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Technology Times February 2024 Issue

"With over 20 years of experience providing remote support to clients that rely on technology, I know what it takes to deliver business continuity. Add to that another 20 years of support in the service industry you'll not find another company that takes customer service to heart as I do. Find out for your business what a difference it makes. "



Dan Foote
Owner/President

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Celebrating 40 years of the Macintosh computer

The Mac was born 40 years ago, and since has changed computing radically – influencing the look and function of all devices today, including laptops, tablets, mobile phones, and even in-car computers.

The graphical user interface (GUI), arguably the Mac's biggest innovation, has made a huge impact on computers in numerous ways since. Originally, people interacted with computers by typing text into them and analyzing the resulting data in green or amber text on a black background.

Mac turned computers from scientific, professional tools, into peoples' friendly assistants. Macs simplified interfaces laid the groundwork for future operating systems. Computer experts considered the Mac a prime example of how an adaptable OS can remain both secure and high-performing.

Unlike the black background/green text of former computers, the Mac had a white screen and black text, resembling the recognizable appearance of paper. Its familiar icons, representing things such as folders and paper documents, were more easily understood and relevant to their use in real life.

Phone screens today are full of such icons that we use to open a program or application, and many of those icons still reflect their forgotten origins.

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Save memory & reduce tab clutter with OneTab



Use [OneTab](#) to clean up your workspace clutter, save time and make you more efficient when using your browser.

You may find that your Web browser is your most disorganized digital space. With multiple tabs open at once, your computer will run slower.

To provide help for those excessive tab tendencies, a free browser extension for Chrome, Safari and Firefox called OneTab may help your sanity and your computer's memory.

How it works:

Whenever you realize you have too many tabs open, just click the OneTab icon to convert all the tabs into a single list. When you need to access any of those tabs again, you can either restore them individually or all at once.

By reducing the number of pages you have open, and moving the tabs to one list, you will save up to 95% of memory. Your privacy is also protected because the information about your tabs is never transmitted or disclosed to the OneTab developers. The only exception is if you intentionally click the "Share as a web page" feature to upload your list of tabs into a web page in order to share them with others.

Top Cyber Security Trends in 2024

The top corporate cybersecurity trends are commonly inspired by a mixture of responses to leading cyber threats, new technologies, and long-term security goals. These are some of the top security trends and technologies defining the cybersecurity space in 2024.

Hybrid Data Centers

The rise of cloud computing has provided organizations with much greater infrastructure scalability than was previously possible. With cloud environments, organizations can scale their infrastructure up or down on an as-needed basis. While some organizations have transitioned their data centers completely to the cloud, others have embraced cloud computing as a way to augment on-prem data centers. A hybrid data center uses orchestration so that data and applications can be moved between on-prem and cloud-based infrastructure over the network as needed.

Hybrid data centers enable organizations to better tailor their environments to their infrastructure and security needs. For example, more sensitive data and applications can be hosted on-prem, while resources that require more scalability can live in the cloud. The use of orchestration and connected infrastructure enables these resources to move seamlessly between the two as needed.

Use of AI in Cyberattacks

Generative AI has rapidly taken off in 2024. While the technology first entered the public consciousness in late 2022 with the rise of ChatGPT, multiple alternatives have emerged since.

The rise of AI has significant impacts on cybersecurity both from an offensive and defensive perspective. On the offensive side, ChatGPT and similar tools have already been used by cyber threat actors to streamline and improve cyberattacks with an across-the-board increase in attacks year-over-year. Generative AI has multiple applications for offensive cybersecurity. For example, ChatGPT and similar tools can easily write extremely convincing emails for phishing attacks. It's also possible for an attacker to bypass the built-in guardrails in these technologies to get them to write malware or teach aspiring cybercriminals to perform new attacks. While AI also has numerous potential use cases in the defensive realm, its growing maturity creates an arms race between attackers and defenders. Whichever side makes the most effective use of it will likely have a significant advantage in the future.

Hybrid Mesh Firewall

Corporate networks are growing increasingly distributed and heterogeneous. With a combination of on-prem, cloud-based, and remote locations, it can be difficult to deploy and manage firewall solutions that provide consistent security protection and enforcement across an organization's entire network environment. However, offering this consistent security is also critical to protecting the organization against advanced attacks. To solve this challenge, organizations are increasingly turning to hybrid mesh firewalls, which combine various types of firewalls into an integrated, centrally managed security architecture. This enables organizations to deploy the firewall solution that makes sense for a particular environment but also maintain centralized visibility, management, and policy enforcement across their entire infrastructure.

CNAPP

The emergence of cloud environments has had a dramatic impact on application development and security. Cloud environments enable rapid, DevOps development cycles and can eliminate the need for developers to maintain and secure the environments where their applications live. Additionally, the growth of the cloud has encouraged the use of containerization to ensure that applications can move freely between on-prem and various cloud environments.

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Shiny New Gadget Of The Month



Vasco V4 Language Translator Device

[From CES 2024!](#)

- Vasco helps you make friends around the globe and conduct business with ease. The Vasco translator device breaks language barriers for you!
- With features like the instant voice translator and image-text converter, you can easily navigate airports and train stations abroad and order from a menu with clarity.
- The Vasco language translator device gives you instant comprehension of 108 languages! Travel confidently abroad and speak with friends and family from around the world with ease.
- No Wi-Fi? No problem! The Vasco translation device comes with free life-time connectivity for translations. It works right out of the box. No subscription needed and no hidden costs. The Vasco Translator doesn't require any set-up or app downloads. Just turn it on and start translating from day one!



With these changes to application development also come significant impacts on application security (AppSec). Cloud applications often work differently than their on-prem counterparts and operate in a distinct deployment environment. As a result, they require AppSec solutions tailored to their unique needs.

Gartner defined the cloud-native application protection platform (CNAPP) to describe security solutions that integrate the various capabilities needed for cloud AppSec into a single solution. By integrating multiple capabilities into a single solution and dashboard, CNAPP helps to fight security sprawl in the cloud and enables security teams to more effectively monitor, manage, and secure their cloud-based applications.

Threat Exposure Management

The growing volume, sophistication, and speed of cyberattacks mean that a reactive approach to cybersecurity is not effective. To effectively manage their cybersecurity risk and protect against growing cyber threats, organizations need to proactively take action to assess and manage their risk exposure.

Threat exposure management (TEM) is a risk-centric approach to strategic security planning. Security teams identify potential threats to the organization and assess the risk that each poses to the company. Based on this information, the organization can develop, prioritize, and implement mitigation strategies for various risks.

As the cyber threat landscape and various regulations demand a more risk-focused approach to security, companies are increasingly embracing TEM. By performing this process of threat identification and assessment regularly, the organization can maintain visibility into evolving threats and ensure that it is prepared to address novel attack vectors.



Security Consolidation

The expansion of corporate attack surfaces and the growing maturity of the cyber threat landscape has resulted in an explosion in the number of security tools that companies operate. With a wide range of potential threats, companies need to close security gaps and, in the past, often chose to do so by deploying point security products designed to address a specific attack vector or enhance security on a particular platform.

However, the rest of this focus on point security solutions is a complex and unusable security architecture. Each tool generates alerts and notifications, adding to alert fatigue and making it more difficult for security personnel to identify and remediate real threats. Additionally, the need to operate many different security solutions increases training requirements, introduces the need to constantly context switch between various dashboards, and increases the risk of security gaps and inconsistent security policy enforcement.

As a result of these challenges, many organizations are pulling back and focusing on improving security through security consolidation. Instead of disconnected point solutions, they are looking to integrated platforms that provide the security capabilities that they need in a single solution. These platforms offer improved visibility and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of threat detection and response by reducing manual processes and cognitive load on security personnel.

Prefer to work in silence? Meta has the solution.



Too much noise in an office can hinder the progress of its employees. Since many workers have gone remote, meetings and chats are often held online, which makes a noisy office even noisier. The best way to improve the efficiency in offices and meeting rooms is to minimize the noise that distracts. That's why Meta introduced "The Cube," a soundproof cubicle.

The Cube solves the noisiness challenge by providing employees a quiet place to videoconference and work without disturbing coworkers or being disrupted by other noise in the office.

The Cube was designed by a group of architects, design firms, and furniture manufacturers, who collaborated to make an office product that is highly functional, but also aesthetically pleasing and ergonomically designed.

The Cube is able to absorb sound from multiple directions and minimize glare on a computer monitor using a visor attached the top of the wall. It has an unattached fourth wall, which can be moved to provide privacy and further block noise. New color schemes and patterns are also in the works.

Meta is currently working with manufacturers to make the Cube available globally. They've already ordered 7,000 units, which have been distributed to 22 locations worldwide.

For instance, the Save icon is a floppy disk, and the phone icon looks like an old-fashioned telephone that many smartphone users have never even seen.

The Mac's entire desktop layout, with a menu bar at the top, is still the way most computer software is designed. Even on devices with less screen space - mobile phones, for example - the same menu buttons exist - just hidden behind a single three-dot icon to preserve space.

Another great innovation from the Mac was the mouse. The first mouse was invented in the 1960's at a Stanford computer lab, and Steve Jobs first saw it used during a demo of an Alto computer in the Xerox Parc research center.

The advantage of using a mouse was obvious to Jobs, and Apple became the first computer to have a mouse included, making Macs far more user-friendly than IBM computers.

PCs soon adopted some of the Macs styling and functionality with the advent of Windows OS. It had become clear that if computers were to become a household staple, their users wouldn't want to deal with complicated computer hardware or formatting codes. Because of its innovations in user-friendliness, the Mac became known as, "the computer for the rest of us," and opened up the computing experience to non-techies.

Microsoft Copilot is an AI-powered productivity tool that uses large language models (LLMs) and integrates your data with the Microsoft Graph and Microsoft 365 apps and services. It works alongside popular Microsoft 365 apps such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Teams, and more. Copilot combines natural language with linguistic models, data, and Microsoft Graph to improve employee productivity using everyday applications. Copilot can amplify your creativity by



generating new ideas and offering possible solutions. When you ask Copilot a question, you'll be impressed by its smarter, more personalized answers. Copilot is your everyday AI companion that helps you work smarter and build faster.

Copilot will also improve the efficiency of your business by streamlining tasks, automating workflows, and enhancing collaboration. Copilot can quickly offer solutions to complex work tasks, allowing employees to work more productively. Copilot offers enterprise-grade security, privacy, and compliance - helping your company adhere to SEC Safeguards and security regulations. Copilot's adaptability means that it can be customized to meet the unique needs of any organization.

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