Data-Link Associates, Inc.

# DataGrams



Proven, Field Tested **Network Security Strategies** To Help Our Clients Make **Confident, Real-Time** Cybersecurity Decisions.

### **Lock Your PC**



"Lock it up when you stand up"

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## What's Your Clean Desk Policy?

We're not talking about stocking up on compressed air and mini Swiffers, today.

A Clean Desk Policy establishes minimum requirements for staff when handling sensitive/critical information about employees, intellectual property, customers or vendors.

The policy should require that all sensitive materials be removed from an end-user workspace and locked away when:

- Items are not in use
- Employee leaves their workstation for any period of time

#### Guidelines for a Clean Desk Policy

- → Employees to ensure all sensitive/ confidential information in hardcopy or electronic form is secure in their work area when not actively using the materials.
- → Lock computer when workspace is unoccupied and at the end of the day.
- → File cabinets containing restricted/ sensitive information should be kept closed and locked when not in use or when not attended.

- → Keys used for restricted/sensitive information should not be left on an unattended desk.
- → Laptops should be locked with a locking cable or locked away in a drawer when unattended and at the end of the work day.
- → Printouts containing restricted/sensitive information should be immediately removed from the printer.
- → Unneeded printed documents should be shredded with a diamond-cut shredder, in official shredder bins or placed in a locked, confidential disposal bin.
- → Whiteboards containing restricted/ sensitive information should be erased thoroughly.
- → Treat any mass storage devices as sensitive and keep them locked in a drawer.

We are available to review your current **Clean Desk Policy** or help you create one.

## Your Technology Business Review Awaits!

Schedule a 15-minute call with Angela to start!

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Angela Jamerson Director of Operations

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This monthly publication provided courtesy of Richard Frielink, Founder & President of Data-Link.

#### **Our Mission**

To provide IT solutions and services that allow our clients to succeed in an ever changing and challenging business environment.

## **EMERGENCY**

(630) 406-8969





#### Reminders For Building Effective Multilocation Teams

When managing offices or people in multiple locations, the difference between success and failure often can be traced to the commitment that leaders have in fostering a company culture that embraces open, honest communication, accountability and alignment. Here's how you do it.

#### Hire Right

When hiring (or promoting from within) to manage remote locations or workers, make sure candidates have what it takes to work independently and in a less traditionally structured environment. The nature of working remotely requires team members to be self-starters. They also need to have knowledge and confidence to solve challenges on their own because they won't be able to walk into your office for guidance (though we're close with Zoom.).

#### Loosen The Reins

As a leader, you're ultimately responsible for the success of your team. But once you've hired your team, you have to release control and let team members do their jobs. Establish key performance indicators (KPIs) to set goals, but resist the temptation to micromanage. Warren Buffett said it best: "Hire well. Manage little." This will afford you time to focus on other projects. Not only that, the trust you show will breed loyalty to your team.

#### **Conduct Daily Team Meetings**

Daily huddles provide team members with the opportunity to quickly share their meeting schedules and news that the whole teams should hear. Each person can also report on the progress toward individual and company quarterly goals and note their top priority for the day. Morning meetings can build team spirit, share information, foster accountability and provide quick solutions.

## Don't Neglect One-On-One Meetings

No matter the size of your organization or the number of remote locations or workers, it's essential for each team member to have one-on-one time with a manager or leader. These meetings should be held at least monthly, preferably bi-weekly. Implement a system that allows supervisors to track the progress of team members' work, provide a listening ear for concerns and help them set goals.

#### **Publicly Recognize Achievements**

As leaders, it's up to us to encourage team members to be the best they can be and to recognize excellent work. As we all know, research has shown a direct correlation between workplace appreciation and productivity and engagement. A Salesforce study found that team members who feel their voices are heard are 4.6 times more likely to feel empowered to perform their best work. Create an online kudos board with an app like TINYpulse where you and fellow team members recognize peers for accomplishments.

Since 2020, nearly every business has a basic understanding of remote work. Though viable, some plans still lack this magic that makes a remote team successful.

### I.T. Word Of The Month: Idshuwerk

Call to I.T. (again): "Hi I.T., The problem you fixed for me last week is happening again today." I.T.: "Well, I did the (unintelligible jargon) last week... Idshuwerk."

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We have the best clients!

You always have the nicest things to say to us about our people, service and offerings.

Whether we've been together for years, or we're at the beginning of our journey, we invite you to put it in writing and let the world know!

You can do that here:

Thank you kindly!





#### In Case You Missed It...

In case you haven't subscribed and followed us yet, here are some of the tech tips we sent out on socials in March to help get you up to speed.

"On my desk I have three screens, synchronized to form a single desktop.
Once you have that large of a display area, you'll never go back, because it has a direct impact on productivity."

Bill Gates















To be sure you don't miss one of our helpful tips again:

- 1) Subscribe to our Weekly IT Tech Tip emails (Red QR code, to the left)
- 2) Follow us on LinkedIn (Blue QR code, below.)



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- Thank You For Calling!
  - Thank you to those who called in a referral this month, sent topic requests for the Weekly IT Tip emails, requested more information or sat for an appointment. We appreciate you!
- McDonalds experienced a global outage in early/mid March caused by what the company described as a 'configuration change' forcing closures, with outages reported in Japan.

**Panera Bread** is experiencing a nation-wide IT outage (since late March). The company also operates Caribou Coffee and Einstein Bros. Bagels.

- Windows 11 Notepad finally gets spellcheck and autocorrect. (currently in testing at Microsoft)
- Data from AT&T cyberbreach back in 2021 is finally being sold on the dark web. Over 70 million people were impacted.
  - \*\*\*Beware of Text or Email from AT&T. Call AT&T directly on a previously verified phone number for the company.\*\*\*

## Did you know?

Few Managed Services firms (like us) offer 'Break/Fix—no contract' solutions these days.

We know that Break Fix is still the rightfit IT option for some businesses and we gladly continue to offer it!

Drop us a line at info@datalinkmsp.com!



"Whether you're just getting started, or you've been in business a while, you always want to invest in hardware and software that will scale with you."

- Angela Jamerson on **growth of your business** as one of the three places you should NEVER cut corners with IT.

(The other twos areas are **equipment** and **data security**.)

#### For IT Professionals

- **Pwn2Own Vancouver** awards hackers over \$1.1 M for 29 zero-days.
- New MFA-bypassing phishing targets Microsoft 365, Gmail accounts.

SEKOIA.IO's Community repository lists over 50 IoC entries linked to the Tycoon 2FA operation.

- \$700 cybercrime software turns Raspberry Pi into an evasive fraud.
- Free VPN apps on Google Play turned Android phones into proxies.





As you may know, Microsoft released an out-of-band update to address the LSASS issue causing lockups/reboots on domain controllers.

The update was not released via automatic updates or WSUS. The update could be installed manually or imported into WSUS.

Since Windows 2012 has reached end-of-life, the update will not install successfully unless an ESU license has been purchased for the servers.

If you use a network/device management tool, like N-Central, you may see daily failed attempts to install on any Windows 2012 servers you may still have. The update will fail, reboot, and try three times before rolling the update back.

The fix is to remove the approval for that out-of-band update on Windows 2012 servers.

FREE REPORT: "The CEO/CFO's Guide To Co-Managed IT"

"So your internal IT team can focus on keeping your network secure."

DOWNLOAD the FREE REPORT at datalinkmsp.com/partnership