

RB Balch PC Tips Newsletter, MAY 2007 – Ready for a server?

Reflections of **Better Business**

Your guide to technology and an error-free computer environment

By: **RB Balch & Associates, Inc.** Full service, award winning computer consulting firm. Serving AZ since 93.

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SPECIALS THIS MONTH

MAY – Pre-Summer SPECIAL. Get ready for summer. Is the area around your computer clear? Good air circulation? Battery backup plugged into each computer? Summer storms are already approaching - and are a major source of blown out equipment. PC workstation power supplies - \$88 - MAY SPECIAL - \$20 off each unit - when we bring and setup at a scheduled appointment. Be prepared - don't get caught unprotected. And - let us know if we can help with new computers (you know we sell Dell products - we do NOT mark up equipment when we come to set it up for you) – also virus or spyware detection removal and more.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Contact us at 623-561-9366 OR at help@rbbalch.com OR online from our website www.rbbalch.com to schedule online. If you schedule online, you'll save an additional \$5 off your next appointment.

REMOTE TECHNICAL SUPPORT. Contact us for remote technical support - it's easy, fast, less interruptions at the office and less expensive for you! (1/2 hour minimum)

Our motto: “you don’t have a problem until you have a problem”. Think about it. Contact Rochelle at rb@rbbalch.com.

2 TECHNOLOGY/COMPUTER TIP

THIS MONTH: Are You Ready for a Server?

By Andrew Sheldahl

As your business grows you may find your computing needs growing along with it, and at some point the question of whether or not to get a server may come up. To assist you in your decision, keep these potential benefits and considerations in mind:

Benefits:

Centralized storage. Rather than having your files scattered around the network, you can keep them in one location. This is better for organization. Plus, many servers have redundant hard drive technologies to protect your data in the event of a hard drive failure.

Centralized backup. Most servers are configured with a backup device of some sort, typically to tapes. The centralized storage can be setup to automatically backup on a schedule to keep your data safe.

Centralized resource management. Windows-based servers offer a domain model that controls all your network users and devices (computers and printers.) The main benefit is better security by using passwords that have to be authenticated by the server. You also have the ability to set permissions on your folders and files to control who has access to network resources. (you can block access to certain folders for specific users).

Flexibility. Adding a server to your network can allow you to do more with your systems. A server can allow you to host your own email or website, setup a centralized antivirus package to protect all of your computers, allow users to connect remotely to network resources and much more.

Take the load off your workstations. In a small office environment, it is common to have workstations sharing data or resources to other users. Moving these shared resources to the server can actually make your workstations run better once they no longer have to “serve” shares to other workstations.

Considerations:

Cost. The cost for a typical small business server for hardware and setup can run in excess of \$5000. Over the long term, this can be a small price to pay if the alternative is loss of your business data due to a system crash or disaster. Typical life span of a server is around 5 years.

Space. The server needs a location that is cool, secure, has good power and network hookups, and is out of the way of users. This is so users don’t accidentally do anything to the server physically, and servers can run louder than a typical desktop which some people may find annoying if it is too close to their work area.

Maintenance. Your investment in your server may not pay off if the server is not properly maintained to make sure all functions and systems are updated and secure, the data is being backed up correctly and completely, and any problems are dealt with before they grow into major problems that can cause downtime or loss of your data. Whether you have someone inside your company that can properly maintain the server, or bring in an outside specialist (yes, perhaps like RB Balch), these costs should be factored into your server budget. A server will need someone to spend roughly one hour per month onsite or remotely doing proper maintenance.

Growth. If you buy the cheapest server you can find, you will likely need to replace it sooner than a more expensive server either because you've outgrown it or because it can't perform some new function or tasks you need it to do. Try to make a purchase that has room for growth or changing server roles and you'll save yourself added expense and headaches later.

Any questions on software options? Contact us at help@rbbalch.com 623-561-9366 or Rochelle directly at rb@rbbalch.com OR schedule on-line at www.rbbalch.com

3 Andy's Did You Know?

By Andy Karpel, the "A lot about nothing" expert

MONTH: MAY

Birthstone: Emerald - Meaning: Love, Success

Color: Deep Green

Flower: Lily of the Valley, Hawthorn

Astrological Sign(s): Taurus The Bull April 20 to May 20

Gemini The Twins May 21 to June 21

Moon Phases: May 2 Full- May 10 Last – May 16 New – May 23 1st Qtr – **May 31 Full (*it's a blue moon)**

Tuesday, May 1 May Day

Saturday, May 5 Cinco de Mayo

Sunday, May 6 At 3 minutes & 4 seconds after 2 AM today it will be "234567" - 02:03:04 05/06/07. You won't see this again!!

Sunday to Saturday May 6-12 National Nurse's Week

Tuesday, May 8 VE Day, WW II

Tuesday, May 8 National Teacher's Day

Sunday, May 13 Mother's Day

Tuesday, May 15 Police Officer's Memorial Day

Saturday, May 19 Armed Forces Day

Thursday, May 24 Victoria Day (Canada)

Monday, May 28 Memorial Day

Thursday, May 31 "Blue Moon" – **(but you said "Once in a Blue Moon")**

Andy's "I didn't know that" May 6 to 12 is National Nurse's Week - May 6th, National Nurses Day - May 8, National Student Nurses Day - May 9th, School Nurses Day - May 12, International Nurse's Day. This week provides recognition to nurses for their contributions and commitment to quality health care. The roots of International Nurses Day goes back to 1953, when Dorothy Sutherland of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare sent a proposal to President Eisenhower to proclaim a "Nurse Day" in October of the following year. The proclamation was not officially made. But, this day was born and eventually gained national recognition.

International Nurse Day is celebrated on May 12, because this is the birthday of Florence Nightingale. In 2003, National School Nurses Day was moved from the 4th Wednesday in January to the Wednesday of Nurses Week. Some websites, still record School Nurses Day in January, unaware of this change....."**I didn't know that**"....This week say thank you to a nurse, I will!

"Just like Andy" (AND now you have the facts) Remember when you said "Once in a Blue Moon" (a common way of saying not very often) well it's Blue Moon May. The full moon occurring Thursday, May 31, will look like an ordinary full moon, but it's actually a blue moon. There are several definitions for a blue moon. According to the more recent definition; a blue moon is the second full moon in a calendar month.

For a blue moon to occur, the first of the full moons must appear at or near the beginning of the month so that the second will fall within the same month (the average span between two moons is 29.5 days). May 2007 will have two full moons: the first on May 2, the second on May 31 — that second full moon is called the blue moon. Note: May 31 date applies to most of the Western Hemisphere, including the United States. In the Eastern Hemisphere, the full moon in question will occur on June 1. For that half of the world, the blue moon will be on June 30, 2007.... **AND now you have the facts.**

Andy's second hand "tidbits" NEW WORDS FOR 2007

Essential additions for the workplace and beyond:

BLAMESTORMING: Sitting around in a group, discussing why a deadline was missed or a project failed, and who was responsible.

CUBE FARM: An office filled with cubicles.

PRAIRIE DOGGING: When someone yells or drops something loudly in a cube farm, and people's heads pop up over the walls to see what's going on.

MOUSE POTATO: The on-line, wired generation's answer to the couch potato.

SWIPEOUT: An ATM or credit card that has been rendered useless because the magnetic strip is worn away from extensive use.

PERCUSSIVE MAINTENANCE: The fine art of whacking the heck out of an electronic device to get it to work again.

OH-NO-SECOND: That minuscule fraction of time in which you realize that you've just made a BIG mistake.

Andy's "Image That"

Why do...

Drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front door?

People order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a diet coke?

People park cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put our useless junk in the garage?

Why does..

Why does the sun lighten our hair, but darkens our skin?

Why does a newspaper headline never read "Psychic Wins Lottery"?

Why do doctors call what they do "practice"?

Why does lemon juice say made with artificial flavor, and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?

Why does an airplane not have the entire plane made of out of that stuff they use to make those indestructible black boxes?

....."image that"

YET MORE important useless information

ADULT: A person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle.

COMMITTEE: A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

DUST: Mud with the juice squeezed out.

GOSSIP: A person who will never tell a lie if the truth will do more damage.

MOSQUITO: An insect that makes you like flies better.

SECRET: Something you tell to one person at a time.

TOMORROW: One of the greatest labor saving devices of today.

YAWN: An honest opinion openly expressed.

4 Community Update

Top 25 Consultants. RB Balch was named one of the top 25 Computer Consulting firms - by the Business Journal.

RB Balch is proud member of:

Arizona Small Business Association (ASBA) - Chamber of Commerce - National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) - Better Business Bureau (BBB).

5 RB Balch. WHY do we issue this and WHO are we?

WHY: Purpose of this newsletter?

To help you learn more about technology and computers

To be informal and informative

To answer specific questions asked by readers

....To continue our commitment of keeping you informed

Reflections of **Better Business** (published since 1994) is for employees, clients, friends and associates of **RB Balch**.

WHO ARE WE: RB Balch. Computer-consulting firm. Established 02/93. Experienced. Reliable. Ethical. Good. Revenues since 1993 over \$20 million. Our mission is to be your one source solution for all of your computer needs. Consider us your "computer guy", your IT department. We're only an email or phone call away.

SERVICES: PC Field Support, Software Development Projects, Business/Marketing Consulting, Seminars & Keynotes.

PC Field Support: PC troubleshooting, network installation and maintenance, server and workstation setup/support, hardware and software upgrades, virus and spyware detection & repair, data recovery, backup/restore, programming, web design, web and email hosting, more. Troubleshooting is our specialty. Contact us as needed, or set-up recurring regular maintenance appointments (discounted, no contracts, no pre-paid bundle of hours required). We come to you.

Software Development Projects: PC development, no job too small. We specialize in projects 1 to 500 hours (longer projects also accepted). New or maintenance. Simple changes or complex systems. Programming, Databases, Web design, Contingency plans/strategy plans, etc. Available nationally.

Business Consulting: Utilize technology to help you grow your business - we're here to help. IT strategies, Disaster/recovery planning, IT security audits. Marketing and promotional plans.

Seminars, Keynotes: Technology and Motivational workshops, keynotes and lunch programs for your staff or association. As a successful entrepreneur and award winning business owner, Rochelle Balch, president RB Balch and international professional speaker (member of the National Speakers Association), is available for programs for technology, team building, marketing and business, and personal development. Get everyone on the same page to understand technology in your company. Mention this newsletter for discount off speaking fees. For sample topics see <http://www.rochellebalch.com>

Appointments: We offer, and highly recommend, regularly scheduled PC maintenance appointments. We offer on call/as needed service and emergency service. We are available weekends/evenings/holidays, and on special retainer, if required. No pre-pays, change frequency or cancel maintenance appointments at any time. Contact us at help@rbbalch.com, at 623-561-9366, or visit our web site at www.rbbalch.com for on-line scheduling. Contact Rochelle Balch directly at rb@rbbalch.com or contact Andy Karpel directly at andy@rbbalch.com if you like.



MAINTENANCE



To be added or removed from our newsletter, go to: <http://www.rbbalch.com> and click on the Newsletter box on the right. OR call us OR simply reply to this email and write remove in the message or subject.

Your email address is absolutely only used by us at RB Balch.



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