



Northern Computer | Your trusted partner.


November 2011

In This Issue

[Healthy Networks are Happy Networks! - Part 2](#)

[What is the Cloud?](#)

[Tips & Techs - Dual Monitor Setup](#)

Follow us on 

Scan for our Monthly Special



60% off Anti-virus Software

[What's a QR code?](#)

Find us on 

Last month Mark discussed how computers and networks have transformed business. But all this hardware and software needs to be monitored. This month Mark discusses what is involved in maintaining a network. If you aren't comfortable with the responsibilities of hardware maintenance, updates and backup, we offer monitoring services. Alternatively, you may be interested in a cloud based solution. This makes IT maintenance non-existent. Yes, no hardware, no updates, no monitoring, no...well Martin will explain.

Healthy Networks are Happy Networks - Part 2

In the first article we explored what comprises a network, and how maintenance is important. In this article, I want to expand on what is involved in the maintenance of a network.

Network health needs to be maintained. An unhealthy network will eventually begin to experience problems and performance will be affected, to the point where significant down time will be experienced.



Physical structures:

These are the visible parts of the network - workstations, switches, servers, printers and any other devices that make up the network. Ensure workstations are replaced at the end of life. A single slow computer can pull down the performance of the entire network. Switches are notoriously reliable and can last for years and years, but a faulty or poor performing switch can be difficult to diagnose.

Backup systems:

Backups are like insurance. Nobody seems to care about them until they are needed. Check your backups regularly. You should regularly verify a backup by restoring a file, and



"On behalf of the Kelowna Rockets Organization, I am pleased to recommend Northern Computer and their entire Organization for the impeccable level of service they have provided us over the last 16 years. Northern Computer is our exclusive hardware, software and technical support providers. We look forward to many more years of working with them!"

Kelowna Rockets Hockey Club

Need Help? Remote Support



We provide online help from 8AM to 5PM Monday to Friday.

Contact us at:
250-762-7753 Option 3
or
service@northerncomputer.ca

also monitor the size of the backup and how long it takes to complete.

I once discovered that a client had not been getting a backup for over a year because of changes that were made in the system. The problem was not detected because the backup was completing successfully.

Click [here](#) to read more.

- Mark S, Network Support Technician

What is the Cloud?

"Cloud Computing". You may have heard or seen this new catch word that many organizations have adopted in to there line up of services. What is "Cloud Computing"? This can be a hard question to answer as many people have their own definition on this type of computing.



The items that Cloud Computing Services provide that intrigue most organizations are the following: saving your company money, access to the latest technical advancements in software, and anywhere access via the internet to your hosted cloud services, that operate on a very reliable/redundant hardware platform.

The infrastructure that allows us to provide Cloud computing is still built on server hardware similar to what you may have in your office. The main differences are the hardware is more reliable, components are redundant, and for the most part, the software is the most feature rich release from the vendors. Small and Medium size business now have Enterprise software available to them that is normally out of reach, as normal IT budgets would not be large enough.

Now the best part of all this technology is you don't have to purchase any of it. All of the services in the "Cloud" are provided for a monthly fee.

Click [here](#) to read more.

- Martin O, Network Support Technician

Tips & Techs

2 x Monitors = 2 x Work Efficiency?

Many people spend a good part of their day at their computers and most will have multiple windows open, moving from one screen to the next. I find that I will sometimes have so many windows open that I spend too much time looking for the window that I need. Adding an extra monitor can help to increase productivity when you are multi-tasking. I often compare documents or cut and paste from one document into another and I find it very productive to have two the windows open side by side.

Setting up a second monitor is easy too. If you do not have Windows 7, Vista or XP installed, you may have to install a display driver from your computer's manufacturer.



Can you really increase productivity with multiple monitors?

1. Do you ever spread out different items over your desk in order to organize?
2. Do you often have to flip between an email and a related document?
3. Do you find yourself having to copy or cut and paste from one document to another?
4. Do you ever have to review two versions of the same document at the same time?
5. Do you spend a lot of time switching between programs?
6. Do you edit photos in a folder and refer back to the originating folder for more pictures?
7. Do you use information from the web or documents when composing an email?
8. Do you waste time trying to sort through different windows to find the application or document that you need?

If you answered yes to any of the above, an additional monitor will most likely help you to be more effective at multi-tasking.

Dual Monitor Setup

In order for your computer to support a dual monitor, you must have more than one monitor connection on the back of the computer.

Click [here](#) to continue reading.

1 - 495 Banks Road Kelowna, BC

250.762.7753

www.northerncomputer.ca