The Pain of IT Budgeting:

STRATEGIES FOR OPTIMIZING YOUR IT SPENDING

When it comes to paying the bills, most businesses greatly dread the process of IT budgeting. They find it to be a strenuous and complex task that can be challenging to master. For this reason, many businesses never even try to cut costs and manage their IT spending in the first place. Here are Five Strategies to Optimize Your IT Spending:

1. Define Your Business Goals

The first step in developing an IT budget and optimizing spending is understanding your business goals, including what you want from your IT solutions. Then, you can use this knowledge to determine what technologies will help meet those goals while staying within budget constraints.

2. Measure Success in Using IT Effectively and Efficiently

To make decisions down the road about IT spending, you'll need to define what success means for your organization. You'll want to create an actionable plan that aligns with your goals and helps you track and achieve them with your IT budget.

3. Make Use of Your Existing Technology Infrastructure Assets

Using existing assets within your technology infrastructure will help reduce overhead costs while allowing you to focus on purchasing new equipment and software only as necessary.

4. Figure Out Where to Invest in New Technologies

What are the goals of your organization? What do you need for those goals to be achieved? These questions will help you determine where you should focus on new spending.

5. Reduce Costs by Eliminating Non-Essential Services or Equipment

You can reduce costs by eliminating non-essential services and equipment.

IT BUDGETING DOESN'T HAVE TO BE PAINFUL

Remember to break the process into steps, decide how new spending will support business initiatives, and reduce costs where possible. Also, keep in mind that there are many ways to approach this kind of planning, but whatever approach works best for your organization will depend on its size, resources, and goals.

LeadingIT Community

Recently our LeadingIT team went from keyboards to karting. It was a thrilling experience to see everyone unleash their inner racer and compete on the track. We are grateful for our amazing team and their dedication to our company every day!

Pictured on the cover: LeadingIT Team

Reduce Security Risks With A Hacker Mindset

As a business owner, one of your top goals is to protect your business against cyber attacks; you need to know exactly what attackers are thinking and planning. If you look at things from a hacker's perspective, it is possible to reduce the risks of a breach or attack by malicious cybercriminals. So, let's get into the mindset of a hacker!

A Hacker's Goal Is To Make As Much Money As Quickly As Possible

The hacker's motivation is the same as most criminals: making money quickly. The difference is that cybercriminals can make their money in a variety of ways. They may steal it by wiring themselves money from a business, sell valuable business data to underground markets, hold business data for ransom, and more.

While larger corporations often have deeper pockets, small to medium size businesses are at risk too. In fact, in 2021, 61% of SMBs were the target of a cyberattack!

What Hackers Are Looking For:

- Security Flaws
- High- Profile Services (Access to valuables)
- Systems With User Access
- Human Error
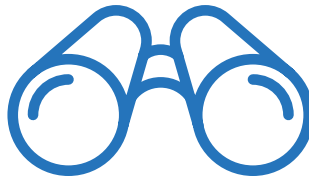
What To Do In Case of A Breach

Here's a general process to follow:

1. Identify the source and extent of the breach.
2. Determine how much data was accessed and what type of information was compromised.
3. Notify the authorities as well as affected consumers.
4. Plan for damage mitigation and cleanup.

Reduce Risks With IT Support Services

Thinking like a hacker gives you key insights into how you can protect your business and identify vulnerabilities that hackers look for. If you experience a breach, act fast and follow your organization's response plan.

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3 Ways to Protect Your Business From IoT Intrusions

The Internet of Things (IoT) is a network of devices that allow us to connect physical objects (like smart appliances, security systems, cars, etc.) to one another via an internet connection.

Below, we will discuss three of the biggest security challenges for IoT devices along with actionable tips to keep yourself protected.

Poor Authentication Measures

It's essential to maintain proper authentication hygiene, which involves protecting your devices in a way that verifies users are who they say they are.
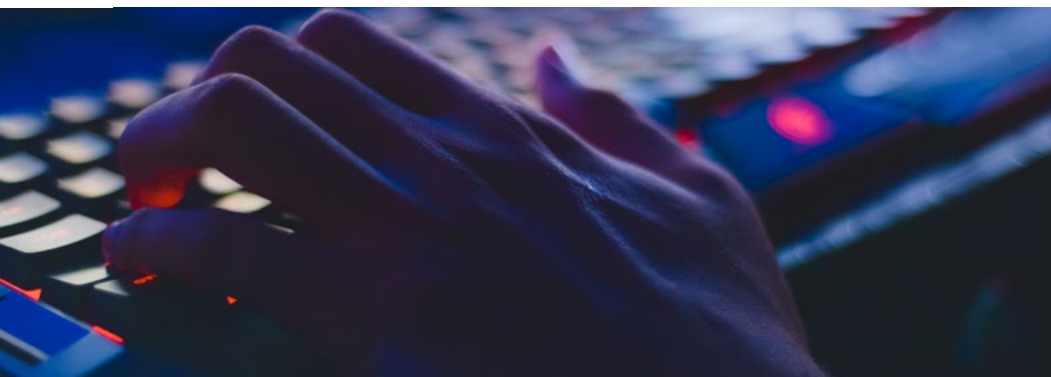
SOLUTIONS

- Two-factor authentication or biometrics
- A method for discovering new devices
- Procedures for periodically rotating passwords

Lack of Secure Updates

Unfortunately, IoT manufacturers are notorious for not releasing timely updates for their devices, making them more vulnerable than a typical computer system.

4 Most Common Signs of a Scam Email

1. Urgency
2. Unwanted/ Unrequested Attachments
3. Subpar Grammar
4. Sender's Address is Misspelled or Suspicious

■ *3 Ways to Protect Your Business* continued...

SOLUTION

- To ensure devices stay protected long-term, it's essential that they are periodically updated and patched.

Data Transfer and Storage Risks

IoT devices transmit and receive vast amounts of information, making them susceptible to intrusion by third parties.

SOLUTION

- Encrypt data in transit whenever possible
- Use public-key cryptography via the DTLS protocol
- Connect with a reliable IT service provider for support

Address Your IoT Vulnerabilities Today

Technology is becoming more and more prevalent in our personal and business lives every day. While it often allows us to do more with less, it also requires more management.

Using the above tips and tricks, you will be on your way to protecting your devices with the proper tools and equipment.

Scott and Salvador

NEW REFERRAL PROGRAM!

We are thrilled to announce our new client referral program! We are offering you the opportunity to earn a $1000 AMEX gift card for any referral that signs with us. LeadingIT provides top-notch concierge IT and cybersecurity support, where nothing is unsolvable. Whether it's troubleshooting tech issues or providing cybersecurity solutions, our team of experts is dedicated to providing exceptional service. So spread the word and earn some extra cash with our client referral program! **www.goleadingit.com/refer/**

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WE ARE CELEBRATING

Birthdays

Laura Piekos- May 21st
Joel DeBoer - May 13th

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