



BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY QUARTERLY

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IT Security Starts with Effective User Passwords

By: Greg Rothauser, MCSA

For the majority of companies and organizations, user passwords need to be well protected. Often, when organizations talk about passwords, they tend to discuss technical controls over what users can pick for passwords but users can easily undermine the security and render theirs almost useless.

Typically, an organization focused on security will configure their network to require long passwords with complexity requirements. The most common "complexity" requirement is that a

password must contain 3 of 4 types of characters: uppercase letters, lowercase letters, numbers and special characters (e.g., # @ \$). Also, many networks require passwords to be changed periodically and the last several passwords cannot be reused.

The password "Password1" meets all of the above requirements and is one of the most commonly used. Any time we do a user

(Continued on page 6)

Save the Date!

October 27th

Attend our in-depth seminar on accounting software alternatives for non-profits. See Page 5 for details.

Ready for Windows® 7?



By Ian Apruzzese

There's been a lot of buzz about the upcoming release of the newest edition to the Windows family – Windows 7. Microsoft has invested heavily in producing an operating system that is more user friendly. When Vista was introduced to the world, it brought along a large number of new features, many of which made navigating Windows more confusing for average users. Windows 7 is intended to be a more focused, incremental upgrade. The primary objective was to develop a system that was fully compatible with existing Vista applications and hardware. What this means to the end user is a product that is easier to deploy and use with less headaches in getting it to work with existing software and hardware.

What's all the buzz about?

Windows 7 brings with it advances in handwriting recognition, for tablet users,

(Continued on page 7)

INSIDE

The Most Bang for Your Buck: Maxing Out Memory	pg. 2
Interfacing Other Software Packages with Sage MIP	pg. 2
MIP Tips and Tricks; Process a Zero Check in Accounts Payable	pg. 2
Sage Fundraising 50 Goes Hosted	pg. 3
The Lowdown on Netbooks	pg. 3
Non-Profit Spotlight; The Paul & Lisa Program Inc	pg. 3
Security News	pg. 4
Product Review; SonicWALL TZ Product Line	pg. 5
Free Sage Seminar	pg. 5
In-house News	pg. 6
Why Social Networking works for business	pg. 6

The Most Bang for Your Buck: Maxing Out Memory



By: David Modzelewski

Over time, most people notice that their PC runs slower than it used to. It takes longer to start up, programs open slower, and there are often "lags." In reality, your PC is running at the same speed it always has; what changes is the number and type of applications loaded.

As time goes on, applications become more complex and often many are running concurrently. All of these applications have to share the hardware resources in your PC. The slowness many people notice in their older PCs is primarily because the applications running have begun to exceed the capabilities of the PC's hardware.

Many of today's applications demand a lot of memory which can leave older PCs with severe performance problems. Maximizing a PC's memory can improve performance significantly. This allows workers to be more productive and saves money in the long run.

Fortunately, this upgrade is very low in cost; usually about \$50-60 per PC. If you have PCs that aren't running as well as they used to, The Technology Group is here to help. ■

Interfacing Other Software Packages with Sage MIP

By: Linda Swanson

If you are you spending a lot of time on journal entries in MIP to bring data in from other software packages, we may have a solution for you.

We can create a "Master Def" file within MIP that will import transactions directly into a session. All you need is a .csv file from your software and the Data Import/Export module in MIP.



We have successfully imported transactions from many other software packages saving hours for our clients.

To find out more, call Camille Livsey (860-524-4465) or Linda Swanson (860-524-4450). ■

MIP Tips and Tricks How to Process a Zero Check in Accounts Payable

By: Linda Swanson

Does your aged payables report have invoices and negative invoices that equal zero? Here are a few options to clean up your aged payable reports.

Option 1: Reverse Both Entries

Find the session ID for both entries. They can be found using `Activities > Display Balances > Vendor Balances`. In a

new accounts payable session, click on the reverse document tool at the top of the window. Enter the session and document number of the original entry. The reversal defaults to using the original entry dates. If this is not what you want, unclick the checks and enter the dates that you want the reversal to be entered. Edit the remaining information as you want it to appear. Click OK, Save, and Post the session.

Option 2: Select Invoices Next Time Vendor is Paid

This is probably the easiest way, assuming you are going to pay the vendor again. When you receive the next invoice from a vendor, select the new invoice along with both the invoices that equal zero. If you are not going to pay the vendor again, follow Option 1 or 3.

Option 3: Zero Manual Check

In accounts payable, select Enter Manual A/P Checks. The document number (check number) can be the same as one of the invoices, or something you select to identify the transaction, such as (ZeroCK1). The amount will be zero. Select the vendor and select the two invoices that equal each other. Then select the offset to cash. The cash will net to zero as well. Save and post the session. All the invoices should disappear from select to pay and from your accounts payable aging. ■

The Lowdown on Netbooks

By: Robert Schreitmueller

The amount of computing power available in today's portable machines far exceeds the demands of the average user and laptops are smaller and less expensive than ever. In fact, the fastest growing industry segment is the netbook, a new, pint-sized class of laptop that typically weighs in under 3 pounds, and is about the size of two trade paperback books side-by-side. From a business perspective, this adds another layer of complexity when specifying a new machine.

Netbooks are all the rage, but are they well-suited to the business environment? Clearly, they are not suitable as 8-hour-day desktop replacements. Netbooks are typically configured with only 1 GB RAM, no optical drive, lesser wireless capability, limited connectivity, and small 8-10" screens. But, they can serve well for users who primarily use the computer for email and Internet browsing. They have almost created their own business niche as a secondary computer for the busy executive. Leave the desktop or the heavy laptop behind in favor of a 3 pound netbook and you'll be able to get your email, change your airline reservations, look at pictures of the kids, and log into Remote Desktop while you're on the road. With sweet spot pricing around \$350, these can provide significant convenience at minimal cost and some of the newer models feature

unprecedented battery life – up to 10 hours.

Anyone purchasing a computer in the next few months should also consider the operating system situation. Most netbooks come standard with Windows XP since it is easier on resources than Vista. The word on the street is that Windows 7 will be shipping this October, and that it incorporates the best of both Vista and XP, so you may want to wait a few months and see how this impacts the netbook market. ■

Non-Profit Spotlight The Paul & Lisa Program Inc.

Did you know that one in five of the Connecticut middle and high school students surveyed by The Paul and Lisa Program, Inc. have been approached by a sexual predator while on-line? It is shocking to learn how accessible our children can be to a sexual predator, even without leaving our homes!

The Paul & Lisa Program Inc., has been the community's advocacy center for child and adult victims of commercial sexual exploitation for almost 30 years. Their prevention education programs reach caregivers, children and teens through our collaboration with schools, communities, and professionals throughout the state of Connecticut. A portion of funding for these programs comes from grants, government funding, corporate and individual donations.

For more information visit their website at www.paulandlisa.org ■

For Non-Profits Only Sage Fundraising 50 Goes Hosted

By: Camille Livsey

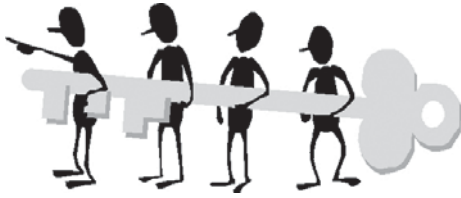
As of May 2009, Sage Fundraising 50 (SFR50) is available on Sage Virtual Services. These services are targeted toward non-profits that might have a low budget; no IT infrastructure; and/or desire Internet access to their database, but no IT infrastructure to provide remote access.

The two hosted solutions for SFR50 are as follows:

1: Subscription. With subscription hosting, licenses are not purchased. Fees include monthly license subscription fees and maintenance/support fees (M&S), and a monthly hosting fee, which includes MS Office 2007 licenses. Unlike other subscription based fundraising software, the number of constituents in the database has no effect on the fees. The database is maintained on a server by Sage Virtual Services and users access the database via the Internet.

Subscription prices begin at \$200 for the first user with a 25% (\$50) monthly M & S fee per user, and the monthly hosting fee per user of \$125.

2: License Owned Pricing. User purchases software licenses, but the database is maintained on a server by Sage Virtual Services and users access the database via the Internet (no server costs and reduced IT support). Monthly hosting fees are approximately \$125 per user. ■



SECURITY NEWS

(Courtesy of the Sans Institute unless otherwise noted)

Proposed Legislation Addresses Global Cyber Crime Response

In response to the recent cyber attacks on government and commercial web sites in the US and South Korea, US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) has introduced legislation that would require the State Department to work with governments around the world to foster a united response to cyber attacks. The State Department would be required to encourage international cooperation in improving cyber security on a global basis; push for a set of international agreements and law enforcement cooperation to stop cyber attacks and cyber crime; and develop appropriate safeguards for the protection of privacy, freedom of speech, and commercial transactions to be included in any agreements or other activities designed to safeguard cyber space.

Former IT Director Sentenced for Cyber Damage

Danielle Duann of Houston, TX was sentenced to two years in prison for a cyber attack on her former employer's computer network. The

evening after Duann was fired from her position as IT director at LifeGift Organ Donation Center on November 7, 2005, she repeatedly accessed the LifeGift network and deleted database files, software applications and backup files. Duann also admitted disabling logging functions and erasing logs that contained evidence of her unauthorized access. Duann also received three years of probation and must pay US \$94,222 in restitution.

Former Admin Sentenced for Cyber Attack

Lesmany Nunez was sentenced to one year in prison for a cyber attack on his former employer's computer network. Nunez was employed as a support administrator at Quantum Technology Partners until May 2007. Quantum's network was shut down for nearly a week in August 2007, after Nunez accessed their network using an administrator password and proceeded to change all IT admin passwords, shut down servers, and delete files. Nunez received three years of probation following his prison term, and must pay \$31,560 in restitution.

Microsoft Issues Six Security Bulletins

On Tuesday, July 14, Microsoft released six security bulletins to address flaws in some of the company's products, including Windows, Microsoft Office, Internet Security and Acceleration Server, Virtual PC

and Virtual Server. Three of the bulletins have maximum severity ratings of critical; the other three were rated important. One of the vulnerabilities, a remote code execution flaw in DirectShow, is being actively exploited.

Twitter Data Compromised

Twitter is consulting its legal team following a cyber attack that exposed internal documents. The intruder gained access to the system by breaking into a Twitter employees email account and sent documents containing information about Twitter's finances and future plans to two blogs. Twitter says the documents do not contain information about users accounts, but Twitter employee credit card numbers were compromised, as were the Amazon, PayPal and other Internet accounts belonging to Twitter CEO Evan Williams.

Survey: One-Third of Users Respond to Spam

Nearly one-third of 800 people surveyed by the Messaging Anti-Abuse Working Group (MAAWG) said they had responded to messages that were probably spam. While some of the people clicked on links by accident or even out of curiosity, twelve percent of those surveyed said they had responded because they were genuinely interested in the product or service advertised.



SonicWALL TZ Product Line

By: Ian Apruzzese

If you're in the market for a firewall that can do it all, SonicWALL's recently expanded TZ line has a device to fit your needs. The advanced feature set can protect users from spam/viruses/intrusion, provide VPN remote access, and even fail-over to a 3G connection for Internet outages. SonicWALL devices are designed to do what they call "Unified Threat Management." This add-on feature provides the ability to control spam, viruses, and even monitor Internet usage, all from one central location built into one single device.

SonicWALL's newest edition to the SMB firewall market is the TZ100. This unit provides high performance Unified Threat Management at an affordable price. Combining a powerful



Stateful Packet Inspection Firewall, real-time Reassembly-Free Deep Packet Inspection, state-of-the-art high-speed architecture, and five configurable 10/100 interfaces, the revolutionary TZ 100 delivers uncompromising protection at up to two-and-a-half times faster performance than previous TZ models. The TZ 100

future-proofs network security by integrating SSL VPN support, a wireless switch controller, and ultra-fast 802.11n wireless technology (Wireless-N version).

The entry-level TZ 100 boxes come in a wired-only version and 2.4-GHz 802.11n wireless versions. The higher end TZ 200 is the same, but adds the 3G fail-over by providing a USB port into which you can plug a 3G adapter from your carrier. The TZ 200s have faster performance and can support more VPN tunnels. For higher performance, the TZ 210 is the high-end model complete with Gigabit Ethernet and up to 15 VPN tunnels. ■

COMING SOON!

In future newsletters, TTG will have a non-profit calendar of upcoming events, and we want *your* organization to be included. Please inform us of your upcoming events so we can feature them in our next newsletter.

Please provide us with the following information:

- Name of organization
- Name of event
- Date/time/place
- Name/phone

Email us at: info@ttgct.com

Informational Seminar!

October 27, 2009

Selection and implementation of accounting software is an important success factor, especially for non-profits.

Join The Technology Group, LLC

Tuesday, October 27, 2009, 8:30 am to noon

at the

New Haven Lawn Club

Breakfast and an in-depth analysis of accounting options for non-profits

Understanding Your Needs

We're happy to share and exchange information. That's why we've developed seminars to help you with the critical task of selecting and implementing accounting software. During the seminar, we'll review the accounting challenges faced by non-profits and present cost-effective solutions.

Information You Can Use

Whether you're an executive director, business manager, or CFO, we're confident that you'll find our seminar helpful.

Register today by contacting Camille Livsey at (860) 524-4465 or via email at clivsey@ttgct.com

Passwords

(Continued from page 1)

password audit, I run into multiple passwords from our "top 20" list of the most common. Recently, over 10% of a 400-employee organization had passwords from that list.

If a user's password can be guessed, anyone on the Internet can see that person's email, send messages as though they were that employee, see a list of all employees in the company, and more. Some clients also use Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) and Terminal Servers to provide remote access to data and applications. Without secure passwords, all of the security provided by the firewall is lost.

Another extremely common password control, rotating expiring passwords, is easily undone by users not being conscious of security. During password audits performed as part of network vulnerability assessments we found, in general, when users are asked to rotate passwords, they simply increment a number at the end of the password.

Ultimately, in order to protect your organization's data and information, users should be educated on how to pick good, secure passwords. We suggest you have your IT provider or an IT security firm perform periodic user password audits to identify whether or not your policy for secure passwords is being followed. In the end, the weakest link in IT security is often the user. ■

IN-HOUSE NEWS



Greg Rothauer, MCSA Promoted to Manager of Security Services

We are pleased to announce the promotion of Greg Rothauer to Manager. Greg has been with us for 5 ½ years, and has demonstrated commitment in quality service and business development.

Engineer Earns Microsoft Certification

David Modzelewski earned the Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP) certification. Earning the MCP credential qualifies engineers to install and configure a Windows environment, support applications, troubleshoot and manage resources within the operating system or network.

Firm Devotes Company Outing to Helping Hartford Non-profit Organizations

On Thursday, July 16th, the non-profits listed below were recipients of an extra 80+ volunteers from Whittlesey & Hadley and The Technology Group. Employees-turned-volunteers helped some of the city's neediest.

- Boys and Girls Club of Hartford
- Catholic Charities
- Mercy Housing and Shelter
- Our Piece of the Pie
- Visiting Nurses Association

The Technology Group LLC would like to welcome the Following New Clients:

- The Fox Foundation
- Summit Counsel LLC
- Bailey, Schaefer & Errato, LLC
- Conyers Construction
- Connecticut Trial Lawyers
- Central Connecticut Coast YMCA
- New Canaan YMCA
- Southington -Cheshire YMCA
- Hobby Time

Why Social Networking works for business

By Mark R. Torello



Follow me at:

www.twitter.com/MarkTorello

Kids are using MySpace and Facebook and Congressmen are "Tweeting" on Twitter.com. Is this a fad or a lasting means of communication that's fit for business?

Here is the skinny on the most popular sites.

MySpace – For kids, bands, or those looking to showcase their interests in a highly customizable web space with background music.

Facebook – Started for school kids only, it has fast become the quintessential site for those looking to stay in touch with friends and school mates. It has a great format and it’s easy to share photos, and update your connections.

Twitter – No frills site to keep your followers up to speed on what you are doing/thinking and follow what others are doing.

LinkedIn – Focused on the business professional connection, this site has a framework that is similar to Facebook but not as user friendly or clear. With a sharp bead on linking business people together it helps to re-unite business acquaintances, get answers to business questions, and connect to others in a group or association.

I recommend giving Facebook and LinkedIn a try. If you want to pick just one for starters, go with Facebook to get a feel for it (low pressure and you are bound to find some joy in connecting with some schoolmates or family).

Once you have the hang of updating your status and customizing the options, sign up for a LinkedIn account. Begin by uploading your Office Outlook contacts. LinkedIn recommends connecting with associates from the same company or your university. Most folks to whom I recommend social networking resist with the excuse of not

(Continued on page 8)

Windows® 7

(Continued from page 1)

as well as an improved touch sensing system that will make tablet PCs easier to navigate. There are also several technical upgrades: support for virtual hard disks, improved performance on multi-core processors, improved boot performance, Direct Access technology, and kernel improvements. All this tech talk boils down to a system that is designed to run faster and take advantage of the latest in hardware technologies.

Windows 7 also has its share of companion software upgrades. A new version of Windows Media Center, a Gadget for Windows Media Center, improved media features, the XPS Essentials Pack and Windows PowerShell are included, as well as a redesigned Calculator with multiline capabilities including *Programmer* and *Statistics* modes along with unit conversion. These features of Windows 7 were designed to enhance the user’s experience, making it easier to browse and play movies and music while giving added functionality to apps with which Windows users are already familiar.

Visually, the task bar has seen the biggest change. Microsoft

removed the Quick Launch toolbar and replaced it with the ability to “pin” frequently used applications right to the task bar. Buttons for pinned applications are integrated with the task buttons. A new Jump List feature allows easy access to common tasks. You’ll also be able to reposition items on the task bar to make them easier to use.

How much horsepower will you need?

If your current system is easily running Vista Premium the 32-bit upgrade is easy. The 64-bit version is significantly heavier on system requirements. See the chart below.

The bottom line?

The best thing about Windows 7 is that preliminary reports from testers and analysts are that “it just works!” So far the reviews have been good, but unless you’re in the market for a new laptop or PC there is no real compelling reason to run out and upgrade your systems as a matter of course. Our advice is to wait for Service Pack 1 to consider. As the product gets out into the real world this fall we’ll see how well it fairs. I am cautiously optimistic that this go around Microsoft has gotten it right. ■

Minimum hardware requirements for Windows 7

Architecture	32-bit	64-bit
Processor speed	1 GHz processor	
Memory (RAM)	1 GB of RAM	2 GB of RAM
Graphics card	Support for DirectX 9 graphics device with 128MB of graphics memory (for Windows Aero)	
HDD free space	16 GB of available disk space	20 GB of available disk space
Optical drive	DVD drive (only to install from DVD/CD Media)	

Social Networking

(Continued from page 7)

having the time. Well, it can swallow up an hour on setup, but once done, a simple desktop shortcut allows you to update and see what your peers are up to in 11 seconds or less. For those like me who use the same excuse for picking up the phone and

calling associates, referral sources, and friends on a regular basis, these sites are a time saver!

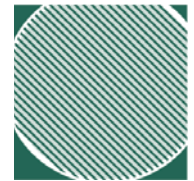


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