

Who Else Wants To Win A \$25 Gift Card?

The Grand Prize Winners of last month's Trivia Challenge Quiz were Alex Broccuto from Genesee Regional Bank and Terry Flanigan from the East Rochester Volunteer Ambulance. They were the first two people to correctly answer my quiz question from last month.

You can be the Grand Prize Winner of this month's Trivia Challenge Quiz! The first two people to correctly answer this month's trivia question will receive a \$25 Amazon gift card. One winner per company per quarter.

After a gigabyte comes what, in increasing order?

- A) Kilobyte
- B) Byte
- C) Terabyte
- D) Megabyte

Email us at chill@cetechno.com or call us now with your answer! **585-441-0055**

3 Ways To Make Your Customers Love You

1 Be available

Today, when customers expect products to be available on-the-go, businesses must do the same. Set up reliable resources to update and manage customer experience, for example, by setting up an automatic callback system. Instead of waiting on hold, callers get added to a list then receive the call when the service team is ready. Live chat, an informative online FAQ and other handy resources can go a long way toward avoiding frustration.

2 Surprise customers by actually being convenient.

We've all had interactions with customer service that made us want to pull our hair out. Avoid this by reducing friction wherever possible.

Make sure the people in charge of customer experience, whether it's a front-desk person or a team of dedicated service professionals, are friendly and transparent about the service process. Make signing up for appointments abundantly easy and pleasant, and you'll see the benefits in no time.

3 Put your money into the most important investment.

We all know that acquiring new customers costs seven times more than keeping existing ones. That makes the numbers pretty clear: you need to invest in your existing customers or risk going under. *Inc.com*, Oct 4, 2018

CAN YOU AFFORD TO LOSE \$80,000 A YEAR? IF NOT, READ THIS:

According to the Better Business Bureau's 2017 State of Cybersecurity Among Small Businesses In North America report, SMBS lost more than \$79,000 to cybercriminals.

Honestly, this shouldn't surprise anyone; after all, as even the smallest businesses digitize more and more of their processes, the costs of breaking those systems will continue to skyrocket. If you're a smallbusiness owner in 2019, you need to start making cyber security a priority – now. Make a list of clear goals and objectives, and prepare your business for threats coming from all directions, rather than relying on a single defensive strategy that's prone to fail when things get tough.

SmallBizTrends.com, 12/3/2018



WHAT'S NEW

We are excited to announce Jocelyn Aldino to our CE-Tech family! Some of you may have already met or talked with Jocelyn. She joined us on January 2nd.

Jocelyn says, "IT is constantly growing and evolving. There is always something to learn and I enjoy getting my hands on any kind of new technology so I can tinker, explore and expand my knowledge."

Outside of work, Jocelyn loves to be outside in her garden, spending time with her 3 dogs and visiting her brother every year in Florida.

Jocelyn has been a great addition to our team! Check out what one of our clients recently said about her... (page 2)



The #1 Mistake Your Employees Are Making Today That Lets Cybercriminals Into Your Network

In the wake of unprecedented rates of digital crime, with the cost and frequency of data breaches constantly skyrocketing year after year, companies all over the world have been forced to scramble for solutions. There's an arms race running behind the scenes of every piece of technology we use in business today, as cyber security companies shore up their clients' defenses against increasingly sophisticated digital threats. Billions of dollars are now poured into battling away would-be intruders from the most precious assets on global networks: most of the money directed toward the software that keeps everything afloat, just out of reach of the bad guys. But even as each day brings a new technological apex for security solutions, data

breaches continue. Despite the fact that the tools hackers use to make money are more or less the same as they were three years ago, nobody seems to question why companies are still being hacked at record levels. It's easy to imagine a crack team of infamous hackers hammering away at a keyboard into the late hours of the night, feverishly computing the one piece of code that will break them into a system.

This may be the process behind the highprofile breaches you read about in the news each week, but in reality, most cybercrime takes much less effort. The average hack succeeds not because of overt vulnerabilities in the structure of business networks, but because of a mistake made by you or your employees.

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The Creative Curve

By Allen Gannett

According to Allen Gannett, everything we've been taught about creativity is a lie. It isn't only for geniuses, whose inspiration arrives like a bolt of lightning. In fact, Gannett argues, the principles behind achieving success in any creative endeavor, whether it's selling a painting or starting a business from the ground up, is quite predictable. In his book *The Creative Curve*, Gannett boils down the essentials of creative success into four prime laws. If you've been stuck in a creative rut and are looking to get a leg up on the competition, his book is the perfect place to start.



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According to IBM's X-Force Threat Intelligence Index, more than two-thirds of breaches arise from what they call "inadvertent insiders," folks who accidentally left the network vulnerable from one action or another without even realizing it. Most of the human error that becomes the root cause of catastrophe can be traced back to phishing. A criminal spends some time researching your organization, maybe learning a bit about an employee or two, and decides to masquerade as someone worthy of trust either within your team or from a company you contract with, or just a stock person offering something pretty much everybody wants. They

"Somebody clicks the included link without thinking, and there you go – you've got ransomware."

mock up a somewhat convincing e-mail and send it off to 10 people within your business. Somebody clicks the included link without thinking, and there you go – you've got ransomware. If you haven't backed up your data, you're looking at a hefty fee to get everything back, if they even give it back at all. In other cases, your team may actively duck around your previously implemented security measures or avoid the procedures you've put in place to keep the business safe. That can mean visiting unsavory websites, ignoring a vital security patch or another minor transgression.

But when every mistake spells a potentially massive vulnerability, you can't afford people who aren't conducting business to the highest standards in cyber security. Regardless of how it happens, most hacks occur because employees just don't know better. Even in 2019, when cybercrime runs rampant and virtually everyone is constantly at risk on the Internet, most of us just aren't well-versed in ways to protect ourselves, much less the companies we work for. The good news is that this problem

is pretty easy to prevent through education. To keep everyone abreast of the latest threats to their livelihood, it takes a thorough set of rules, guidelines and general savvy to steer them through the troubled waters of modern cyberspace.

Of course, this will take more than a 30-minute crash course in the break room one afternoon. It'll take a concerted effort and dedicated resources. Luckily, we can help. With a trusted partner dedicated not only to keeping your organization protected from the latest digital threats, but to keeping your employees alert and ready to spot anything phishy, you drastically decrease the chances of your business becoming another statistic in the war on cybercrime. Work with us and secure the future of your company for the long haul.

**“ THE BEST HELP!!!
Jocelyn is the best.
Really going places! ”**
- Cody Dean
Brighton Volunteer Ambulance

SHINY NEW GADGET OF THE MONTH

Skip The "HeatBuddy"
An Underperforming Heating Solution That Promises The World

The cold may be winding down, but you're still likely fatigued by the high heating bills you were forced to shell out extra money for over the last three months. Luckily, heating technology is improving all the time, reducing electricity costs while keeping your toes from freezing off. However, it's important that you don't get roped in by another "as seen on TV" product that overpromises and underdelivers.

Take, for example, the HeatBuddy: a portable, plug-and-play space heater that ostensibly offers revolutionary heating capabilities in a tiny, low-electricity package. However, it's another case of "too good to be true" – even a cursory glance at customer reviews reveals this to be a run-of-the-mill space heater, if only a little smaller. Unless you need a very small heater for some specific task, it's best to skip the \$29.99 and keep on researching other options to lower your power bill.



Taking The Fear Out Of Feedback

As much as most of us go on and on about improving ourselves, our work and our businesses, we're usually pretty afraid of actually receiving any feedback. But with the right structure, support and mindset, feedback doesn't have to be a boogeyman – it can be an essential tool to further your success.

By removing disruption, surprise and conflict from the equation, the phrase "constructive criticism" can actually start to mean something. The key is to zero in on how feedback is – or isn't – shared in your organization and removing the roadblocks that make it messy. If you proactively provide resources that foster a continuous flow of non-hostile feedback, everyone will benefit. Forbes.com, 12/21/2018



The Self-Made Myth: All Business Leaders Had Help Along The Way

I'm about to share an unpopular opinion: the self-made CEO is a myth. No successful entrepreneur or business leader is a self-made man or woman. If you think you are, you need to take a long, hard look in the mirror. Behind your successes are countless contributions from family, friends, teachers, mentors and coaches. If you can't see that, you're not looking hard enough.

As a business coach, I've seen companies grow from kitchen tables to \$100 million enterprises and then collapse because the owners thought they knew everything. In contrast, the world's most effective leaders know they didn't get to where they are by themselves. They recognize that ideas can come from anywhere, and they actively seek out people who can help them on their journey. Here are three ways to harness that inspiration.

RELY ON YOUR TEAM, AND SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION.

The most effective leaders are always the first to admit that they don't have all the answers. They ask themselves tough questions to understand their own strengths and weaknesses, and they don't let ego or pride get in the way of building their companies. One of the biggest mistakes I see business leaders make is thinking they can't learn anything from the people around them. It's essential to recognize your limits, seek others' help and opinion to patch holes in your expertise and give credit where credit is due.

RIP OFF AND DUPLICATE – THE OTHER R&D.

Some of the best ideas I've had for my businesses are ones I've borrowed (and modified) from others. In my experience as an entrepreneur and coach, I've seen firsthand how ideas that are considered standard practice in one industry can be innovative when applied to another. Of

course, it's about how you adapt those ideas to your business, not necessarily just copying what your competitors are doing. Instead, use the existing base of knowledge to provide a novel solution.

CROWDSOURCE IDEAS FROM FELLOW BUSINESS LEADERS.

Finding new solutions to business challenges is a never-ending and often exhausting task for entrepreneurs and business leaders. One source that I've used to help me solve problems has been a business advisory group (BAG) comprised of professionals in business operating in noncompetitive markets. Peers in a BAG can relate to the daily challenges you face running your company, managing teams and growing the business. BAG members can provide you with valuable insight into how they are running their own companies and how business solutions they've implemented may apply to your business.

Business is a team sport. No great company has ever been built solely atop the efforts of a single person. The entrepreneurial spirit will take you far, but eventually, you have to recognize that you need to rely on the ideas and contributions of others. When that happens, you'll become a greater leader, and you'll see your business and company culture grow exponentially.



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. With personal experience founding an Inc. 500 multimillion-dollar company that he then sold and exited, Bailey founded Petra to pass on the principles and practices he learned along the way. As his clients can attest, he can cut through organizational BS faster than a hot knife through butter.

LUCK Is NOT a Good Strategy When It Comes To Your Company's Data



Incredible, isn't it?

That's why thousands of businesses lose millions of dollars worth of data to disasters like fires, power outages, theft, equipment failure, and even simple human mistake. In almost every case, these businesses had some type of backup system in place, but were horrified to find out it wasn't working when they needed it most.

Fortunately there is a way to positively guarantee your data can be restored quickly and easily, which brings me to the point...

Our Proven Backup Service Will Give You Complete Peace Of Mind That You Can Be Back Up And Running FAST In The Event Of A Major Data Disaster. Call 585-441-0055 to get started today.



CARTOON of the MONTH

