



Sublime Technology Times

"Insider Tips to Make Your Business Run Faster, Easier and More Profitably"



White Sands National Park is Like No Other

This Spring Break, my family and I visited National Parks out West. One in particular to mention is the White Sands National Park. Like all national parks it is unique. The sand dunes are wind blown gypsum. The animals and plants that live there have adapted their colorings and found ways to survive in these dunes. There are many things that we learn from the dunes like geology, plate tectonics, erosion, and animal fossil records. Fossilized human footprints have been discovered along an ancient lake that are estimated to be 21,000 - 23,300 years old. White Sands National Park is worth taking a closer look beyond the large white dunes and the sand in your shoes.

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This monthly publication provided courtesy of Adam Bell, President of Sublime Computer Services.

Our Mission: To build a community of successful minded entrepreneurs that inspires excellence, encourages collaboration and expands the capacity of all members to achieve great things.



Get More Done In Less Time Tech Tips To Improve Productivity And Focus

Technology has become essential to our society. We use it for nearly every aspect of our lives, from entertainment to personal security. Unfortunately, it's not all good, and over time, many of us have developed some negative tech habits. When we're supposed to work or

stay productive, we might turn to our phones or tablets and scroll through social media or the news. There's no better time than the present to shake these harmful habits so we can become more productive. The good news is that technology can actually help improve our overall productivity.

The pandemic forced many of us to start working remotely or in a hybrid environment, which makes it even more important for us to use technology to stay focused and productive. Technology does not have to be a distraction: it can help us stay on task and achieve our goals. Below, you'll find a few ways to use technology to improve productivity.

Cleaning Up Your Digital Space

For many of us, our workdays revolve around our electronic devices. We spend nearly eight hours each day bouncing from our computers to our cell phones, trying to stay in touch with everyone while keeping up with our workload. Over time, our digital areas can become cluttered with unnecessary documents, e-mails and other information.

Take time to review and reorganize your computer's desktop, smartphone's home screen, e-mail inbox and cloud storage accounts. Delete any unnecessary files, e-mails and apps you no longer need. By doing this, you'll have an easier time navigating through your digital space and locating necessary documents when they're needed.

Using Time-Tracking And Focus Apps

Time can easily slip away from us if we're not paying close attention. We've all gotten lost in a project or task and spent way too much time

on it. One of the best ways to stay focused and productive is to track your time. Many apps are available that help you do this, including Toggl, RescueTime and Harvest. These apps allow you to track how much time you spend on specific tasks and can help you identify where you might be wasting time. By tracking your time, you can make adjustments to your schedule and ensure you're making the most of your hours.

Focus apps like Freedom, Cold Turkey and Self Control can also help you stay productive, as they'll ensure you aren't wasting your time on social media or other websites that take you away from your work. These apps allow you to block access to certain websites or apps for a specified amount of time. In fact, using a focus app is one of the best ways to remove distractions from your workday.

Automating When Possible

Automation has truly revolutionized the way many businesses operate. You can use automation for e-mail communication, marketing efforts, data collection and so much more. Introducing automation to your business can help streamline repetitive, time-consuming tasks that previously had to be done manually. By automating various processes and functions, you'll free up more time for your

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employees to focus on higher-level tasks and improve their productivity. Automated systems are also less prone to errors than human beings, so you won't have to spend as much time going back through your work to fix simple mistakes. Automation improves productivity by reducing the time, effort and resources needed to complete a task, while providing valuable data insights.

Strengthening Your Cyber Security Practices

A successful cyber-attack can completely dismantle your business. It can take days, weeks or even months to recover from a cyber-attack, which can put an end to your hopes of improving productivity.

Cyberbreaches, such as malware infections or ransomware attacks, can cause significant downtime for any business. Employees may be unable to access necessary files or systems, leading to delays in work and missed deadlines. Just the risk of a cyber-attack can take you away from your work, as you may constantly worry about the security of your systems or the safety of personal data. When it comes to improving cyber security practices, you must be proactive. Don't wait until a cyber-attack has already occurred; start boosting your cyber security practices as soon as possible.

Improving focus and productivity is not something that happens on its own. It takes time, effort and dedication to make a change that has an impact on your work style. Stop using technology as a distraction and find ways to use it to improve productivity and focus.

Free Report: What Every Small-Business Owner Must Know About Protecting And Preserving Their Company's Critical Data And Computer



Don't Trust Your Company's Critical Data And Operations To Just Anyone!

This report will outline in plain, nontechnical English the common mistakes that many small-business owners make with their computer networks that cost them thousands in lost sales, productivity and computer repair bills and will provide an easy, proven way to reduce or completely eliminate the financial expense and frustration caused by these oversights.

Get your FREE copy today at www.sublimecomp.com/protect

Shiny New Gadget Of The Month



Apple AirTag

Losing an important item can be distressing, and Apple is trying to ensure its users will never lose anything again with the Apple AirTag. Apple's AirTag is a small, compact tracking device that allows users to locate their misplaced items effortlessly. With its sleek and minimalist design, it easily attaches to any item and connects to the Find My app on your Apple devices. The AirTag uses Bluetooth technology to provide precise location information, and it even has a built-in speaker that emits a sound when you're trying to locate your lost item. The AirTag only works with Apple devices and requires the latest operating system to function correctly. Overall, the Apple AirTag is a useful tool for anyone looking to keep track of their personal belongings.

Why Smart People Make Dumb Career Moves

I love helping people land their dream jobs, but even smart people can make dumb career moves. They do this for two reasons: not having a career strategy and not putting enough time into the job search. For those unfamiliar with the idea of a career strategy, it's a written document that states what your career wishes are, the three paths you are considering and the actions you'll take to make this a reality. And for those wondering how much time is needed to find their dream job, I believe a half day per week for six months will give you a 90% chance of landing whatever position you wish.

Does this sound far-fetched? Perhaps at first it could, but let me give you some examples. I recently spoke with a few business leaders about their job search and how it was coming along. I think you may benefit from hearing their stories.

I first talked with the CEO of a fashion designer brand who felt ready for his next gig but seemed unsure about which direction to take. He did not have a career strategy and spent virtually no time hunting for his dream job.

We discussed the positives and negatives of various paths until he settled on his No. 1 path of "finding a mid-size private company to own, run and grow" in a specific industry niche. The more specific his career strategy became – and the clearer the criteria for what he was looking for – the easier it became for us to think of key people he should meet. We identified 20 people to contact, and he committed to contacting them within a couple of months. The more specific you can be in searching for your dream job, the easier it is to generate more opportunities.



Dr. Geoff Smart is the chairman and founder of ghSMART, a leadership consulting firm that exists to help leaders amplify their positive impact on the world. Dr. Smart and his firm have published multiple New York Times best sellers. He stays active in his community and has advised many government officials.



Another leader I had a chance to talk with was a senior executive who ran a government agency. She knew her job would end after an election and she needed to find something new, but she had no career strategy because she put absolutely no time into her job search. She said she felt guilty doing a job search while in her current position. She eventually had a job opportunity fall into her lap, but she didn't feel too excited about it. After I talked with her, she decided against it and instead chose to devote more time to searching for the perfect role and creating a career strategy.

The challenge of finding your dream job is to do the hard work to make a career strategy, then invest a half day per week for six months. Once you do, you will put yourself in a leadership role in which you can amplify your positive impact on the world, be successful and have fun in this next stage of your career.

Client Spotlight: Baker Sullivan Hoover

For three decades, Baker Sullivan Hoover have catered to their clients' needs, handling everything from tax planning, accounting and financial reporting issues to business consulting and financial planning services. They offer the resources and expertise provided by many larger firms, and pride themselves on giving each individual client personal service that's accessible and close to home.



Baker Sullivan Hoover invests in continuing education, state-of-the-art computer technology and extensive business relationships demonstrate their commitment to excellence and to their clients



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Windows Server 2012 and 2012 R2 Reaching End of Support

Windows Server 2012 and 2012 R2 will end on October 10, 2023. After this date, these products will no longer receive security updates, non-security updates, bug fixes, technical support, or online technical content updates. Microsoft has migration guidance for both cloud and on-premises solutions.

Customers can migrate applications and databases to Azure Virtual Machines and receive free Extended Security

Updates for three years after the end of support. For on-premises servers, customers can use Azure Arc to receive automated/scheduled ESU updates and installation as well as the security and governance capabilities in Azure.

Customers needing to stay on-premises can upgrade to Windows Server 2022, or purchase Extended Security Updates (ESUs) for Windows Server 2012 - providing up to three years of security updates only. ESUs will continue for three years, renewable on an

annual basis, until October 13, 2026.

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/lifecycle/announcements/windows-server-2012-r2-end-of-support>



"The computer's acting funny."