

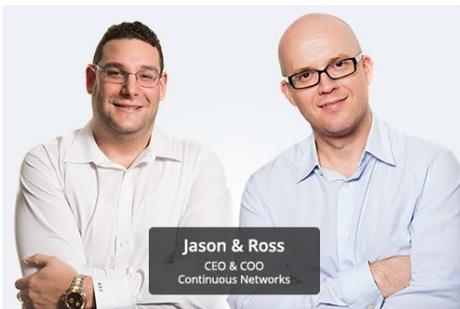
New Year's Special

Interested in getting your network running QUICKLY and SMOOTHLY again? Email us at success@continuous.net by **January 31st, 2016** and we will perform a Network Assessment at your office for **FREE!**

Offer valid to qualified prospective clients with at least 1 server and 20 or more computers.

free

January 2016



This monthly publication provided courtesy of Jason Silverglate & Ross Brouse, CEO and COO of Continuous Networks.

Our Mission: To build a community of successful minded entrepreneurs that inspires excellence, encourages collaboration and expands the capacity of all members to achieve great things.



Upgrading To Windows 10? Avoid Headaches, Downtime And Frustrations By Following This Advice

For the past few months, we've been swamped with questions about Windows 10.

If you're wondering whether now is the best time to upgrade your system, here's what you need to know:

First and foremost, if your organization relies on your computers in any way to make money or save lives, consider the risks carefully.

As with any software upgrade – but especially your computer's operating system – you've got to weigh the advantages of upgrading now against potential downtime if there are problems with the new code.

A good rule of thumb regarding any operating-system upgrade is to wait six months after the product release before deploying it into any system or group of systems that your business depends on.

Since January 29 marks six months since the Windows 10 official

release date, it's a good time to look at whether it's wiser to upgrade now or wait for further fixes and improvements.

That being said, here are a few of the key questions we've been fielding – and pitfalls to avoid:

Q. It's free for a "limited time" – don't I have to act now?

A. No. You have until July 2016 to take advantage of the free upgrade. And, if your system hasn't prompted you to upgrade yet, you'll need to wait. If and when your system is deemed capable of adapting to the upgrade, your current Windows OS will notify you. Either way, you have until July 28, 2016. If you do plan to upgrade, we strongly advise that you get it done well before that date, in order to avoid any last-minute scrambling.

Q. It's better and/or faster, right?

A. Maybe... It depends. Here's what we're seeing:

- Windows 10 radically changes

how your system operates, compared to Windows 7. While some computers make the change with no problem at all, it can cause older systems to lose key hardware drivers (like networking or printing), rendering them an "instant brick."

- Some systems, even those certified by their manufacturers as "Windows 10 ready," start misbehaving after being upgraded. That means undue downtime while you reinstall or upgrade MS Office or other software – or even revert back to your older OS.

- Some older systems actually run slower on Windows 10 than on Windows 7 or 8.1.

Q. Will my computer work with Windows 10?

A. Age is probably the biggest factor for any Windows-based device. Anything older than three years is not worth upgrading. At three years old, your machine is nearing the end of its useful life.

You are better off leaving the old operating system in place and waiting for Windows 10 until you upgrade to a new computer.

Q. I've heard Windows 10 transmits all of your personal information to Microsoft. Is this true?

A. This is true, unless you opt out of some of the most attractive features, such as the MS Store and Cortana, the voice-controlled virtual assistant. According to

Windows 10 terms of service, Microsoft can:

"access, disclose and preserve personal data, including your content (such as the content of your emails, other private communications or files in private folders), when we have a good faith belief that doing so is necessary to protect our customers or enforce the terms governing the use of the services."

If you decide that giving that kind of control of your personal and business data to Microsoft is not in your best interest, you can still

install Windows 10; just call us and we'll help you adjust the settings to keep all your information from being sent to Microsoft.

Q. We use some custom software here. Will it run on Windows 10?

A. Until your custom software vendor blesses Windows 10 for that program, the answer is no. In all cases, we advise against upgrading to Windows 10 until your custom programs are 100% fully vetted, compatible and supported for it.

Deciding when to upgrade to Windows 10 isn't as simple as Microsoft and some pundits would have you believe. But if you know the pitfalls we've laid out for you here in advance, you've at least got a fighting chance for a smooth, headache-free transition.

Want help setting a target date and plan for your business to upgrade to Windows 10? Call us at **201-775-9222** or e-mail us at **success@continuous.net** to schedule a free Windows 10 Readiness Assessment.

**Offer valid to qualified prospective clients with 20 or more computers and at least 1 server.*

"Some systems start misbehaving after being upgraded, which can lead to downtime."

The Ultimate Business Guide To Setting Up A Work-From-Home System For Your Staff

You will learn:

- What telecommuting is and why so many small businesses are rapidly implementing work-from-home programs.
- The single most important thing you MUST have in place before starting any work-from-home or remote office initiative.
- How one company slashed its turnover rate from 33% to nearly 0%—and increased productivity by 18%—by implementing a work-from-home program.
- How to get a FREE "Home Office Action Pack" (a \$97 value).

Claim Your FREE Copy Today at www.continuous.net/work-from-home/



Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:



Who Else Wants A Little Music With Their Light?

The next time you replace a lightbulb, you can now pick one that will stream your favorite music and light up your life in your choice of over 16,000 colors, all with a tap on your phone.

In case you haven't noticed, some LED bulbs now include a Bluetooth- or Wi-Fi-controlled speaker. And at least one, the MagicLight® Plus, available on Amazon, also lets you pick a light color to suit your mood.

At anywhere from \$15 to \$129 or more, these bulbs can add music - and light - throughout your home or office in a matter of minutes, at a fraction of the cost of a wired-in sound system.

How's the sound quality? It depends on the one you select. And it may not resonate like Carnegie Hall live...but hey, it's a lightbulb - what did you expect?

Cloud Computing: The Importance of Transparency and Trust

In today's business world, cloud computing is relied upon on an exponentially growing basis, and it's not done yet. More and more businesses are adopting cloud technology every day, and there is no end in sight to the growth of this area. Cloud computing allows for business efficiency to increase. Businesses no longer want to have access to their data at all times, they *need* access to their data at all times.

Some businesses are hesitant to implement cloud technologies, and the concerns are reasonable. You've probably had some of the same doubts as well. The very nature of cloud technology is intangible, and there are issues around security and privacy. Who really is accessing your data?

It's extremely important that you choose the right company to handle your IT needs. You want people who are ethical, reliable, and believe in personal care.

There are three critical things to look for in managed IT support when it comes to your business' cloud computing needs:

1. **Personal service.** You want IT staff who are able to communicate directly with your executive team and who you know and trust with your business' information.
2. **Transparency.** You need to know what systems are being used, where the information is being stored, what the risks are, and what you're paying for.
3. **Reliability.** Your IT team needs to be ahead of the curve technologically. Who understand that their job isn't about just working Monday to Friday from 9-5. They need to be available when you need them.

If you're looking for an IT support partner that understands all of this, get in touch with us. We will care about your business and your livelihood the same way that you do - your success is our success, after all.



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Twitter: www.twitter.com/continuousnet

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/continuous-networks-llc

Google+: <https://plus.google.com/+ContinuousNet/posts>

Your Vacation

Resolved to see more of the world this year? Here are three surprisingly great places to visit, according to travel-guide publisher Lonely Planet: 1) For cutting-edge art scenes, emerging nightlife, great skiing and rich wildlife-watching, including bison, wolves, lynx and bears, Transylvania tops the list. 2) Celebrating 50 years of independence in 2016, Botswana features luxury camps, self-guided tours, community projects and award-winning family safaris. 3) For postcard-worthy views of the stunning Sapphire Bay, as well as charming alleyways, tasty food and its still-traditional way of life, Kotor, Montenegro, deserves a top spot on your short list. This year, get off the beaten path for a vacation that can't be beat!

Today.com

Your Waistline

Make 2016 the year you can wear those favorite old pants again with these three tips... Drink more water: By far the easiest, yet most forgotten way, to lose weight, swap soda and fruit drinks for water and watch belly fat vanish. Get sound

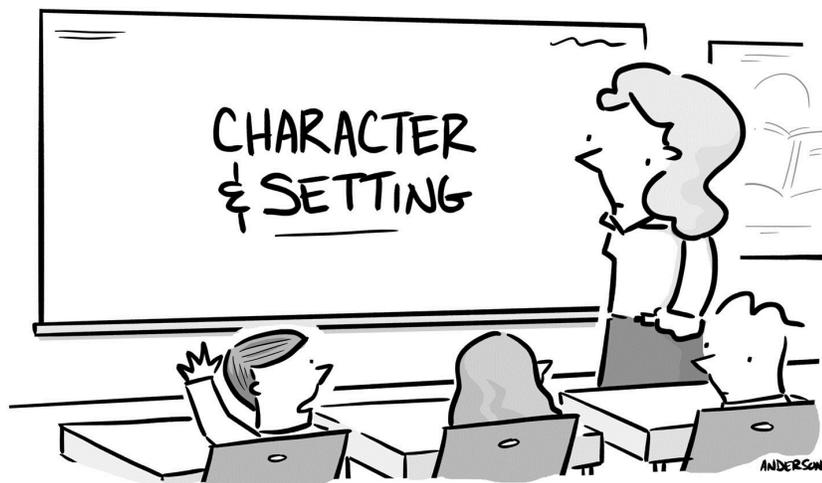
sleep: Science confirms that old saying "Early to bed..." Your deepest and most cleansing sleep happens when you get to bed earlier in the evening. Countless studies bear out the link between a good night's rest and less belly fat. Train harder in less time: In High Intensity Interval Training you go hard for about 30 to 60 seconds, then rest. Just 20 minutes of HIIT training boosts your metabolism all day long.

Bembu.com

Your Career

A mentor can help you achieve big things. But finding and connecting with the right person can be tough. Here's what helps: First, get clear about what you want in a mentor: do you need a sounding board? A guide? An advocate for a project you're working on? Once you know what you're looking for, let the search begin. Look inside or outside your company, run an advanced search on LinkedIn and be open to working with someone younger than yourself. When you find a good candidate, simply ask for help on a specific problem. Then make it fun, give back and

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"Like how the people in the story configure their wi-fi?"

nurture the relationship. Mentoring can be a highly rewarding experience for you – and for your mentor.

Forbes.com

Your In-box

Got e-mail overwhelm? Get more done in your day with these three tips used by top pros: 1) Empty your in-box often. Use "Follow Up" and "Hold" labels in Gmail (folders if you're in Outlook) to quickly sort e-mails you can't respond to right away. 2) Use the Two-Minute Rule: if it will take more than two minutes to respond to, sort it for later. 3) Respond quickly. This sets you apart in a world where most people are drowning in e-mail. Often, a quick reply such as "Got your note, will get back to you by end of day Tuesday" is all you need. Pair this with time blocks for knocking out batches of replies for massive productivity.

LifeHackerBook.com

Your Time

Being busy doesn't always mean being productive. To win back big chunks of your time every day, avoid these three "busy-ness" traps: 1) Multitasking cuts your IQ by up to 40% and makes the two tasks you're working on take 25% longer. 2) Interruptions suck up your time because not only does it take up to 20 minutes to fully refocus on the original task, but we tend to get back to trivial rather than more important tasks at hand. 3) You're busy because technology wants you to be, not because you need to be. Must you really remain available to your boss, customers, family, friends and social networks 24/7/365? Take control again – it's your life!

Inc. Magazine