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February 2024

**Celebrating over
 TWENTY THREE
 YEARS
 of Service and
 Satisfied
 Customers!**



“As a business owner, you don’t have time to waste on technical and operational issues.

That’s where we shine! Call us and put an end to your IT problems finally and forever!”

Fred Holzager,
 IT Director
 Holzager Technology Services
 and
 Publisher of
The Tech Insider

Inside This Issue

Quotations	2
Are You Being Monitored?	2
Quick Security Tip: Online Scams	2
I Didn't Know	2
Extreme Random Facts	3
Quick Tech Productivity: Widgets	3
Learn About Dark Web ID	3
5 Reasons to Choose VoIP	4
The Lighter Side	4

Snapple Real Fact #196

“If you doubled one penny every day for 30 days, you would have \$5,368,709.12.”

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The Tech Insider

“Insider Tips To Make Your Business Run Faster, Easier and More Profitably”



Gamers haven’t really been the focus of cybersecurity for a long time. You mostly hear about attacks on businesses or stolen personal data due to phishing attacks, but gamers are not safe from hackers targeting them.

As cyberattacks continue to escalate, gamers have become prime hacking targets. Malicious actors seek to exploit vulnerabilities in the digital realm. The gaming industry continues to expand. Also, more users immerse themselves in virtual worlds. As this happens, the risks associated with cyberattacks on gamers are on the rise.

Cyberattacks on young gamers increased by 57% in 2022.

Younger gamers playing games like Minecraft, Roblox, and Fortnite are particularly at risk. They’re also often playing on their parents’ devices—data that holds the interest of hackers fills these devices.

The Gaming Boom and Cybersecurity Concerns

The exponential growth of the gaming industry has brought entertainment to millions. But it has also attracted the attention of cyber-criminals looking for lucrative opportunities.

Hackers are deploying sophisticated techniques to compromise user accounts.

• Stolen Credentials and In-Game Items

What’s one of the primary motivations behind these cyberattacks? It’s the prospect of acquiring valuable in-game items, the account’s credentials, and virtual goods, such as rare skins, weapons, or characters, that hold real-world value.

• Ransom Attacks on Gaming Accounts

Ransom attacks have become increasingly

(Continued on page 2)



“We Love Referrals” 2024 Offer

Keeping with the spirit of helping others, if you refer a business to us and they become our customer, we will donate \$100 to your favorite charity.

At Holzager Technology Services, we believe that referrals are the greatest form of flattery. By recommending your partners, associates, or professional contacts, you can help them enjoy worry-free IT and support a worthy cause of your choice!

For more information, please see our website at www.tech4now.com/we-love-referrals, contact us by phone at 201-797-5050



Quotations

"The time is always right to do what is right."

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

"You know you're in love when you can't fall asleep because reality is finally better than your dreams."

—Theodore Geisel (Dr. Seuss)

"To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment."

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

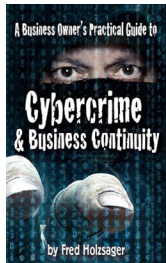
"It is better to remain silent at the risk of being thought a fool, than to talk and remove all doubt of it."

—Maurice Switzer

"Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage."

—Lao Tzu

Read Fred's Book!



If you would like to have us speak to your organization and give away some free copies to attendees, give us a call. For more details on the contents and how to get your own copy, please visit our special web page at www.tech4now.com/cybercrime

"We make all of your computer problems go away without the cost of a full-time I.T. staff"

Ask us about our fixed price services HTS Insight Hassle-Free Agreements— Computer Support at a flat monthly fee you can budget for just like rent!

Gamers Beware! Hackers Are Targeting You!

(Continued from page 1)

prevalent in the gaming world. In these instances, cybercriminals gain control of a user's account. They then demand a ransom for its release. Hackers often demand the ransom in untraceable cryptocurrency.

• Disruption of Online Gaming Services

Beyond individual attacks, hackers are now targeting gaming platforms. Their intent is to disrupt online services. They launch DDoS (Distributed Denial of Service) attacks to overwhelm servers. This renders them inaccessible to legitimate users.

Safeguarding Your Gaming Experience: Tips for Gamers

Here are some essential tips to enhance gaming cybersecurity.

Strengthen Your Passwords

- Avoid using easily guessable passwords. Incorporate a mix of letters, numbers, and special characters. Regularly updating your passwords adds an extra layer of security.

They're also often playing on their parents' devices—data that holds the interest of hackers fills these devices.

Are You Being Monitored?

Have you ever discussed something like buying a car and found your website visits began showing you ads for new or used automobiles? You might be monitored by your smartphone. Open your browser, go to Google and click on your avatar in the top right. Open Settings, click on your email and choose "Manage your Google Account," then, "Data & Privacy," now scroll down to "My Ad Center." Turn off the setting for "Personalized ads." Return to Data & Privacy, then choose "Web & App Activity." Turn off that setting and deselect the two boxes: Include Chrome... & Include Voice/Audio. That's a start.

Enable Multi-factor Authentication (MFA) – Multi-factor Authentication is a powerful tool that adds significantly to security. MFA users verify their identity through a secondary method such as a code sent to their mobile device. Enabling 2FA greatly reduces the risk of unauthorized access even if a hacker has compromised your password.

Stay Informed and Vigilant – Be aware of the latest cybersecurity threats targeting the gaming community. Stay informed about potential risks as well as new hacking techniques and security best practices.

Additionally, be vigilant when clicking on links or downloading files. Keep your guard up when interacting with unknown users within gaming platforms.

Keep Software and Antivirus Programs Updated – Regularly update your gaming platform, antivirus software, and operating system. This will patch vulnerabilities and protect against known exploits. Cybersecurity is an ongoing process. Staying up to date is crucial in thwarting potential attacks.

Use a Virtual Private Network (VPN) – Consider using a Virtual Private Network (VPN) to encrypt your internet connection. This enhances your privacy. It also adds an extra layer of protection against potential DDoS attacks as well as other malicious activities.

QUICK SECURITY TIP: Don't be conned when you get an email saying your order cannot be filled because it is out-of-stock. **How do you get a refund?** Scammers place fake ads on social media sites to entice you to buy a product at a "special" price. Why buy that item?—you can't resist it. If you see something you find *too good*, take a moment and identify the vendor to confirm their authenticity and reliability. You don't want to become another statistic. Before entering personal details online, look for **https** and lock icon, then, use a *credit card*, not a debit card to place any order. If you need to, you can withhold payment pending an investigation with the FTC.

"I DIDN'T KNOW"

Unfortunately, That Excuse Doesn't Replenish Your Bank Account, Resolve A Data



Breach Or Erase Any Fines And Lawsuits.

It's coming ...

- That day a hacker steals critical data, rendering your office useless
- That day when your bank account or credit card is compromised
- Or that day when your customers' private lives are uprooted

Cybercriminals and hackers are constantly inventing NEW ways to infiltrate your company, steal your assets and disrupt your life. The ONLY way to STOP THEM is this:

You Must Constantly Educate Yourself On How To Protect What's Yours!

Now, for a limited time, we have the perfect way to help reduce your risk and keep you safe! Simply sign up to receive our FREE "Cyber Security Tip of the Week." We'll send these byte-size quick-read tips to your e-mail inbox. Every tip is packed with a unique and up-to-date real-world solution that keeps you one step ahead of the bad guys. And because so few people know about these security secrets, every week you'll learn something new!

Get your FREE "Cyber Security Tip of the Week" at <https://www.tech4now.com/cyber-security-tip-of-the-week/>

Extreme Random Facts

This month, we decided to give our task to chat.openai.com, "generate a list of extreme random facts." Some of the best appear before you now:

❏ The world's largest snowflake was 15 inches wide.

❏ The longest English word without a vowel is "rhythms."

❏ The longest hiccuping spree lasted 68 years. Charles Osborne began hiccuping in 1922 and continued until 1990. Unfortunately, he passed away shortly after his hiccups stopped.

❏ The national animal of Scotland is the unicorn. It's a mythical creature, but that didn't stop Scotland from adopting it as a symbol.

❏ The world's largest desert is not the Sahara; it's Antarctica. Deserts are defined by low precipitation, and Antarctica fits the criteria.

❏ Sloths can hold their breath longer than dolphins.

❏ The Atacama Desert in Chile is so dry that some weather stations have never recorded rainfall.

❏ Greenland is the world's largest island, not Australia as many might think.

❏ The oldest known living organism is a bristlecone pine named Prometheus, estimated to be over 4,900 years old.

❏ The Pacific Ocean is the largest and deepest ocean on Earth, covering an area larger than all the landmasses combined.

❏ The blue whale is the largest animal on Earth, with a tongue that can weigh as much as an elephant.

❏ The fastest animal on Earth is the peregrine falcon, which can reach speeds of over 240 miles per hour (386 kilometers per hour) while diving.

❏ The fastest land animal is the cheetah, capable of reaching speeds up to 75 miles per hour.

❏ The Mariana Trench is the deepest part of the world's oceans, reaching a depth of about 36,070 feet (over 6.83 miles).

❏ The wood frog can survive being frozen solid during the winter and then thaw out in the spring to resume its normal activities.

❏ The Amazon Rainforest produces about 20% of the world's oxygen.

❏ The Caspian Sea is not a sea but a saltwater lake, making it the largest enclosed inland body of water.



❏ The fastest wind speed ever recorded on Earth was 253 mph during Tropical Cyclone Olivia in 1996.

❏ The lowest point on land is the Dead Sea, which is about 1,411 feet below sea level.

❏ The largest hailstone ever recorded had a diameter of 8 inches and weighed 2.25 pounds, falling in Vivian, South Dakota, in 2010.

On May 4, 2023, we celebrated World Password Day. Please visit our website to get your free Password Protection 101 PDF handout. Visit https://www.tech4now.com/files/2023/04/Password_Protection_101_Infographic.pdf to view and download it. It's still valid info.

Quick Productivity Tips

If you work on a computer running Windows 10 or newer, let us tell you about the **Widgets**. Who cares about that built-in app? First of all, if you don't see an icon that resembles  (the white/blue box), then you need to activate it in your Settings > Personalization > Taskbar and slide the switch to **On**  next to the word "Widgets." Alternatively, to enable or disable it, you may also right-click on your Taskbar, choose Taskbar Settings, then decide its fate.

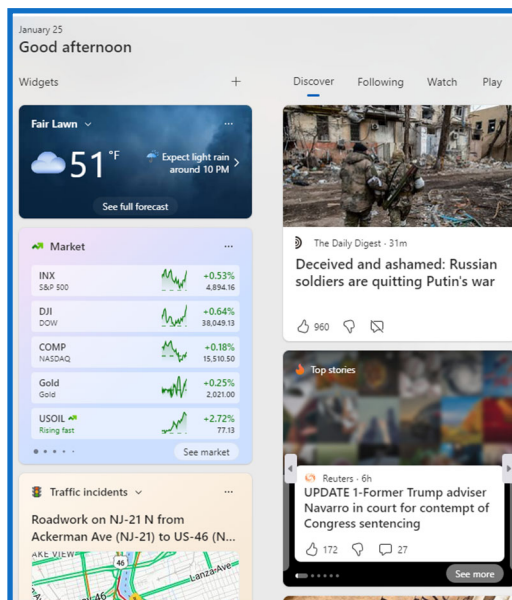
The Widgets give you the option/opportunity to customize your Windows experience by viewing certain feeds on your desktop either in a preset manner or in a customized manner. The Widgets allow you to open feeds to update you on:

- News Insights
- Weather Reports
- Traffic Reports
- Outlook Calendar
- Stock Market Prices/Activity
- On This Day
- To Do List
- Tips for Windows

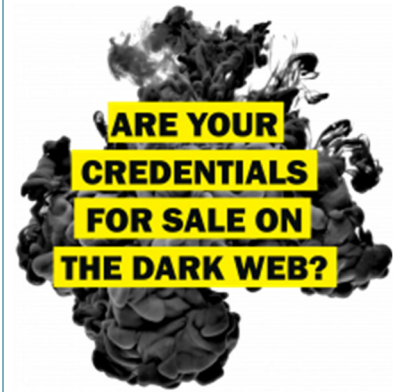
The list of Widgets keeps growing and since you can customize it, you are not limited by what you initially see. Do you want a Reddit Feed, add it. Do you want to follow a sports team, set it up. Are you an investor or stock maven, you can follow the indices or tickers themselves (I cannot attest to the timeliness of the price reporting). You can "personalize" a Widget to your liking or needs.

The Widgets will let you pin various items from multiple applications to simplify your day by concentrating multiple items from various applications in one place. Sure, it sounds really exciting, but it may come at a cost. Depending on what you are viewing, you may be subjected to intermittent advertisements which will appear between videos or other features.

If you do wish to run the Widgets and have them "ON," then you can use a *keyboard shortcut* (Win+W) to open it without having to navigate to your taskbar.



If you wish to use it, it is included in Windows 10/11 for free. Give it a shot. If you don't like it, turn it off.



Find Out with a Complimentary Dark Web Scan

Did you know...?

- Cyber-attacks have continued to grow in cost, size, and impact—causing 60% of SMBs to go out of business within 6 months of a cyber incident.
- Over 80% of data breaches leverage stolen passwords as the principal attack vector—often acquired on the *Dark Web*.
- Far too often, companies that have had their credentials compromised and sold on the Dark Web don't know it until they have been informed by law enforcement—but then, it's too late.
- To help keep your critical business assets safe from the compromises that lead to breach and theft, we are offering a complimentary, one-time scan with **Dark Web ID™ Credential Monitoring**.

If you are interested in learning more about the risks involved in ignoring your password security, give us a call at (201) 797-5050 or visit our website at

<https://www.tech4now.com/dwid> or www.tech4now.com/bullphish



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Is there a topic or feature you would like to include in a future issue? Opinions and feedback are welcome and encouraged. Please send us an e-mail or call our direct line.

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5. ENHANCED PRODUCTIVITY

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- ✓ Onsite and Offsite Backup
- ✓ Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Planning
- ✓ Virus Protection & Removal and Dark Web Monitoring
- ✓ Network Security and Online Employee Security Training
- ✓ E-mail & Internet Solutions
- ✓ Wireless Networking
- ✓ Spam Filtering and E-mail Archiving & Encryption Solutions
- ✓ Storage Solutions and File Sharing
- ✓ System Audits, Network Documentation, and Dark Web Scans
- ✓ Voice over IP phone systems

"We make all of your computer problems go away without the cost of a full-time I.T. staff"

Ask us about our fixed price service agreements—Computer support at a flat monthly fee you can budget for just like rent!

"Some companies approach you with a we know it all position, but in working with Holzager Technology Services, we have found that they listen to us to learn about how we work, what we do, and what the problem may be. This partnership in maintaining our business has raised them from "IT Guys" to "Trusted Advisors."—Bob Weissman, P.E., L.S., Weissman Engineering Co., P.C. Midland Park, NJ

February 2024

The Lighter Side...

For Entertainment Purposes ONLY!

The February National Holiday

I was eating breakfast with my 10 year old granddaughter and asked her, "What day is tomorrow?" Without skipping a beat, she said, "It's Presidents' Day!"

She's smart, so I asked her, "What does Presidents' Day mean?"

I was waiting for something about Biden, Trump or Obama, et al.

She replied, "Presidents' Day is when the President steps out of the White House, and if he sees his shadow, we have another year of bullsh*t."

You know, it hurts when hot coffee spurts out of your nose.

The Observant Waitress

A man and a woman are having dinner in a restaurant. Their waitress, taking another order at a table a few paces away, spots that the man is slowly sliding down his chair and under the table, with the woman acting unconcerned. As the waitress watches, the man slides all the way under and out of sight. Still, the woman dining opposite him appears not to notice. Finally, the waitress comes over to the table and whispers discreetly to the woman, "Pardon me, ma'am, but I think your husband just slid under the table."

"No, he didn't," the woman calmly replies. "He just walked in the door."

Quieting the Child on a Plane

As a crowded airliner is about to take off, the peace is shattered by a 5-year-old boy who picks that moment to throw a wild temper tantrum. No matter what his frustrated, embarrassed mother does to try to calm him down, the boy continues to scream furiously and kick the seats around him. Suddenly, from the rear of the plane, an elderly

man in the uniform of an Air Force General is seen slowly walking forward up the aisle. Stopping the flustered mother with an upraised hand, the white-haired, courtly, soft-spoken General leans down and, motioning toward his chest, whispers something into the boy's ear.

Instantly, the boy calms down, gently takes his mother's hand, and quietly fastens his seat belt. All the other passengers burst into spontaneous applause.

As the General slowly makes his way back to his seat, one of the cabin attendants touches his sleeve. "Excuse me, General," she asks quietly, "but could I ask you what magic words you used on that little boy?"

The old man smiles serenely and gently confides, "I showed him my pilot's wings, service stars, and battle ribbons, and explained that they entitle me to throw one passenger out the plane door on any flight I choose."

Anything you can do, I can do better...

The strong young man at the construction site was bragging that he could outdo anyone in a feat of strength. He made a special case of making fun of one of the older workmen. After several minutes, the older worker had had enough.

"Why don't you put your money where your mouth is?" he said.

"I will bet a week's wages that I can haul something in a wheelbarrow over to that outbuilding that you won't be able to wheel back."

"You're on, old man," the braggart replied. "Let's see what you got."

The old man reached out and grabbed the wheelbarrow by the handles. Then, nodding to the young man, he said, "All right, get in!"