

# The Tech chronicle

## Spring is Here!

Spring here! Soon the birds will be returning, flowers will be blooming and the temperatures will be rising. Take this opportunity to get out and see what Michigan has to offer in this wonderful season.

**Maples Sweet Story at Kensington Metroparks**  
Take a guided walk through the farm's Sugar Bush. Learn how to pick the right maple tree, then watch how maple trees are tapped and sap is collected. Stop by the French and Native American camps to hear and see how these techniques have changed through the years. Then visit the Sugar Shack to see and smell the sap being boiled down into maple sugar. Real maple sugar products will be available for purchase. Tours begin every half hour, last approximately one hour. Participants will walk approximately a ¼ mile over uneven ground.

**Progressive Novi Boat Show**  
Featuring more than 100 exhibitors showing new 2020 and new non-current ski boats, fishing boats, pontoons, small to mid-size runabouts, personal watercraft, kayaks, inflatables - also, motors, trailers, dockage, accessories, services and much more. Visit [www.noviboatshow.com](http://www.noviboatshow.com) for more information.

**64th Annual Detroit St. Patrick's Parade 1:00PM**  
Parade assembles at noon on 6th Street and Michigan Ave. Starting promptly at 1:00 pm. The Parade, which includes marching and pipe & drum bands, color guard units, floats, clowns, novelty groups and marching units, moves west on Michigan Ave., passes the reviewing stand and disperses at 14th Street, approximately 2 hours later.

## March 2022



This monthly publication provided courtesy of Dennis Jock of DenBe Computer Consulting.

### Did you Know?

Michigan was the first state to guarantee every child the right to tax-paid high school education.



## The 3 Options For IT Support And How To Choose The One That Fits Your Business

If you're a business owner or planning to open a new business, chances are you have looked into IT support options. For those unfamiliar with the world of IT support, it can be confusing trying to figure out which option is best for your business. You might be interested in the most cost-efficient option but worry that it won't offer enough support. Maybe you have looked at more extensive options and wondered what is truly necessary for your company's needs.

It can be problematic to look at cost alone to decide which option is best for you. When determining IT needs, there are three predominant options - that all come with different benefits and drawbacks - to consider before factoring in the cost of the company.

### Time And Materials

Those in the industry who use the time-and-materials option are often referred to as "break-fix services."

This essentially means that you pay an agreed-upon hourly rate for a technician to "fix" a problem when something "breaks." Many people like this option because it is the most straightforward and simple way to pay for IT assistance, but it often doesn't work in your favor and can even lead you to pay more for basic services.

The only time that I would recommend the time-and-materials approach is if you already have a competent IT person or team proactively managing your IT and you need additional support for a problem that your current IT team doesn't have the expertise to handle. Under the break-fix model, you'll find a fundamental conflict of interest between you and your IT firm. The IT company has no immediate need to stabilize your network because they are getting paid hourly. Computer

*Continued on pg.2*

*Continued from pg.1*

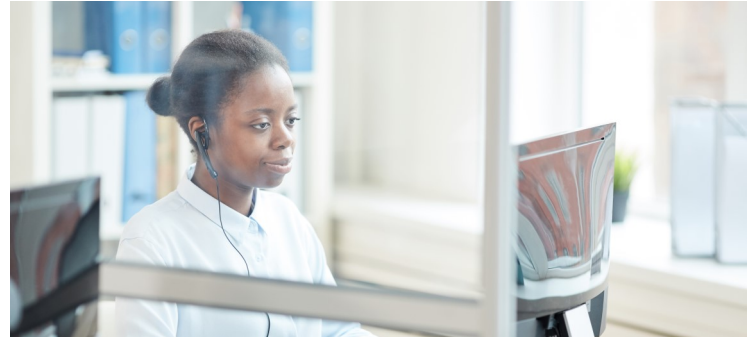
networks absolutely need ongoing maintenance and monitoring to stay secure – something the break-fix model cannot supply.

### Managed IT Services

In this option, the IT services company takes over the role of your in-house IT department for a fixed and agreed-upon monthly rate. They'll install, support and maintain all of the users, devices and PCs that are connected to your network on a routine basis. They will even take care of your hardware and software needs for an extra cost. This model works for many businesses because it allows them to plan for IT services in their monthly budget and provides the business with routine maintenance and IT support that they will need. With managed IT services that are offered by managed services providers, you need to pay attention to the services they deliver for their monthly fees. Sometimes your needs may cost extra or the services you truly need are simply not offered.

It's my sincere belief that the managed IT approach is undoubtedly the most cost-effective and intelligent option for any business. Managed IT services are all about protecting your business from IT-related problems while keeping your systems up and running. In our current age, cybercriminals are working around the clock, trying to gather valuable data. Hiring a managed services provider will help protect your

**"Computer networks absolutely need ongoing maintenance and monitoring to stay secure."**



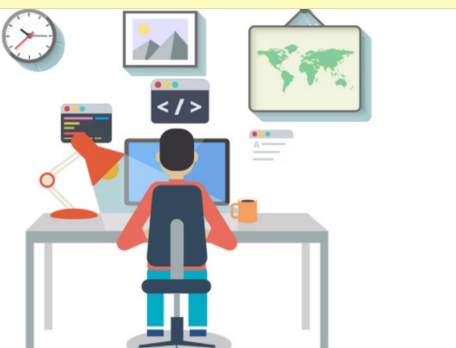
business and prevent common "disasters" such as rogue employees, lost devices, hardware failures, fires, natural disasters and a host of other issues that can interrupt or outright destroy your IT infrastructure and the data it holds.

### Technology As A Service

The final option that you will run into on your hunt for IT support is companies offering technology as a service. These companies offer everything that managed IT services offer but with the addition of new hardware, software and support. This service ensures that your business is always up-to-date with the newest technologies. You'll need to read the fine print, though since many of these companies do not cover third-party software. The greatest benefit of technology as a service is that you'll avoid the heavy cost of new hardware and software when you need it, but you will be paying far more for the same hardware and software over time.

Choosing the correct form of IT support for your company is incredibly important and something you want to attend to. Mistakes could have disastrous effects on your business. If you're unsure of which model will work best for you, give us a call. We'd be glad to help

**Wouldn't it be nice to have a one stop shop for all your IT needs? Let us give you a quote for Website Hosting, Design, SEO and SMM.**



Why not let DenBe be your one stop shop for everything IT?

- We can design your new website or transfer your existing site to our infrastructure
- We'd love to grow your business by handling your Search Engine Optimization
- Who has time for all that posting- we'd love to create content and handle all your Social Media Management
- DenBe Consulting can take all this off Your plate so you can run Your business

## It Can Happen To Anyone

### *The Horror Story*

You wake up on a weekday morning and see an email notification on your phone. It lets you know that your Facebook email has been changed to an old Hotmail address you haven't used in years. The next email in your inbox informs you that your Facebook password has been changed.

You sit bolt upright in bed. This can't be right! You try to log into Facebook, but your old password won't work.

Okay, don't panic. This can be fixed. You find that one of the notification emails has a link to secure the account if this change was unauthorized. Relieved, you click it, ready to get your account back. But the whole page is in Turkish, incomprehensible. You can't make heads or tails of it, or find a way back into your account.

Pulling up your account by URL you find somebody else's face on your profile, and somebody else's name. Your account has been invaded, and somebody else has taken your place. They have access to all your messages, your friends, your photos and personal information about you stored in your account. Even other websites and apps that you use Facebook to access.

Somebody has stolen your digital life from you!

### *The Reality*

This really happened to Jeff Bercovici, Inc.'s San Francisco bureau chief.

So how did the hacker get access to his Facebook profile? Through an old Hotmail address that Jeff hadn't used in years. Hotmail will release old addresses to be re-registered if they haven't been in use for two or more years.

This old email account was still connected to Jeff's Facebook profile, and the hacker was able to use it to get in. He then changed the password and the primary email and took total control of the account. If Jeff wasn't a tech journalist with connections at Facebook, it might have taken him a lot longer to get his account back.

### *What can you do to prevent this?*

- You should check your security settings on your Facebook account.
- Check for any connected email addresses and remove old ones.
- Make sure you have two-factor authentication enabled.
- Lock down privacy settings to prevent people from using your Facebook account to gather information about you.

# Get Different And Avoid Defeat



When I released my first book, *The Toilet Paper Entrepreneur*, I hoped that it would be met with instant success. Instead, nobody bought the book on its initial release day. I felt defeated like most would be in this situation. I quickly questioned my next step. Should I learn how to market effectively or simply give up on my hopes and dreams?

I knew that I wrote a good book and that it would help other entrepreneurs succeed, so it became my mission to properly market it. The lack of good and effective marketing is what holds many businesses back from reaching their goals.

If you want to beat the competition, you must differentiate yourself from the rest. My book

*Get Different* explains ways that you can make your company more visible in the business marketplace. I truly believe that the three main steps from this book can help any company's marketing strategy be more engaging and effective.

The first thing you need to do is differentiate your business from its competitors. Strong word-of-mouth marketing is incredibly

difficult to achieve

and can lead to failure. Instead, you should get out there and use your marketing tools to ensure that people know just how great your business is. Use your talents to stand out from the crowd. Consumers will surely take notice of your brand if you appear to be more knowledgeable or even funnier than the competition.

After you get your consumers' attention, you need to offer engagement opportunities. Give your campaign an authoritative, trustful or socially significant approach so they feel comfortable using your business.

Lastly, you need to be direct. Tell them what to do after getting their attention. Develop a call to action so customers and ideal prospects will take the next step. You can also measure the results and see how effective your marketing truly is when you pick a specific action.

Proper marketing can be very difficult to



*Mike Michalowicz has always believed that he had the formula to success and has proved it on multiple occasions. He is the creator of Profit First, which is used by hundreds of thousands of companies across the globe to drive profit. He is the author of multiple books, including Get Different and The Toilet Paper Entrepreneur. Mike is a former small business columnist for The Wall Street Journal and served as a business makeover specialist for MSNBC. Mike currently leads two new multimillion-dollar ventures as he puts his latest research to the test. He also is a highly sought-after keynote speaker*



## ■ You Are The Heart Of Your Business. Do You REALLY Know What That Means?

As a business owner, you're the true heart of your business.

Though this may sound egotistical, there is some truth behind the expression. In a way, your business is an extension of yourself, which also means that your business cannot be something that you personally are not. So many people say, "I want to make the best product and get rich from it," but instead they should be focusing on the why instead of the want. Much better questions to ask when deciding what direction to take your business are "Why do I want to be rich?" and "Why is this the product to make it so?"

If you want to see greater success in your business, treat it as an extension of yourself. If things get too muddled, take some time and reflect on what really matters to you. This will help you realign your business and

make sure that you're focused on the things that truly matter.

## ■ Generating Buzz Can Be Harder Than You Think

It's hard to argue that there's anything more powerful in the world of marketing than word of mouth. A report from Nielson found that people trust consumer reviews 66% of the time and recommendations from people they know 83% of the time, while fewer than half of the respondents showed trust in advertisements found on social media. Word-of-mouth marketing can be difficult to obtain, but with these three tips, your business will be the talk of the town before you know it.

- **Master Your Field:** Always aim for the highest level of customer service and become knowledgeable about the product or service you're selling. If you wow your customers, they will

probably tell friends about your business.

- **Inform Others Of Your Business Mission:** It's important that your business has a mission statement that the company works to maintain, but you should also be sharing that mission with all of your customers so they can buy in.
- **Be Authentic And Charismatic:** Be real with your customers and share your values with them. Find out what makes you and your business unique and find new ways to express that uniqueness.

## Building Trust In The Remote Economy

■ The pandemic saw a huge shift in people working remotely. Before the pandemic, only 6% of the workforce worked remotely, but those numbers soared to 54% in May 2020. The shift has been difficult for many employers, but there are things you can do to make remote work easier for you and your employees. Offer flexibility that better fits their needs, find ways to build trust, limit restrictions and listen to what your employees are saying. To build a more appreciative and joyous remote culture, make the job more about your employees' needs and less about what you want.



SHANNON  
WHEELER

*"Have you tried turning it off and on again?"*