

Stay Informed | Stay Secure | Stay Ahead

# TECHNOLOGY TIMES

**Small Business Month: Protect, Plan, and Grow with Better IT**

May is Small Business Month, so this issue is all about helping SMBs make smarter technology decisions for the rest of 2026.

Inside, you'll find practical tips on IT budgeting, cybersecurity, backup planning, and managed IT support, plus a few updates and spotlights from Vector Choice

## IT Budgeting for the Rest of 2026: Spend Smarter, Not More



Halfway through the year is a good time to ask an important question: Is our technology helping us grow, or is it quietly draining our budget?

For many small and mid-sized businesses, IT costs can feel unpredictable. One month everything is quiet. The next month brings a surprise repair, a software renewal, a security issue, or a hardware replacement that was not planned for. That kind of reactive spending makes it hard to budget with confidence. Smarter IT budgeting does not always mean spending more. It means spending with purpose.

Start by looking at where your money is going now. Are you paying for software no one uses? Are old computers slowing your team down? Are important security upgrades being delayed because no one is sure what should come first? Are you relying on break-fix support that only shows up after something has already gone wrong?

A strong IT plan helps move your business away from surprise expenses and toward predictable costs. With the right managed IT partner, your systems can be monitored, maintained, patched, backed up, and protected before small issues turn into expensive problems.

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

**Employee of the Month:  
Cassandra Lundberg**



Cassandra did an outstanding job leading an audit this month, and the client shared that it was the best one they have ever seen. Her preparation, insight, and attention to detail truly stood out. Excellent work!

**Tech Genius of the Month  
Veronique Malazarte**



Veronique has been running point on training our new tech while staying on top of tickets. Her leadership and consistency are making a real impact. Great job!

## Gadget of the Month

### Logitech MX Creative Console

For Small Business Month, we're spotlighting a gadget built around one thing every small business needs more of: time.

The Logitech MX Creative Console is a customizable desk tool that lets users create shortcuts for everyday tasks in tools like Microsoft Office, Slack, Notion, and more. For busy teams, that can mean fewer repetitive clicks, smoother workflows, and a little more time back in the day.

It is a great reminder that smarter technology does not have to be complicated. Sometimes, the right tool simply helps your team work faster, stay focused, and make the most of the resources you already have.



As you plan for the rest of 2026, take a closer look at your hardware, cybersecurity, software, backups, and support. These areas have a direct impact on productivity, security, and long-term cost control. The goal is not to buy every new tool or chase every trend. The goal is to make sure every technology dollar supports the business.

When your IT budget is tied to your goals, it becomes more than an expense. It becomes a strategy.



## Your Business Is One Bad Day Away from a Data Disaster

Most business owners do not think about backups until they need them.

By then, the real question is not, "Do we have backups?" It is, "Can we actually get our data back?"

Many businesses assume tools like OneDrive, Google Drive, Dropbox, or other cloud storage platforms fully protect their files. These tools are useful for access and collaboration, but syncing is not the same as a complete backup strategy.

If a file is deleted, overwritten, corrupted, or encrypted by ransomware, that bad change can sync across devices. Instead of solving the problem, it can spread it. That is why relying only on cloud storage can create a false sense of security.

A true backup and disaster recovery plan *is built for recovery*. It helps protect your business from cyberattacks, hardware failure, accidental deletion, natural disasters, and employee mistakes. It also gives your team a clearer path forward when something goes wrong.

The details matter. Your business should know what data is being backed up, how often those backups run, where the backups are stored, and whether they are protected from ransomware. Just as important, those backups should be tested. A backup that has never been tested is not a plan. It is a hope.

The best time to fix backup gaps is before there is an emergency. Once data is lost, recovery becomes more stressful, more limited, and often more expensive.

Your business does not need to live in fear of one bad day. But it does need a plan for one.

# Upcoming Webinar: HIPAA is Changing! Are you Ready?



HIPAA compliance is changing, and organizations need to be ready. Join Vector Choice on **June 1st at 2:00 Central** for a practical webinar on the proposed HIPAA Security Rule updates, what they could mean for your organization, and how to better protect ePHI.

We will cover key areas like Security Risk Assessments, access controls, documentation, vendor oversight, backups, and cybersecurity readiness.

**Everyone who attends live will be automatically entered into a drawing for a free HIPAA/Compliance Readiness Assessment.**

Register now at <https://vectorchoice.com/webinars>

## Tech Tips You Can Use Right Now: April Recap

### Monitor the Dark Web

- 1 Stolen passwords, email accounts, and company data can show up on the dark web quickly. Dark web monitoring helps you catch credential leaks and respond faster.

### Act Fast After a Lost or Stolen Laptop

- 2 If a laptop is lost or stolen, report it right away, change important passwords, and use tools like remote lock, remote wipe, and device tracking.

### Secure Your Home Office

- 3 Remote work needs business-grade security. Keep work and personal devices separate, use secure Wi-Fi, and follow company policies.

### Watch for Fake Websites

- 4 One wrong letter can send you to a fake site, built to steal passwords or payment details. Bookmark trusted sites and check links before you click.

**Want the May tech tips before next month's recap?**

**Sign up for our weekly tech tip emails now by scanning the QR code below:**



# Why Small Businesses Are Cybersecurity Targets



Many small business owners believe cybercriminals only go after large companies.

That is not how modern cybercrime works.

Small and midsized businesses are often targeted because attackers expect them to have fewer protections, smaller IT teams, and less time to watch for threats. Even a small business can have valuable data, financial accounts, customer records, employee information, and access to other companies.

Many attacks start with something simple. It could be a phishing email, a stolen password, a fake login page, or an unpatched device. One small mistake can give an attacker a way in.

That is why cybersecurity is a business issue, not just an IT issue. A cyberattack can cause downtime, data loss, damaged trust, financial loss, and compliance problems. For a small business, even a short disruption can create major stress.

The good news is that practical steps can reduce your risk. Multi-factor authentication, employee training, software updates, limited access, active monitoring, and reliable backups all work together to create stronger protection. Cybersecurity is not one tool or one annual training session. It is a layered approach that protects your business from multiple angles.

A proactive IT partner can help you find gaps, monitor systems, support employees, and build a security plan that fits your business. Small businesses are worth protecting, and the right plan can make your company much harder to target.

## FREE Report: IT Buyers Guide



Small businesses need reliable technology, strong cybersecurity, and fast support, but hiring a full in-house IT team can be expensive.

With the right partner, your business can spend less time reacting to IT problems and more time focusing on growth.

Want to know what to look for in an IT partner? Download our free IT Buyer's Guide.

<https://vectorchoice.com/it-buyers-guide>