"As a business owner, I know you don't have time to waste on technical and operational issues. That's where we *shine*! Call us and put an end to your IT problems finally and forever!"

Dan Foote
Owner/President

What's Inside:

How To Keep Your Employees From Leaking Confidential Information

Back in 2014, Code Spaces was murdered. The company offered tools for source code management, but they didn't have solid control over sensitive information — including their backups. One cyberattack later, and Code Spaces was out of business. Their killer had used some standard techniques, but the most effective was getting an unwitting Code Space employee to help — likely via a phishing attack.

When it comes to cybercrime that targets businesses, employees are the largest risks. Sure, your IT guys and gals are trained to recognize phishing attempts, funky websites, and other things that just don't seem right. But can you say the same thing about the people in reception, or the folks over in sales?

Sure, those employees might know that clicking on links or opening attachments in strange emails can cause issues. But things have become pretty sophisticated; cybercriminals can make it look like someone in your office is sending the email, even if the content looks funny. It only takes a click to compromise the system. It also only takes a click to Google a funny-looking link or ask IT about a weird download you don't recognize.

Just as you can't trust people to be email-savvy, you also can't trust them to come up with good people still use birthdays, pet names, or even "password" as their passcodes — or they meet the bare-minimum standards for required passcode complexity.

Goal Setting Doesn't Work
(And Santa Claus May Not Exist)

By Darren Hardy

When we were kids, we thought we could write down a list of everything we wanted and mail it to the North Pole. When we grew up, we realized there wasn't really a big roly-poly guy who delivered presents. A real person had to earn the money, march through shopping malls, wrestle the presents home, wrap them up, and place them under the tree. But I think many people still believe in Santa Claus. Why else would they write down a list of wants on New Year's Day, stick it in a drawer for the rest of the year, and wait around for their lives to change?

Sorry, but it's time to grow up. Most people know how to write down goals, but few ever achieve them. Want to stop chasing rainbows, wishing on stars, and rubbing lamps, and instead achieve real results? This article will help you start.

WARNING: Achievement requires work, discipline, commitment, and maybe some heartache and a stiffened spine. If any of that makes you queasy, I invite you to continue reading.

The Cause of All Your Problems — and the Solution

When I ask people what they want to improve in their lives, I hear things like, "I need to make more money," or "My marriage is unhappy," or "I need to lose weight."

But these are simply symptoms or outcomes of the problem. The cause of the problem is you — and this is probably one of the most sobering understandings you can reach as you work toward your stated goals. Whatever it is you want to change, whether it's your marriage, financial situation, or weight, you'll never achieve lasting change until *you* change. Once you improve, everything else around you will improve.

In life, you don't get what you want; you get in life what you are. The success you have in life correlates with your level of self-worth. But the human tendency is to engage in the study of effects, while giving little attention to causes.

I see this travesty play out every day. People complain about their terrible marriage, so they leave it. Oddly enough, they end up with similar problems in the next relationship. Why? Because they didn't address the real problem. The same set of circumstances and patterns of behavior will create the same outcome. Some people go from diet plan to diet plan, losing weight and then gaining it all back. Why? Because the plan and the weight aren't the issues or the solutions; they are effects, and the weight will ultimately meet them back where they are.

Wherever you are in life right now is your own doing — good or bad.

It *is* a choice, after all. And the best is yet to be.

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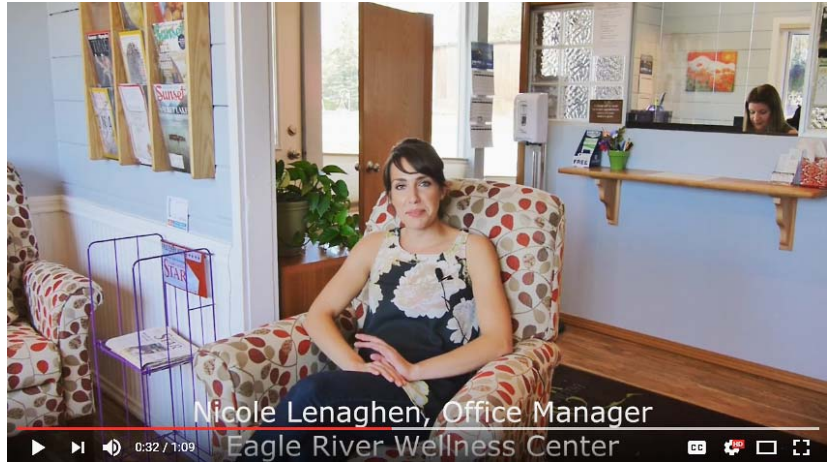
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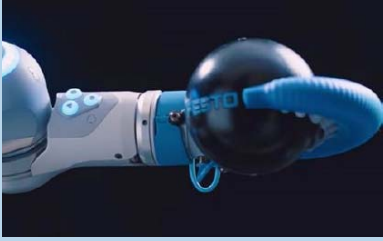
OctoGripper, the Octopus-Inspired Robotic Arm, Is Here

The animal kingdom is a reliable place to turn for mechanical inspiration. The German automation company Festo just made a robotic arm that takes its cue from an octopus. Meet the OctoGripper!

Festo figured it's hard to beat the octopus' flexibility. Built with a soft silicone structure that can be pneumatically controlled, the device bends inward to grip an item with two rows of suction cups. These create a vacuum, allowing the gripper to hold onto objects tightly while moving quickly — a common challenge in robotics.

This isn't the only thing Festo is taking from nature. They want to see the OctoGripper incorporated into their BionicMotion Robot, which is inspired by an elephant's trunk. These could work side by side with humans, perhaps speeding up work. Or they could pair up with Boston Dynamics and start the best robotic zoo this side of "Horizon: Zero Dawn."

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"How To Keep Your Employees From Leaking Confidential Information"

Randomly generated passcodes are *always* better, and requiring multiple levels of authentication for secure data access is a must-do.

Remember, that's just for the office. Once employees start working outside of your network, even more issues crop up. It's not always possible to keep them from working from home, or from a coffee shop on the road. But it *is* possible to invest in security tools, like email encryption, that keep data more secure if they have to work outside your network. And if people are working remotely, remind them that walking away from the computer is a no-no. Anybody could lean over and see what they're working on, download malware or spyware, or even swipe the entire device and walk out — all of which are cybersecurity disasters.

Last but not least, you need to consider the possibility of a deliberate security compromise. Whether they're setting themselves up for a future job or setting you up for a vengeful fall, this common occurrence is hard to prevent. It's possible that Code Space's demise was the result of malice, so let it be a warning to you as well! Whenever an employee leaves the company for *any* reason, remove their accounts and access to your data. And make it clear to employees that this behavior is considered stealing, or worse, and will be treated as such in criminal and civil court.

You really have your work cut out for you, huh? Fortunately, it's still possible to run a secure-enough company in today's world. Keep an eye on your data and on your employees. And foster an open communication that allows you to spot potential — or developing — compromises as soon as possible.

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"No! We *can't* make lemonade! That's the whole *point!*"

Special Announcement!

Windows 7 comes to end of life in 2020. With that being less than 3 years away, organizations need to start planning their Windows 10 transition now. It can take up to 18 months to test applications for compatibility.

Depending on the complexity of your organization, it can take more than 2 years to migrate everyone. Early Adopters rated the Windows 10 migration process to be "somewhat to extremely challenging."

Call 907-885-0500 to Get Ready For Transition!