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# XperText

“Insider Tips To Make Your Business Run Faster, Easier, And More Profitably”

XPRIENCE THE DIFFERENCE. WE'LL MAKE ALL OF YOUR COMPUTER PROBLEMS GO AWAY WITHOUT THE COST OF A FULL TIME IT STAFF

## What You Need To Know About Windows 10

In September 2014, Microsoft Corp. revealed its next operating system, Windows 10. The OS will be compatible with an array of devices. It will have cutting-edge security features and a new Start menu that combines Windows 8's live tiles with the traditional design of previous operating systems.

### Features

Windows 10 focuses on cross-device consistency. Microsoft touted the OS's ability to run on the "broadest range of devices ever." The operating system will adapt to each device, and can be used on PCs, phones, tablets, and Xboxes, among other devices.

Additionally, the Start menu will return in Windows 10. However, it will have some live tiles as well. Live tiles are interactive icons that are displayed on the Windows 8 start screen. The Start menu will also have a universal search function that includes both local results and web results.

Windows 10 users will also be able to create multiple desktops. This means that a user can have one desktop for personal matters and another for professional ones. Users can switch between them by using the Task View button.

### A Focus on Businesses

In an effort to cater to the business world, the company noted that it had simplified deployment. The new OS will have the same hardware requirements as Windows 7 and Windows 8. This means that companies can upgrade the computers that they currently own, rather than buy new ones. Additionally, all of the computer's data, apps and settings would be preserved.

In touting the new OS, Myerson put a premium on familiarity. He explained that Windows 10 would be recognizable to both users of Windows 7 and Windows 8. He stressed the fact that users would immediately be able to work with Windows 10, and that the change would not affect their productivity.

Microsoft's identity and access management system, Azure Active Directory, will be incorporated into the new OS. By using their Azure AD identities, Windows 10 users will have the same benefits as people with Microsoft accounts.

### Information Security

The company has said that Windows 10 will take information security seriously. The operating system will have "enterprise-grade security, identity, and information protection features."

Windows 10's data loss prevention solution separates personal and corporate data. Users will not need to switch modes or apps in order to protect their data. This solution will allow for the automatic encryption of corporate information as it arrives on the computer from the company's network locations.

Microsoft is expected to roll out updated previews on a monthly basis in 2015. With the feedback received from people using these preview editions, the company hopes to improve Windows 10 as much as possible ahead of its mainstream release.



## How To Create A Backup Copy Of Your Gmail Messages

Like many people, you probably have work emails, bank account information, credit card numbers, and details about your personal life stored in your Gmail inbox and other Google services. Making backup copies of your files is always a good idea. If a message in Gmail or file in Google Drive were to be accidentally deleted, you would still have the backup copy to work with.

### Creating an Archive

You can easily create a backup copy of the information that you store through your Google account. These backup copies are called archives. In addition to Gmail, you can also create backup copies of your Google Calendar, Contacts, Drive, Bookmarks, Hangouts, Google Play Books, and YouTube files.

Here's how to make an archive of the data in your Google account.

1. Sign into your Google account.
2. Go to the Google data backup page at [www.google.com/settings/takeout](http://www.google.com/settings/takeout).
3. You can now choose which Google product you want to back up. Initially, all of them will be selected, but you can deselect the ones you don't want to include in your archive.
4. After making your selection, click "Next."
5. You will now see the "Customize download format" section. On the left, you will see a drop-down menu for three available file types: ZIP, TGZ or TBZ. ZIP is the most widely used, and is probably the best one for you.
6. On the right side of the screen, you'll see a drop-down menu for choosing the way that you want to receive the backup copy of your data: as a file in your Google Drive or through a download link sent to your email.
7. Click "Create archive." Google will now begin archiving your data.



## Overcoming “File Open” Latency, Disaster Recovery, and Centralization Challenge for Dispersed Offices

For most firms, data acquisition is increasing at an exponential pace. Files are growing in size and complexity, with end users spread across remote offices. Transferring, opening, and maintaining these files are proving to be a business-critical requirement. Protecting and securing data from a crippling disaster event, especially data residing at remote sites, also is critically important. The XPERTECHS team has a great solution for addressing these workflow issues – Panzura.

Panzura has pioneered integrating the cloud as a storage tier into an interwoven global file system and global namespace that presents itself to users and administrators as a seamless, familiar user experience. The integration of these three elements into a robust, high-performing system required groundbreaking advances in core file system technologies. Panzura's Global Cloud Storage System enables enterprise-class cloud storage with NAS-like functionality for a globally-distributed workforce.

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## The Truth About Email In 2015

Love it, hate it or call it the gold at the end of your rainbow, e-mail is here to stay. Over the past two decades, it's become deeply ingrained in our day-to-day business communication. It's basically a requirement. Despite a number of software advances and changes in the online communication landscape, e-mail is more important than ever.

In 2014, social media analysts warned that e-mail was on its last legs and that it would soon be overtaken by other online services. However, that is not the case. In fact, in the workplace, it's very much the opposite.

Even among the millennial generation, and those who regularly use social media networks in their personal lives, it hasn't been something fully translatable to the professional environment as a productivity factor. This doesn't discount uses for social media in the workplace—as a marketing or customer outreach tool—but no social media platform has come close to replacing e-mail as the go-to communication tool.

That doesn't mean Silicon Valley start-ups aren't trying. They are always at work trying to find that next four-leaf clover in online communication, hoping to develop that so-called “e-mail killer.” So far, nothing has stepped up that can achieve what e-mail can, particularly for businesses.

For many businesses, it comes right back to the fact that e-mail works. It's a proven platform and it remains the business communication “golden child.” It's the same reason phones and fax machines aren't extinct. They serve a purpose and they help us get things done. That doesn't stop businesses from always looking for ways to streamline that process.

Another reason e-mail works: accessibility. E-mail is used on nearly a universal level. Social media platforms, while many are incredibly popular, can't touch the truly global reach of e-mail.



## Top Tech Gadget Of The Month



### The Withings Activité Pop

Lately, it seems the tech world has been inundated with wearable devices, from fitness trackers to smartwatches. They offer a number of useful features, but they also lack in elegance. They are often bulky, ordinary, complicated and—in the case of smartwatches—have less than desirable battery life.

This is where the Withings Activité Pop comes in. It looks like a classy watch on the outside, but on the inside it's a very different story. It's an activity tracker, verging on expressing itself as a smartwatch.

From the smartphone app, you control everything, from the analog dials to your activity goals. The watch face features a secondary dial that tracks your activity—from 0% to 100%—for the day. It's simple and straightforward. It's water-resistant up to 30 meters and available in three colors: azure, sand and shark gray. It's currently available at Best Buy, in-store and online.



"You know what I just noticed about playing outside? No pop-up windows."

## What is Microsoft Azure?

What is Azure? In short, it's Microsoft's cloud platform: a growing collection of integrated services—computing, storage, data, networking, and app—that help you move faster, do more, and save money.

Azure is the only major cloud platform ranked by Gartner as an industry leader for both infrastructure-as-a-service (IaaS) and platform-as-a-service (PaaS). This powerful combination of managed and unmanaged services lets you build, deploy, and manage applications any way you like for unmatched productivity.



Windows Azure™

Some cloud providers make you choose between your datacenter and the public cloud. Not Azure. Its enterprise-proven hybrid cloud solutions give you the best of both worlds, expanding your IT options without added complexity. With Azure, data storage, backup, and recovery become more efficient and economical. It's also easier to build applications that span both on-premises and the cloud.

Additionally, Azure supports any operating system, language, tool, and framework—from Windows to Linux, SQL Server to Oracle, C# to Java. It puts the best of Windows and Linux ecosystems at your fingertips, so you can build great applications and services that work with every device.

You'll share the same enterprise-tested platform that powers Skype, Office 365, Bing, and Xbox. Azure offers a 99.95% availability SLA, 24x7 tech support, and round-the-clock service health monitoring. That's why more than 57% of Fortune 500 companies rely on Azure today. From live streaming Olympic events to multiplayer online games, our customers are doing some amazing things.

Azure can quickly scale up or down to match demand, so you only pay for what you use. Per-minute billing and a commitment to match competitor prices for popular infrastructure services like compute, storage and bandwidth means you're always getting unbeatable price for performance.

Azure runs on a growing global network of Microsoft-managed datacenters across 19 regions, giving you a wide range of options for running applications and ensuring your customers always get great performance. Azure is the first multinational cloud provider in mainland China and is continuing to expand to new regions around the globe.

Source: [Microsoft.com](http://Microsoft.com)

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## Call XPERTECHS Before Your Next Office Move!

If you (or someone you know) is planning on moving, contact us for a FREE Office Move Toolkit. Inside this toolkit, you'll receive:

- A FREE Office Move Checklist to make sure you don't overlook important action items (a \$99 value).
- A FREE Site Survey and Network Move Plan. At no charge we'll map out your move to minimize costs and downtime (a \$300 value!)



Have additional question about your upcoming move? Call us today at (410) 884-0225.

## An IMPORTANT Security Warning For Businesses Running Windows Server 2003: End of Support Is Coming!



Microsoft has officially announced that it will retire support on the Server 2003 operating system on July 14, 2015. Once support ends on this 11-year-old product, there will be no further patches or security updates, exposing any company running this software to major security and compliance risks. Any server with this software installed will be completely exposed to serious hacker attacks aimed at taking control of your network, stealing data, crashing your system and inflicting a host of other business-crippling problems you do NOT want to have to deal with.

You can read more about these risks on our website by visiting: <http://www.XPERTECHS.com/server-2003-end-of-service/>

Call XPERTECHS today (410) 884-0225, and speak with one of our migration experts!

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## Never Forget A Password Again With A Password Manager



We all have a number of passwords for all the online services we use. You name it: banking, online bill payment, e-mail, social networks, shopping and more. You know it's incredibly easy to lose track of them all—unless you are committing one of the greatest online security offenses by using one password for everything. One of the best—and most secure—ways to handle your passwords is with a password manager.

It's not uncommon for password managers to get overlooked when it comes to online security. There is a lingering—and false—concern that keeping all of your passwords in one place can potentially open up all your protected accounts to intruders—if they are able to break into the password manager. It's a legitimate concern, but password managers use powerful encryption to keep your passwords safe. They are specifically designed to keep you even more secure than you otherwise would be.

Many password managers—including LastPass, KeePass and 1Password—do much more than simply “remember” your passwords. They also offer password creation assistance. They will tell you if a password is too weak or just right. Some managers offer the option to generate a secure password for you. Since you don't need to remember it, it can be more complex. They are compatible with a number of platforms and they are packed with customizable tools to keep you safe.

## Microsoft Acquires Acompli

Microsoft has recently acquired Acompli, provider of innovative mobile email apps for iOS and Android.

This acquisition was part of a company-wide effort to help people accomplish more with their mobile devices. This year Microsoft brought Office to the iPad and the iPhone, and recently announced that they're bringing Office to Android devices as well. These are all steps to deliver the best productivity experiences across mobile platforms.



In a world where more than half of email messages are first read on a mobile device, it's essential to give people fantastic email experiences wherever they go. The Acompli team is passionate about this quest. Their app provides innovative ways to focus on what's important in your inbox, to schedule meetings, and work with attachments and files. Users love how it connects to all email services and provides a single place to manage email with a focus on getting things done.

This acquisition brings Microsoft an app with innovative technology and a set of talented people who are passionate about reinventing email and communications on mobile screens. It will expedite their work to deliver the full power of Office to mobile devices.