



Preventive Measures

A technology lesson from the Three Little Pigs

When budgeting for I.T., do you “hope for the best” or “prepare for the worst”? Sometimes painting a picture can help to prove a point. Do you remember the children’s story about the Three Little Pigs and the Big Bad Wolf? Let me try and draw an analogy between the story and your I.T. network. The three pigs built shelters of different materials, which in turn led to the inevitable visit from the big bad wolf. Here is the mentality of the three pigs before building their shelters:

Pig No. 1 built a house of straw

“I must have a shelter, but I don’t want to spend any money and I don’t want to waste a lot of time on it. I’ve heard of the warnings about wolves, but I’ve never encountered one, so why waste my time preparing for something I’ve never seen or dealt with before? There are plenty of other things I can do with my time and money.”

Pig No. 2 built a house of sticks

“I know wolves exist and I think preparing for them is a good idea, but let’s not overdue it. I mean, really, how bad can they be? And besides, I’ve got a million other issues to deal with besides my shelter, so I’ll make due with what I’ve got.”

Pig No. 3 built a house of brick

“My shelter is the most important aspect of my livelihood and to skimp on this would set me up for potential disaster! Without the basics being covered, why would I waste so much time on non-essentials? I mean, you can have lots of nice stuff, but without a place to put it, what does it matter? And if the wolf gets in, I’m hamburger!”

Think of the “shelter” as your network and your “livelihood” as your business information inside that network. The “wolves” are the viruses and hackers trying to blow your house down!

Many of us take a shortsighted view of our network, much like the Pigs 1 and 2 who built their houses out of straw and sticks. If we can’t look down the road to the inevitable issues that will arise with the use of technology, then we have no excuses when the big bad “wolves” of I.T. come knocking on our firewall.

So which pig are you?

Are you a planner or reactor? Do you spend money to keep things running or do you only spend money to fix what’s broken? Remember, maintenance and protection on a healthy network are

always more effective than fixing and repairing a broken network.

The lesson to learn is this – don’t react to I.T. problems when you have the ability to proactively prepare for them and remove the risk. If you are not a long-term planner, then seek help from professionals who are. **HB**

Darryl Santa is the President of Alpha & Omega Computer and Network Services, Inc. which has been serving small to mid-sized businesses in Huntington Beach for the past decade. Alpha & Omega takes a proactive approach in supporting your network by customizing a preventative maintenance schedule that fits within your company’s budget. Through preventative maintenance and technology planning, we’ll spend less time fixing problems and more time utilizing I.T. effectively to grow your business. Whether your company needs to maintain its current network environment or deploy the latest in information technology solutions, Alpha & Omega wants to be the First and Last of all your technology needs. Check us out on the web at www.aobiz.com

