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Get Your Data Protected with BDR



Running a business is stressful, but so is thinking about a future where that business (and its

data) no longer exists. If you're not careful with your preparedness, you could stare down a disaster with no hopes of recovery. This is why we urge you to take proactive action now—so you can prevent these kinds of scenarios from taking your business off the market for good...



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About Virtual Business Solutions

We're in this business to help other small businesses grow and move forward. It's as simple as that.

We're driven by the philosophy that if we help local businesses solve their IT issues so they can become more profitable and successful, then we will inherently grow along with them.

Visit us **online** at:
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Keeping Your Business Agile Can Really Pay Off



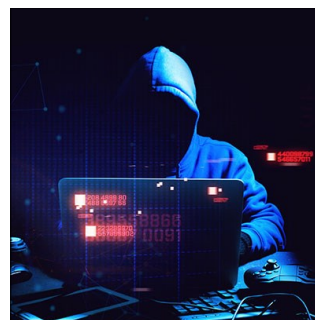
Technology advances at an incredible rate, and the successful business has much work to do in order to keep up with it. How does your organization's ability to change and adapt hold up compared to your competitors? This concept, dubbed business agility, is of critical importance in today's fast-paced business environment, and if you aren't prepared to assess it, you might be falling behind the competition.

What is Business Agility?

At its core, business agility is all about your organization being able to make rapid changes or fluctuations in its business environment. Sound familiar? It's what a lot of companies were forced to do just a few short years ago when the COVID-19 pandemic forced businesses all over the world to shutter their doors and shift to entirely remote settings. How well did your company handle the jump? If it handled it poorly, then

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Don't Let Hackers Get the Best of You



How quickly do you think it takes for a hacker to react to the disclosure of bugs and vulnerabilities? According to industry experts, the time for security professionals to react to zero-day threats and vulnerabilities might be decreasing. Is your organization prepared to act when important vulnerabilities like these are disclosed?

The Time to Respond to Threats is Decreasing

These numbers come from Palo Alto Networks, which claims in its 2022 report covering 600 incident response cases that hackers tend to start looking for vulnerabilities within 15 minutes of them being announced.

This group contains various high-profile hacks from 2021, including the Exchange Server ProxyShell and ProxyLogon threats, the Log4Shell flaws, the SonicWall zero-day flaws, and ZoHo ManageEngine ADSelfService Plus.

One example cited by Palo Alto Networks which illustrates the dire need to respond to disclosed threats comes in the form of F5's Big-IP software. According to the agency, there were approximately 2,500 scans for vulnerabilities within the software within the first 10 hours of a vulnerability being disclosed.

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The Pros and Cons of Cloud Reliance



Rarely is there a problem that a cloud solution cannot fix, and as such, businesses are

more often turning to the cloud to find ways to handle the many challenges presented to them on a daily basis. Is this reliance on the cloud a good thing, or does it hold businesses back? Let's take a look at what can happen as a result of overreliance on the cloud.

Pro: You Have Anytime, Anywhere Access

Thanks to the cloud, many solutions that businesses tend to rely on can be accessed anytime, anywhere, and on any compatible device. Cloud solutions can be accessed through an Internet browser or an application on a smartphone or tablet, making them great solutions for taking work on the go.

Con: You Need an Internet Connection

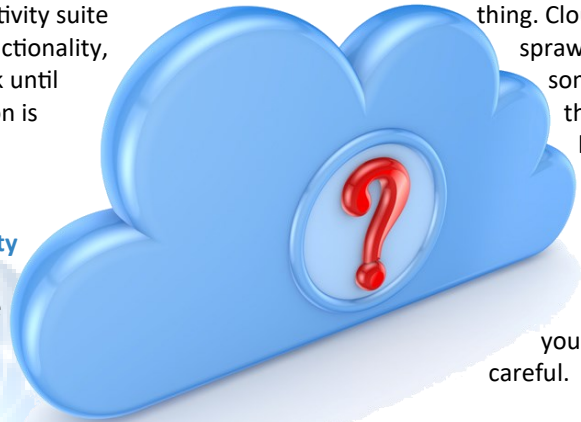
What happens when you don't have an Internet connection or mobile service, though? Access to important solutions can be cut off. Take, for example, when the Internet in your office cuts out. If you host your productivity suite in the cloud, and your productivity suite doesn't offer offline functionality, then you are out of luck until your Internet connection is restored.

Pro: The Cloud Offers Scalability and Flexibility

Purchasing software licenses for every single employee within your organization can be costly, especially when you consider how many services your team needs access to on a daily basis. The cloud offers a great alternative in the "as a service" model, where all you do is pay per user per month for your various cloud-based applications and services.

Con: Cloud Sprawl Can and Will Happen

What happens when you have loads of cloud-based applications and services? That's right—you tend to create accounts for all of them, and data can get spread out amongst them if you don't have a centralized location for everything. Cloud sprawl is something that can be incredibly frustrating to deal with if you're not careful.



Want to Implement Better Cloud Computing Solutions?

Cloud computing might have its ups and downs, but the downs are much more...



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Don't Let Hackers Get the Best of You

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How Do Hackers Gain Access to Your Business' Network?

In terms of how hackers gain initial access to networks, you can view the breakdown below:

- Phishing attacks: 37%
- Software vulnerabilities: 31%
- Brute-force credential attacks: 9%
- Previously compromised credentials: 6%
- Insider threats: 5%
- Social engineering: 5%
- Abuse of trusted relationships and tools: 4%

What Can You Do About It?

With the time to implement patches decreasing,



you need to ensure that you have a system in place to rapidly deploy fixes to your mission-critical systems. This involves having a team dedicated to keeping your IT as up-to-date as possible with the latest patches and updates. We also recommend that you have protections in place which make it harder for hackers to do their jobs, like multi-factor authentication,

unified threat management, and remote monitoring services.

Work with Us to Secure Your Systems

Virtual Business Solutions knows that there is a limited window to address issues of cybersecurity, and we understand that time is of the essence when critical vulnerabilities are discovered in your systems. This is why we work to patch your systems as soon as we are aware of them, and with us on your side, you can rest assured that your systems are protected and monitored as best they can be.

To learn more about how we can protect your IT infrastructure from threats, contact us today at (504) 840-9800 ext. 105.



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Keeping Your Business Agile Can Really Pay Off

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chances are you have a business agility issue that needs to be addressed.

The COVID-related shift to remote isn't the only situation where businesses need to be agile. In fact, day in and day out there needs to be a concerted effort to be able to pivot any business process if the need arises; and be sure that the need will arise.

Why Is Business Agility Important?

Business agility gives your company the ability to make important changes to improve your operations, workflows, and most important of all, services, so you can better address the needs of your



VoIP Revolutionizes the Traditional Business Phone System



The business telephone system has been turned on its head by the establishment of VoIP. Voice

over Internet Protocol has altered the way that businesses view their enterprise telephone system. This month, we take a look at the modern VoIP system and why it is a far superior tool to traditional telephone systems.

Ushering Out Traditional Telephone Systems

To begin to understand exactly why the enterprise VoIP system is so great for business, you need to understand how it works. Instead of having dedicated phone lines running throughout your office, the VoIP system uses your organization's Internet connection to run your enterprise telephone system. This allows

customer base or clients. If you think about it, the ability to adapt to change is fundamental to the success of any organization in the long term. Innovations will constantly push your organization to its limit, and if you can't keep up, you can't hope to compete with others that are adjusting their approaches based on the business environment.

To help you be more agile with your business decisions, consider the following questions to help guide your thinking:

- What opportunities are there for you to improve?
- What do you need to know in order to make these adjustments?
- Can you create and deliver on this opportunity?
- Has the opportunity paid off for your organization?
- What can you do to improve on the value proposition of this opportunity?

easy setup and scaling of your VoIP system. Traditional systems make it more difficult to scale due to the fact that they need specific wires to run telephone lines. With VoIP, and a VoIP-enabled handset, you simply connect it to workstations and you are up and running in minutes. Let's take a look at some of the benefits a VoIP system can bring to your business.

Smaller Capital Investment

VoIP has options that allow businesses to avoid large hardware costs that can come with hosting their own PBX system. This means you don't need to install a separate set of cables for every seat, and it gives users the flexibility to utilize their phones even when not at their desks or even in the office.

Dynamic Features

One of the most valuable parts of installing a VoIP system is the myriad of features that you can get with the technology. Not only does it provide the crystal-clear calling and management

Business Agility is Aided by the Right Technology Solutions

If you feel like your business can't keep up, then perhaps the culprit behind all of your issues is technology. With appropriate solutions that allow you to streamline operations or improve workflow, you'll have an easier time adapting to change and working in a more dynamic and flexible manner.

To learn more about how technology can improve your business' agility, we urge you to contact the technology experts at Virtual Business Solutions. We can discuss opportunities for improvement and lend a helping hand with implementing such solutions. Find out more by contacting us today at (504) 840-9800 ext. 105.



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features that every organization needs, it also has a lot of other features such as video conferencing, mobile integration, and instant messaging that can help improve any business' communications platform.

Improved Flexibility

When your business grows and contracts due to demand, you need to know that your technology can move with it. VoIP presents an opportunity to add and subtract accounts on the fly to help you control your communications costs. If you need to add accounts for a short term project, having a VoIP platform in place makes that simpler than ever.

If you would like more information about how a cloud-hosted VoIP system can transform your business' communications, call Virtual Business Solutions today at (504) 840-9800 ext. 105.



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Let's Dork Out Over How Far We've Come with Mobile Devices



I feel like we've been talking a lot about the horrifying cybersecurity threats that loom over our heads, and thought it might be nice to really appreciate just how gosh-darn cool some of these devices we all have can be instead.

Aren't Mobile Devices Really Incredible?

I still remember the hype for the very first iPhone. To many very excited people, this was the first time a personal computer was going to fit in the palm of their hand.

Steve Jobs was an incredible genius at hype and marketing. He told his customers that he was changing the world with this new conceptual device, even though some of us nerds had been using Palm Pilots, Blackberrys, Windows CE, and Windows Mobile devices for years before the first iPhone was but a sparkle in his eye.

Still, you need to hand it to him, he brought the smartphone to the general public.

We've seen a nice gradual evolution of these devices over the last decade and change since the first iPhone was released, and I think a lot of that evolution has been so subtle that some of us really haven't noticed just how great these devices truly can be.

Samsung DeX Turns Your Smartphone Into a Handheld Desktop

Have you seen this?

It's exclusive to Samsung's line of Android smartphones, so if you've never jumped on the Samsung bandwagon, you might not have caught wind of it.

Samsung has this neat little app called DeX that gives you a desktop-like experience when you connect your Samsung smartphone or tablet to a monitor, keyboard, and mouse.



It's not quite a full Windows experience—you are still using Android and your Android

apps, but using Microsoft Office applications like Word and PowerPoint or surfing the web works great.

Some Modern Tablets Can Be an Artist's Canvas

While the tablet market hasn't really found its place as much as we all thought it would a few years ago, there is still a very dedicated niche for them that has been very exciting for those extra creative types.

If you've ever seen the desk of a modern digital illustrator or artist, you've probably seen those huge expensive digital drawing tablets that they use. The leading brands tend to cost several thousands of dollars, and they are far from portable, chaining the user to their desk to draw and design.

Apple's iPad has changed the game for artists when paired with Apple's proprietary pencil, an extremely accurate device that gives artists control over every stroke. This is way different than using a typical plastic stylus on a...



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Virtual Business Solutions has been serving the Metairie area since 1999, providing IT Support such as technical helpdesk support, computer support and consulting to small and medium-sized businesses. It's always been our goal to provide enterprise-level IT practices and solutions to the small business sector, with small business prices. Our experience has allowed us to build and develop the infrastructure needed to keep our prices affordable and our clients up and running.

Tech Trivia

Internet traffic statistics show that 51.8% of all traffic is generated by bots.

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