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TechnologyNation

The "Voice" of Tech

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I want to take a moment to thank you for your interest in the **TechnologyNation** Newsletter.

I have personally written articles off and on over the years across several platforms, but my passion seems to always gravitate towards helping others, focusing on their development, and ambitions. However, my life long career has been technology, learning new skills, accomplishing tasks, providing solutions, and meeting customers needs. It is only fitting that this newsletter attempts to deliver those same objectives in a collaborative atmosphere. With hopes this newsletter will help at least one other technology professional become a better version of themselves.

Until then, this newsletter will attempt to bring you information from various sources, starting in our own backyard, spotlighting



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Introducing the **TechnologyNation** Newsletter

businesses, their services, maybe discussing ambitions and long-term goals, so that maybe another reader will be influenced to dive into the technology world. I want to be clear, this is an effort to grow, with no specific outcome expected, no investors, and the only contributors are myself and a couple of others that provide insightful opinionated feedback. With hopes, this newsletter will gain momentum, subscribers, investors, contributors, and grow into something larger, highlighting small technology businesses or acknowledging commitments and sacrifices of professionals. While it is a small newsletter, we have ambitions of growth into something greater and amazing; with hope that you reading this will become a fan or even a future contributor.

So, what can we expect from future versions of this newsletter? Well, we would like to start showcasing small businesses across regions. Interviewing their leadership and asking questions that will highlight their efforts, vision, services, capabilities, concerns and try to understand what drives their goals. Enable the readers to get to know these organizations and the value they can create for their community. We're also going to include sections discussing how-to guides, tips, tricks, historical facts, and then tie it off with a

quote of the month. If all goes according to plan, we'll look to add interviews from individual members, highlighting their journey, scenarios that helped develop their career, and what advice they would give future generations.

Again, thank you for reading this far. It shows that there are others interested in the journey of the technology professional. Stick with this newsletter, we seek to grow, share stories, enable your development, and acknowledge your accomplishments. After all, this newsletter is not a promotional effort, instead it is an effort to highlight successes and accomplishments helping future generations grow.

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If you've ever been asked to provide a fast and immediate solution or otherwise a band-aid solution, than this article is for you. Often technology professionals are faced with challenging expectation to get something up and running for the sake of production or time, that we rarely have the opportunity to provide a long-term solution (because it's a band-aid).

On the other hand, we rarely are presented the opportunity to do things the right way. When we do, I call this strategic thinking, because we consider multiple factors aside from merely just getting it back up and running. We can plan for growth, life-cycle replacement, and future paths that align with the organizations long-term goals.

Strategic thinking means executing with a purpose that mitigates issues down the road. For a technology professional, this means creating opportunities where we can focus our energy and efforts elsewhere. But, I know what you're saying. "I don't have the time to consider other factors or think strategically when the business is impacted."



I'm here to tell you that you do have the time and once you start strategically thinking, you will have more time in the future.

Once you consider the concept, it pops into your head as a no-brainer, right? Wrong. In reality, IT professionals are so thinly spread, we are constantly jumping from one project to another, rarely dedicating the necessary time to actually sit and think about a problem or its solution. The phone is constantly ringing and we receive just as many unplanned visitors as e-mails.

It's the nature of the beast. I can give you a couple of examples of none strategic thinking. One of the first organizations I employed at, a relatively large facility, with a brilliant businessman as an IT director. He taught me how to wheel & deal with technology vendors, squeezing them for the lowest price, free shipping, etc.

However, he and his leadership would always look towards Ebay for good deals, normally crated, used technology like printers, desktops,

switches, phones, etc. I'm not knocking Ebay, some of their stuff comes from reputable dealers, but others are just junk. About half the loads we would receive were end-of-life, not working, or the miles were visible. The problems and concerns realized from placing those items in a 24-hr production environment were great.

Switches and desktops all experienced problems, impacting production and calling on whatever poor IT soul that was responding that evening. From those experiences alone, I learned to fight the battle and spend extra money for reliable assets. Not only reliable, but equipment that fit our long-term strategies.

By purchasing new equipment, you're performing an investment in your organization and consumers. For instance, if you have a 24-port switch that is end of life, do you replace it or let it sit until it dies? That gets into a discussion around planned and unplanned outages, but for the sake of this conversation, let presume you replace it.

Message of the Month:

Are you a Strategic Thinker?

When you replace it, do you replace with a like model or get a 48-port and double your capacity? The answer revolves around strategic thinking. You start to ask questions. What is the possibility of needing double the amount of ports, what's the cost and risk associated, is this a critical area, do you maintain critical spares, and if so, what is your response time?

Other things to consider for this particular scenario could include the area, cabinet, power, and determining if this is a good time to improve other services. Using this one example, you can start to consider the wider benefits of strategic thinking that go well beyond the standard band-aid fix of IT and apply it to other areas, such as server life, growth, storage capacity, application, hardware redundancy, manpower, backup plans, documentation, etc.

With strategic thinking, we vitalize our environment and prevent unplanned outages. We reduce the amount of interrupting phone calls we may receive; we potentially plan for the growth of our network to support our consumers.

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Continued – Strategic Thinking

When we think about strategy, we closely relate that work with the game of chess, and accurately so. Chess is not merely a game of moving the piece on the board, it is a game that promotes strategy, executing movements with purpose, creating a means to an end.

When we apply strategic thinking to the technology professional, we are executing with purpose. The purpose of keeping the business running, ensuring we have the time to focus on other tasks, and ensuring the business and network grow together, more importantly, that we have planned outages

as opposed to unplanned outages.

So, how can we become a more strategic thinker? We can start inward by transforming our mindset and the way we approach the business. First and foremost, we always consider both our vision and the organizations vision. Next, we identify critical areas and equipment, and then we develop a plan.

At first, your plan can merely focus around basic information, like current network drawings, IP addresses, server information, etc. But as you progress, so should refine your plan and it should grow to include projections, life-cycle

replacements, etc. Next, we stay tapped into developing technology trends and consider how they may grow your business. Finally, we listen to our consumers and leaders, understanding priorities, where re-occurring issues are, and we work to mitigate those issues, but while thinking strategically. As a technology professional, I developed the skill set to think strategically, developing and executing plans with a purpose.

Focusing on the organization and the next five years and not only what that meant for IT, but what that meant for the business and IT's contribution to the business.

Fun Fact: Slow your horses!

Did you know that the current version of our keyboard layout, traditionally known as QWERTY, was designed to slow our typing? It's true. The original keyboard layout was much different than our current standard. Consider however, the keyboard was a function of typewriters, which had small metal arms that slung letters, pressing ink unto paper. The position and speed of those arms would often cause the arms to impact or jam one another. In the 1870's, many design iterations were proposed, however the final QWERTY design was submitted by E Remington and Sons, solving any future jams.

Tip of the Month

Oops! Can I undo that?!

Did you make a mistake? Delete something accidentally? Move a file to the wrong location? If you're familiar with Window's text editors or Word, you should know that by pressing CTRL + Z will reverse anything that you might have typed.

However, did you know that CTRL + Z will work outside of text editors on Windows? Try it sometime. Accidentally delete a file or move it to a location and press CTRL + Z to try restoring it.



Quote of the Month:

"If I had an hour to solve a problem, I'd spend 55 minutes thinking about the problem and five minutes thinking about solutions."

-Albert Einstein



Suggestions?

See some opportunities or perhaps you would like us to discuss a topic? Let us know. We are consistently looking to grow. Connect with us by visiting technologyprofessionals.org

Upcoming Events

- **TechnologyNation – Issue 02 May 2023**

Get ready for our next addition of TechnologyNation - The “Voice” of Tech. Currently scheduled to release the first week in May.

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