

# SUBLIME TECHNOLOGY TIMES

Insider Tips To Make Your Business Run Faster, Easier And More Profitably

## PROCEDURES COULD SAVE YOUR COMPANY MONEY

Last month one of our clients had a vendor get tricked into sending a very large amount of money to a hacker rather than paying their outstanding bill. It was the largest hack transaction that I have personally witnessed. This was a “Man in the Middle” attack where a hacker was reading all the emails of a person waiting for an opportunity.

Our job was to prove that our client had not been compromised. We spent days with our security operations center (SOC) and determined that our client had not been compromised. The hacker requested that the vendor change the delivery method of mailing a check to ACH. RED FLAG! Had the vendor called my client to confirm the change the hacker would have been thwarted.

If you don't have a financial change procedure, then adopt one now before it happens to you.

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



## OUR MISSION:

**To build a community of success-minded entrepreneurs that inspires excellence, encourages collaboration and expands the capacity of all members to achieve great things.**

## HOW TO PUT GENERATIVE AI TO WORK FOR YOUR BUSINESS



The rapid evolution of AI over the past year has been nothing short of revolutionary, particularly generative AI – technologies that generate text, images, video, 3-D models and even code – which saw a breakout year in 2023. In ChatGPT's first month, it amassed 57 million users, making it the fastest-growing consumer application in history, according to research from investment bank UBS.

Despite its popularity, there's an undercurrent of uncertainty among some business leaders. SMB leaders are asking big questions: What's the real deal with AI (beyond all the buzz)? How do I actually get it to work for my business? How do we use this responsibly and keep our customers' data safe?

The key to navigating these questions is all about experimenting with AI, focusing on the big wins it can bring to the table and learning best practices for using the technology responsibly.

### What AI Can Do For Your Business

Of businesses using the generative AI platform ChatGPT today, one in four have already saved more than \$75,000. That's according to a 2023 survey by ResumeBuilder, which also found that 49% of companies are already using ChatGPT and that an additional 30% plan to use it in the future.

Generative AI tools like ChatGPT, Claude and DALL·E are popular because they're affordable (subscriptions run around \$20 per user/month) and effective. Generative AI's versatility allows it to take on many valuable roles, like whipping up content. Businesses save a lot of money creating engaging content for their audience without paying more for ads or agencies. AI can also quickly examine market trends and crank out reports, cutting down on research and paperwork

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costs so leaders can spend more time on higher-value activities.

More ways AI can go to work for you:

- **Content Assistant:** Tools like ChatGPT and Claude can create marketing materials, blog posts and social media content, ensuring a consistent brand voice and tone across all channels. They can also analyze thousands of online resources to craft the perfect job description and write SOPs, proposals, contracts and leases.
- **Get To The Point:** Generative AI can distill lengthy documents, articles and e-mails into concise summaries, making it easier to grasp key points quickly.
- **Personalize Your Marketing:** Generate tailored e-mail marketing campaigns or personalized product recommendations to enhance customer engagement and increase sales.
- **Product Discovery And Innovation:** Leverage AI to analyze customer feedback and market trends for new product ideas or improvements, speeding up innovation.

- **Data Analyst:** Employ AI for deep data analysis, uncovering insights into customer behavior, operational efficiencies and market opportunities.
- **Automate Routine Tasks:** From scheduling to invoicing, AI can automate repetitive, time-consuming tasks, such as drafting meeting summaries or generating reports, allowing teams to focus on strategic work.

### AI Best Practices

While AI can dramatically enhance efficiency and creativity, there are best practices to ensure its use is both effective and ethical:

- **Never Share Sensitive Information:** To protect privacy, avoid using personally identifiable information (PII) or protected health information (PHI) with AI tools. Assume anything that you input into ChatGPT is public information.
- **Verify and Review:** AI is a powerful tool, but it's not infallible. It can sometimes inherit biases from training data or generate fabricated or wrong answers. Always review its outputs as you would a human co-worker's work.

- **Experiment:** The best way to understand AI's potential is to experiment. Start small, like using ChatGPT prompts to write a social media post. As you gain confidence, integrate generative AI in places where it can add the most value, like automating routine tasks, enhancing creative processes or improving decision-making with data analysis.

### The Consequences Of Ignoring AI

AI isn't coming – it's arrived. Driven by billions in investment and some of the brightest minds on the planet, it's reshaping the business landscape in ways we're only beginning to understand. Choosing not to integrate AI into business operations would be like refusing to use e-mail in the 1990s. Without it, you might soon find yourself in a world you don't know how to work in.

Instead of viewing AI as a looming threat, see it as an opportunity to tackle old problems with novel solutions. Yes, AI is changing the business playbook, but it's also empowering us to deliver extraordinary value to our customers in new ways, dream bigger and achieve more.

## Do You Safeguard Your Company's Data And Your Customers' Private Information **BETTER THAN** Equifax, Yahoo And Target Did?

If the answer is "NO" – and let's be honest, the answer *is* no – you are leaving yourself and your company open to massive liability, millions in fines and lost business, lawsuits, theft and so much more.

Why? Because you are a hacker's #1 target. They know you have access to financials, employee records, company data and all that juicy customer information – Social Security numbers, credit card numbers, birthdates, home addresses, e-mails, etc.

Don't kid yourself. Cybercriminals and hackers will stop at NOTHING to steal your credentials. And once they have your password(s), it's only a matter of time until they destroy your business, scare away your customers and ruin your professional and personal life.



### Why Not Take 4 Seconds Now To Protect Yourself, Protect Your Company And Protect Your Customers?

Our 100% FREE and 100% confidential, exclusive CEO Dark Web Scan is your first line of defense. To receive your report in just 24 hours, visit the link below and provide us with your name and company e-mail address. Hopefully, it will be ALL CLEAR and you can breathe easy. But if your company, your profits and your customers are AT RISK, we'll simply dig a little deeper to make sure you're protected.

Don't let cybertheft happen to you, your employees and your customers. Reserve your exclusive CEO Dark Web Scan now!

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## CARTOON OF THE MONTH



# TALENT, INNOVATION AND RELATIONSHIPS: THE FORMULA FOR THRIVING BUSINESSES INSPIRED BY MARCUS LEMONIS



Something is always shaking up the business world, whether it's Covid-19, revolutionary tech advancements like AI or a financial recession. An unprepared business leader – never ahead of the game, emotionally exhausted, financially stressed and paralyzed by fear – may react to these disruptions. However, a leader focused on cultivating good habits can build resilience and agility into their core operations.

Marcus Lemonis – esteemed titan of industry, philanthropist, brain behind the success of Camping World and Good Sam Enterprises and star of CNBC's *The Profit* – recently shared his philosophy on leadership and resilience at an industry conference. Drawing from Lemonis's insights, we delve into actionable ideas that leaders can use to confidently navigate any challenge.

## 1. Create Good Talent

The key to any successful business is employing good people. However, many industries, from health care to education, are experiencing labor gaps. Leaders are left wondering where their next good hire will come from. Will they hire young people without experience or recruit talent from other companies?

Lemonis says if you recruit from other people, you can expect them to do the same. "We create this revolving door of people changing all the time for the next best offer. The labor market knows that, and they don't care if they bounce around," he says. "The problem for our business and our client relationships is that bouncing around creates insecurity for our customers...it creates a trust problem."

Lemonis's advice: Think about how you can create new talent in your industry. Write job descriptions that include not just technical skills but the type of person you're looking for, their characteristics, discipline DNA and EQ.

Then, think about how to put them through the training modules necessary to execute your business plan.

"If we don't cultivate new entries into our space, new people who can come in and add to the supply of our labor, all we're going to do is play merry-go-round, and the prices are going to go up," Lemonis adds.

## 2. Diversify

Six years ago, you probably had an idea that was the cusp of innovation – and then everybody caught up. Lemonis encourages leaders to ask their teams what the new idea of the day is. What's the latest concept that you can bring to your clients? How can you stack new ideas onto your current revenue streams?

Brainstorming new ideas is critical to survival, "because somewhere else, there's a less sophisticated, less collaborated room... whiteboarding what new things they can come up with to beat you," he says.

## 3. Take Care of Your Home And Relationships

During Covid restrictions, Lemonis was reminded of the power of being close to the people he cares about and focusing on relationships. He encourages us to care for what matters most: our homes and families. If those aren't healthy, your business will feel the effects. Lemonis says, "The health of your home and the health of your relationships in your home are in direct correlation with the health of everything else in your life."

Another challenge will eventually rock the business world. Take Lemonis's advice and focus on creating new talent, fostering innovative thinking and nurturing relationships if you hope to face this next challenge with greater resilience.

## SHINY NEW GADGET OF THE MONTH

### Gimibox Foldable Bluetooth Keyboard



Working from anywhere often means literally anywhere, be it typing up reports in a hospital lobby or drafting proposals at an airport gate. But crafting a lengthy e-mail on your phone or tablet could take you on the fast track to carpal tunnel. Save your hands and try the Gimibox Foldable Bluetooth Keyboard. Its innovative foldable design and super-responsive touchpad make it the ultimate companion for the mobile professional. It is compatible across iOS, Windows and Android technologies and ensures seamless connectivity across your devices. The built-in rechargeable Li-ion battery offers an impressive standby time of 30 days and takes only two hours to charge. The keyboard's broad compatibility and energy-efficient design make it a smart accessory for professionals who really do work from anywhere.

## CLIENT SPOTLIGHT:

### Nashville Ballet

*"Since its founding in 1986, Nashville Ballet has become the largest professional ballet company in Tennessee. Nashville Ballet presents a varied repertoire of classical ballet and boundary-pushing contemporary works by world-renowned choreographers, as well as original ballets by Artistic Director, Nick Mullikin, and Resident Choreographer Mollie Sansone."*

Learn More Here:  
[www.nashvilleballet.com](http://www.nashvilleballet.com)





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## THINK FASTER, TALK SMARTER:

How To Speak Successfully When You're Put On The Spot

By Matt Abrahams

*Think Faster, Talk Smarter* by Matt

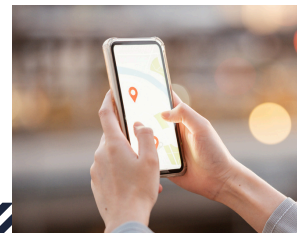
Abrahams is a lifeline for anyone who's ever been tongue-tied in moments that count, like work

presentations, pitches or at a dinner party. Abrahams, a Stanford lecturer and communication guru, offers a trove of actionable advice for mastering the art of impromptu speaking. With science-backed strategies to tackle anxiety and make your words count, this book is packed with real-world examples, making it both relatable and practical. Whether for professional growth or personal confidence, it's an essential read for navigating life's unplanned speaking moments with grace and impact.



## YOUR PHOTOS ARE MORE REVEALING THAN YOU THINK!

Did you know that when you send someone a photo from your smartphone, you might be sharing information such as when, where and how the photo was taken? If that makes you feel uncomfortable, you can turn this feature off. On an iPhone, open the photo, tap the share icon, then "Options." Switch off "Location," then tap "Done." You can also stop location tracking altogether in Settings > Privacy & Security > Location Services.



Scroll to "Camera" and toggle to "Never." On an Android, click the photo you want to send, tap "Details" (look for a three-dot menu) and select "Remove location data."