



This Is The Year To Shed The Old: It Is Costing You Much More Than You Think

New year, new technology! If your business is still relying on older and aging technology, it is time to think about updating. As technology ages, the effort to keep it running comes with many hidden costs. While it may seem financially savvy to keep older hardware and software running but you may be setting yourself up for major costs down the road.

Many small businesses shy away from investing in new equipment and software, they do the math, and the upfront costs of new technology can see high. Time to consider what you would be saving by getting rid of aging technology.

Let us start by looking at some of the "hidden" costs that come with using older or outdated technology.

Consider the cost of productivity: The older technology gets, the less efficiently it runs. This applies to hardware and software. Hardware tends to lag, even if it is well-maintained. Devices simply wear out with use. This cannot be avoided. But the productivity issues that come with aging hardware only get worse when you bring aging software into the mix. Over time, you will start to lose support from developers, and this comes with all sorts of problems. Here are three examples.

Loss of Integration & Compatibility: Older apps lose stable integration with companion apps. At one point, your CRM software may have worked perfectly with your billing software. As developers focus on newer versions of their apps, they stop updating past versions. The result is more hiccups or errors and you risk losing data. One Microsoft survey showed a vast majority of consumers – 91% – would walk away from a business if that business were using older technology.

Loss of Time and Money: Factoring in slow equipment and a loss of integration and compatibility, aging tech makes it harder for your team to do their jobs. A recent study by Currys PC World found that employees lose an average of 46 minutes every day due to aging technology. That adds up to about 24 days per year and an average loss of about \$3,500 per employee – though that number can vary wildly from industry to industry. You can be sure the cost in time and

money has a ripple effect throughout the entire business.

Security: As your tech ages, and as developers end support, this means you will see fewer security patches, leaving you vulnerable. Developers may stop supporting older products, but hackers and cybercriminals will keep on trying to break into those products. They know small businesses tend to update their systems at a slower pace, making them easier targets. The importance of IT security cannot be overstated, and if you are working on older computers with outdated software, risks are greater.

So, What Can You Do? As we said before, many small businesses assume that keeping their technology up to date is cost prohibitive. They do not want to deal with the upfront cost that comes with investing in new hardware and software. While it can be costly, depending on your needs, there are ways to mitigate those costs.

One great example is through a Hardware-as-a-Service (HaaS) and Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) company or program. These allow small businesses to stay current without having to drop a tidy sum to make it all happen. These services are often offered through managed service providers (MSPs) that are dedicated to helping small businesses with all their IT needs, including keeping their technology updated and their network secure from outside intruders.

When you factor in the loss of productivity (and the frustration that comes with that) along with the costs that come with data breaches, malware infections or cyber-attacks, it can easily be worth it to kick your old technology to the curb and embrace the new!

This monthly publication provided courtesy of Tom Wyant, President of Wyant Computer Services.



The future of Memory Storage

Do you remember the floppy disc? It was developed in 1967 and could store 8 formatted documents, by the mid 70's it had shrunk from 8 inches to 3.5 inches. Then we went to the CD (Compact Disc) in the 80's that had the capacity to store 70,000 formatted documents. Next was the super cool USB Flash Drive in 1999 which could only hold 800 documents. They can now store 2 terabytes of data (I had to look this up) which is around 85,899,345 Word Docs.

Most of us have more storage in our cell phones then we did in the computers we were using 10 years ago. Now if we run out of space on our phones, we just upload our photos into cloud storage such as OneDrive, Dropbox or Amazon. Not only does the Cloud give us endless amounts of memory storage we can access the information from multiple devices. Having data available through the web has come in very handy especially with so many people working from home.

Technological innovation is moving at a faster pace more than ever before and what they are predicting for data storage in the near future is pretty mind blowing. Not only are they working on increasing the amount of data that can be stored, but there is also the constant race to see how much data can be fitted into the smallest amount of space.

3D NAND & Chips – Solid state hard drives are reaching

their data capacity, so now they are stacking transistors into 3 dimensions which improves the procession speeds and reduces energy consumption. Still in development is 3D XPoint which stacks a microscopic mesh of wires that could operate thousand times faster.

Remember Tape Drives? IBM just set a record by archiving 330 terabytes (330 million books) into a tape cartridge the size of your hand.

Mind Blowing! The University of Washington & Microsoft Research are developing a system to encode, store and retrieve digital data using a DNA molecule. Other scientists stored a 1-kilobyte message by manipulating individual chlorine atoms on a flat sheet of copper. The University of Southampton has created a 5D storage system that can safely store 360TB at room temperature for 13.8 billion years, this would be fantastic for Museums and Libraries to document their inventory.

I know all of this is a bit over the top, but after reading this article I just had to share some of the amazing things that are being developed.

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<https://www.quantumrun.com/prediction/digital-storage-revolution-future-computers>

Language Translating Earbuds

The article on pg. 3, 2021 Predictions, lists technology in development that I found amazing, especially the translating earbuds. Here is link to an article that gives the 4 best on the market already. <https://helpdeskgeek.com/product-reviews/the-4-best-wearable-translators/>

They cost from 180.00 to 200.00 and I am sure as the technology improves the price will start coming down. Just think how wonderful it will be to knock down the barriers to communication, allowing conversations between people all over the world. And now we have the ability to say "I think I am lost!" in 50 different languages and



Google Pixel Bud 2 Translates almost 40 languages instantly into spoken words.

WYANT WORD SCRAMBLE

Happy New Year Everyone!
Wendy Dodd from WLJN won the gift card drawing for December.
Thanks for sending me your Elf names that was so much fun.

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HINT: AURORA BORELALIS

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*Email your answers to wendy@gowyant.com to enter gift card drawing.

2021 Predictions and Beyond

- Google finishes Equiano – a powerful internet cable from Europe to South Africa increasing the countries network capacity 20Xs
- Cables will disappear as more household become wireless
- Translation earbuds will allow instantaneous translation from language to language*
- Solar panels will become more affordable for consumers
- Open-air gesture control instead of touching a screen, motion technology will capture your movements
- Stronger Customer Authentication is being developed for identity confirmation for payments and purchases
- Click and Mortar: pure e-commerce will die out, hybrid companies will successfully bridge the gap between e-commerce and traditional in-person retail shopping
- Mass production of self-driving cars will start in China
- First robotic pharmacist will arrive in the U.S.
- 40% of India power will rely on non-fossil fuel
- Canada and US go to the moon
- Singapore's air taxi will take off
- But still no personal jet packs! :(



6 Time Management Tips For The Busy Entrepreneur

Face it, there will never be enough hours in the day to accomplish everything you need to do. But, if you methodically review how you spend your days and instill focus and discipline while completing daily priorities, you will soon find more time to work on the long-term success of your business. Here are six ways to do it.

1. **Conduct A Time Audit** - Sit down and review three months of activity. The data from the analysis will show where you spent your time (which projects, tasks and priorities demanded your attention) and with whom you collaborated to get the work done. The audit will also shed light on areas where you were distracted, where you were the most productive and which tasks/projects took more (or less) time than anticipated.

2. **Eliminate Time Drains**: These are the kinds of things that sneak up on you and steal time that can be put to better use growing your business. Look for these time drains: not delegating tasks, not managing meetings efficiently (tip: always have an agenda!) and spending too much time writing/responding to e-mails. If you've done your job as a leader, members of your team can handle a majority of meetings and e-mails. You hired great people. Now let them do their jobs.

3. **Take Control Of Your Calendar**: Remember, you drive your schedule; don't let others drive it. Block time throughout your day and guard against changing your schedule to work on tasks that are not important or urgent. The way you allocate your time has a di-

rect correlation to your effectiveness as a leader and, ultimately, the performance of your business. Prudent calendar management will also send a strong signal to your team that you should take this seriously.

4. **Plan Your Day**: When you know what your priorities for the day, you will be better prepared to reset your work schedule if the unexpected comes your way. Once your schedule is set, block off chunks of time to work on your priorities. I recommend 90-minute blocks so you can concentrate on big-picture items or work on a group of related tasks. Stay disciplined and don't allow yourself to go over that allotted time.

5. **Limit Interruptions**: Now comes the hard part. Once you start working on each priority, you need to remain focused. Close the door and don't answer the phone unless it's a critical issue. Avoid checking your e-mail. Don't let distractions slow you down.

6. **Hold Yourself Accountable**: Share your tasks, priorities and deadlines with a colleague. Meet with that person at least monthly to review how well you managed your time. The probability of success increases when you have someone watching your progress and coaching you until you cross the finish line.

Andy Bailey is the founder, CEO and lead business coach at Petra, an organization dedicated to helping business owners across the world achieve levels of success they never thought possible.

Weird Shortages Predicted For 2021

Snow Tubes and Sleds Thanks to supply chain issues we can expect shortages in any Winter Outdoor fun items.

Appliances Maybe people decided to upgrade their refrigerators, or they needed more space for all of the food they were hoarding to survive the lock down. Many items are backordered by several months and this will probably continue into 2021.

Baking Supplies The flour shortages resulting from "the great bake-off of 2020" may spill over into the coming year. Supplies are going to be stretched again over the holidays if everyone keeps up with the baking craze.

Rice and Pasta supplies are being replenished but with the colder weather people will feel the need for comfort foods which will increase the demands and cause another shortage.

Pizza may be in danger! Strange but true: Pizzerias are struggling to find pepperoni and it is unclear when supplies will be replenished. There was a worldwide **garlic** shortage and although supplies have normalized, holiday cooking may again increase the demand enough to cause another shortage.

Pop & Beer There is already a shortage of Dr. Pepper and diet pop manufactures are having a hard time getting ingredients. Thanks to a shortage on aluminum, it may even effect beer packaging.

And the number 1 "Weird Shortage" predicted for 2021 is...Yep! you guessed it. **Toilet Paper**. Thanks to a spike in Covid-19 case, coupled with major snowstorms we could possibly see empty shelves in the TP aisles again. Of course, 2020 will always be remember as the year that Toilet Paper was declared the most important item to have in a national disaster.

W. Roberts

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**When They Say They Have It In Stock,
Do They Really?**

In this newsletter there are a couple of articles of predictions for 2021. One is predicting that we may again experience shortages of certain products. Some of them are down-right weird and others are going to sound very familiar. We all know that predictions have been wrong before but if they do happen; here a few things we learned during the shortage of technical devices last year.

Goodbye 2020 - At the beginning of the Pandemic everyone was in a huge rush to get their home offices set up to work remotely and make sure the kids had what they needed to do online classes. The demand for equipment exploded, pair that with China's manufacturing shut down, we had the recipe for a major shortage of tech devices. Just now we are starting to see some of the products back on the shelves, but 6 months ago if you needed a webcam or laptop it was a struggle to find anything.

Buyer beware! 9 times out of 10 when you finally did find a vendor that said they had your item in stock. Shortly after you ordered it, you were the recipient of a lovely email telling you that the product was backordered with an estimated shipping date of one month away. Then about 3 weeks later you received an email telling you that it will arrive in 4 weeks and in 3 more weeks another email with new date in another 4 weeks...on and on. It took 6 months to get webcams, 6 MONTHS!

Right away we learned to do thorough research before placing our orders, now our Sales Department makes sure that the *vendor's vendor* has the item in stock. Let's hope that 2021 is less challenging, but if it is, I am confident that Wyant Computer Services is prepared and that we can handle whatever 2021 brings.
W. Roberts

