NEVER a public one. We recommend investing in a personal MiFi device that acts as a mobile WiFi hotspot IF you're going to be traveling a lot and accessing company info.

Second, turn off the ability to automatically connect for all of your mobile devices and laptops. You will still be able to connect manually, but it will prevent your laptop or device from connecting to a questionable network without your consent or knowledge.

Finally, disable all printer and file-sharing options on your mobile devices. This is another way hackers can gain access to your network. In an ideal world, you and your employees would take a true break from work, but if they aren't able to completely detach themselves, then at least require them to stay safe using the above tips.

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"I'm going on vacation and this carry-on has my smartphone, my work laptop, and a ton of important paperwork I could do on the plane. How much extra for you to lose it?"

The Lighter Side:
Great Starting Salary

Fresh out of business school, the young man answered a want ad for an accountant. Now he was being interviewed by a highly agitated, arrogant little man who ran a small business that he had started from scratch.

"I need someone with an accounting degree," the man said. "But mainly, I'm looking for someone to do my worrying for me."

"How's that?" the would-be accountant asked.

"I worry about a lot of things," the man said. "But I don't want to have to worry about money. Your job will be to take all the money worries off my back."

"I see," the accountant said. "And how much will my position pay?"

"I'll start you at 85,000," responded the owner decisively.

"Eighty-five thousand dollars!" the accountant exclaimed. "How can such a small business afford a sum like that?"

"That," the owner said, "is your first worry. Now get to work."

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519.489.0646