

# TECHNOLOGY BYTES

Insider Tips To Make Your Business Run Faster, Easier & Be More Profitable

"As a business owner, you don't have time to waste on technical and operational issues. That's where we shine! A true professional IT support team you can count on, available 24/7."



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## Exclusive For CEOs

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## IT News, Trends And Information You May Have Missed In 2022

The year 2022 will soon be on its way out the door. It became a year full of ups and downs for many small businesses, but it still felt more promising than the past few years in the midst of the pandemic. Many small-business owners used this past year to reevaluate their IT services. Some needed to strengthen their cybersecurity defenses while others utilized new advancements to further assist their customer base.

### Refined Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence (AI) has come a long way over the past few years. Many people associate AI with video games or using GPS for travel, but many companies have started to implement AI in new ways to boost their businesses. It's even being used to automate certain tasks, provide insight through data analysis and assist customers with their needs.

If you're a small-business owner, it's essential that you're aware of the IT news, trends and events that took place in the recent past. In fact, knowing what happened in the previous year can allow you to develop plans for the future so 2023 will be successful for you and your business. You shouldn't continue following old trends because the competition will quickly leave you behind, and that could open you up to cyber-attacks you didn't know existed. Don't worry, though; we're here to help. Here are our picks for the most important IT events and trends of 2022.

AI has proved incredibly beneficial when used to help customers, and this can be seen when looking at various small-business websites. They use AI to answer common questions their customer base has, which provides quick, efficient results for their customers, who leave satisfied with their interaction.

Around 37% of businesses now utilize AI in the workplace, according to a survey conducted by Gartner. Another study by NewVantage Partners found that nine out of 10 leading businesses have investments in AI technologies. So, if you want to get ahead of your competitors, implement AI into your business.



## Managed IT Services Providers Continuing To Grow In Popularity

Gone are the days of having an in-office IT person or team. A more cost-effective solution has been gaining traction over the past few years and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. Managed IT services providers (MSPs) install, support and maintain all the users, devices and PCs connected to your network on a routine basis. MSPs can even prevent common problems such as 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. The managed IT services industry is growing immensely. At the end of 2021, the industry was valued at \$239.71 billion, and it's estimated to grow by over 13% annually until 2030. Businesses of all sizes have realized the value of MSPs and are using them to their advantage.

### Major Cyber-Attacks Of 2022

Cyber-attacks happen all the time. As new cyberthreats

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emerge, we'll see more frequent and severe cyber-attacks over the next few years. Uber saw another cyber-attack this past September that caused the company to shut down its internal messaging service and engineering systems in order to get to the bottom of the incident. Cryptocurrency storage and blockchain were also high-value targets for cybercriminals. Ronin and Crypto.com suffered severe cyber-attacks that required both companies to reimburse their users for the cryptocurrency stolen in the attack. Ronin was hacked for \$540 million, and Crypto.com was hacked for \$33 million worth of cryptocurrencies.

Small businesses weren't safe from cyber-attacks, either. While cyber-attacks on big businesses make national news, small businesses are targeted more often since their cyber security defenses aren't as strong. That being said, it's imperative you ensure your business has efficient cybersecurity practices in place, so you won't have to worry as much about cyber-attacks.

The IT industry is consistently changing to keep up with new developments and advancements. If you're a small-business owner, it's vital to keep up with the latest news and information so you can best protect your business and its data. When you stay ahead of the trends, it's much easier to prevent potential cyber-attacks and threats.

## *Time To Upgrade Your Computer Network?*

### **Here Are 3 Things You Need To Know Before You Do...**

It's that time of year again when most businesses are scrambling to make last-minute purchases to lighten the current year's tax burden. One of the things many tax-savvy businesses do is purchase new office and computer equipment that will be needed within the next few months NOW so they can deduct the expense on the current year's taxes (double-check with your tax advisor to be sure this applies to you!). But if you're planning to upgrade your server, here are three things you might want to investigate before making any decisions:

**1. Cloud Computing.** Cloud technologies are far beyond "hype." They offer real, tangible benefits to businesses, including improved disaster recovery and backup, easier access to data remotely, reduced IT complexities, fewer problems and, in many cases, a cost savings. Cloud is definitely not a right fit for everyone, but you should at least consider this as one of your options.

**2. HaaS.** In case you haven't heard enough acronyms in the IT industry, let me give you one more: HaaS, or "hardware as a service." Simply, HaaS is an option to "rent" hardware on a low monthly basis instead of purchasing it outright. This eliminates the hefty cash drain for a network upgrade and allows you to pay for hardware as a service. It also puts the burden of repair and replacement on the shoulders of your IT company (us) to keep your equipment up and running. You do end up paying more in the long run (as you would if you leased a car or bought a house on payments), but the ease on cash flow makes this a better option for some people.

**3. Our Year-End Network Upgrade Bonus Program!** All during the month of December, we're offering clients who upgrade their network with a new server or upgrade their network to a cloud-based solution a FREE month of our award-winning service and support. This will save you hundreds, possibly thousands, of dollars in IT services and support. But to get it, you MUST upgrade your network THIS YEAR.



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## Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:



### The Ekster Parliament Wallet

We carry sensitive information in our wallets. They hold our driver's licenses, credit cards, family photos and more. It makes sense that we would want to do everything we can to keep our wallets safe. Now, there's a wallet available to help us. The Ekster Parliament Wallet is a premium-leather, RFID-blocking smart wallet. With the press of a button, the built-in aluminum card holder fans out your cards for easier access. It protects your cards from skimming and is available in 10 brilliant colors. For an additional price, you can add a tracker card to your wallet so you can find it if you leave it somewhere. There's never been a smarter wallet than the Ekster Parliament Wallet.

# Want To Hire More Millennials? Here's How To Attract Them!

While giving a seminar, I was recently asked by an audience member, "How do you get millennials to work for you?" This is a fair question since the workplace has changed dramatically over the past few years, and some of the most talented individuals across various industries are millennials. So, how do you best attract them?

I felt tempted to point out the "Five Fs of Selling" straight out of the Who book I wrote with Randy Street. We researched and identified a checklist of items that successful leaders use to sell people on joining their organizations. After reviewing our research, we determined five common ways successful leaders got people to join their teams - fit, family, freedom, fortune and fun. The one that applies most when it comes to attracting millennials is the first F: fit.

I believe it's a common misconception that millennials are lazy or want all sorts of exceptions made. Most millennials aren't choosing employment someplace simply because they are allowed to bring their dog to work or because they are provided with free massages, coconut water or other goods. On the contrary, I think most millennials want to work for a company they can believe in. They want to believe their job has meaning or has a positive impact on a broader set of people.

When hiring a millennial, you should know your company's reason for being. In order to get them to accept the job you're offering, it must "fit" that person's value system. Sell that point hard. Many companies I see fail to put enough emphasis on this.

The executive who recently asked me how to get millennials to work for their business was missing something.



missing something. He worked for a company that, in my opinion, offers terrific value. This company provides equipment and services to bring clean drinking water to people all over the world! Imagine having a company mission so profoundly valuable it could attract millennial talent. Yet, in this company's hiring practices, website and selling tactics to prospective employees, I noticed they were totally under-selling this critical point. They already had a mission that fits within many millennials' belief systems but simply failed to sell that idea through recruiting or hiring. If you want to make your business a place where millennials want to work, you must ensure your company's values align with those of the person you're recruiting or interviewing. If you can articulate your company's reason for being and show how it fits that candidate's reason for living, you'll have no problem attracting talented millennials to your business.

*Holiday*  
**Cybersecurity Tips**

**Don't let cyber-attacks sleigh you  
ask Santa for cyber safety!**

## ■ 2 Challenges E-Commerce Businesses Face And How To Overcome Them

With the Internet came a new digital marketplace that allowed people to purchase specific products they couldn't find in their hometowns. these days,most businesses offer a way to buy their products or services online, whether it's through their personal website or an e-commerce marketplace like Amazon. Despite this, selling online brings new challenges you don't often see when selling from within a brick-and-mortar location. Here are some challenges to watch for and solutions to overcome them.

### Payments

Oftentimes, e-commerce businesses need to deal with chargebacks. This happens when a customer disputes a

charge on their credit card statement, causing you to lose out on the sale and the item. To avoid this, have a clear and concise return policy. You should also keep detailed records of all transactions and shipments to prove the customer received their order.

### ■ Shipping

Shipping delays can leave customers feeling frustrated, even if they aren't the company's fault. You can't do anything to control hazardous weather, but you can set a reasonable range of time for your customer to receive their item. You don't have to promise two-day shipping just to compete with Amazon. It can also help to utilize shipping management software to automate your shipping processes.

### Coping With Stress

Nearly everyone deals with stress at some point in their lives, and most

business leaders struggle with it regularly. The good news is that you don't need to live with extreme levels of stress. There are simple solutions to help you cope better. Below you'll find three ways to lessen the amount of stress in your life.

- Be aware of how much stress you take on. You need to know how much Stress your body and mind can reasonably take on before you start to struggle.
- Set boundaries and say no when needed. You can't agree to do every task or help every person without adding more stress to your plate. Know how much is too much, and don't take on tasks that are too demanding for your current state of mind.
- Meditate, breathe deeply and exercise to relax your body and mind. Stressors won't feel so drastic when you're relaxed.

