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Managing Your Technology So Your Business Doesn't Croak.

Run your business without worrying about technology

Ribb"IT" Review

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What to do with your Laptop?



Reboot? Shutdown? Close lid? Hibernate?

This week's article "What to do with your laptop" is written by our owner Alex Bleam. It will be featuring Part 2 from last months article but on how to shut down your Laptop instead of Computer.

At the end of your day, what do you do with your laptop? laptop problems happen, there is no getting around that. At Frogworks, we help you get those problems resolved as quickly as possible and while there are new computers coming out all the time and both Microsoft and Apple release new operating systems (and update to those operating systems) all the time, one thing has not changed.

Rebooting your computer is both necessary and helps in the day-to-day operation of your computer. Let's start with the necessary and for the sake of this article, we are going to just refer to our frenemies at Microsoft – but this applies to Apple computers, too.

What if I just close the lid on my laptop at night?

We here this often enough that I want to mention it. Closing the lid on your computer puts the computer into sleep or hibernation mode. This saves on power and will allow to quickly get back into your laptop.

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This monthly publication provided courtesy of:
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What to do with your Laptop?

Reboot? Shutdown? Close lid? Hibernate?



But just like a bear that has been hibernating too long (overnight for a laptop) you may run into some challenges the next morning – disconnecting from email servers, unable to sync Cloud9 and overall glitchiness (a highly technical term that means your laptop is just kind of grumpy and doesn't want to work well). Is hibernation okay to do when going from one appointment to another, of course. Eventually, you will need to succumb and just reboot, which brings us back to the beginning of this article.

What if you shut down your laptop at night? Well, if you do this, Frogworks cannot do any maintenance on your laptop, this includes anything from disk maintenance to updates, to regular checks. But fear not, as soon as our software connects to the internet on the next boot up, some of things will run but not affect your computer nearly as much as being vulnerable to attack because your computer is not getting updated.

Locking your laptop is something you can do. Our clients will typically do this when they are in the middle of work that is not possible to save and walk away. Think multiple browser tabs open, emails open, documents open. By locking your laptop all of those items stay open.

All in all, rebooting your laptop cures a lot of pain in the neck issues. Frogworks can tell when the last time your laptop rebooted. Be forewarned, if you call us with a problem, we may ask if you have rebooted in the last few days. Also don't forget to leave your laptop plugged in when rebooting.



Here at Frogworks, we make sure that security and critical updates are pushed to your computer as soon as we have vetted them to make sure they don't break.



Major Firewall Manufacturers VPN User Passwords May Have Been Leaked Online

(Don't worry not one Frogworks uses)



What is a VPN and why do I need it? A VPN or Virtual Private Network protects your personal data and hides your IP address to create a secure connection to another network over the internet. VPNs offer the **best protection** available when it comes to your online security. **But your privacy is not always guaranteed.**



Hackers recently released a list of nearly half a million **Fortinet VPN usernames** and passwords on to the Dark Web. The group behind the attack claims that all the credentials were scraped from exploitable devices last summer. The group also claims that while the vulnerability that made the hack possible has been patched many of the VPN credentials are still valid.

For their part Fortinet has confirmed that they were attacked.

Half a million credentials of any sort is a serious matter but half a million VPN credentials is eye popping. If the list is exploited the groups doing so could infect a wide range of networks all around the world.

A recent Fortinet advisory had this to say about the matter:

"This incident is related to an old vulnerability resolved in May 2019. At that time, Fortinet issued a PSIRT advisory and communicated directly with customers.

And because customer security is our top priority, Fortinet subsequently issued multiple corporate blog posts detailing this issue, strongly encouraging customers to upgrade affected devices. In addition to advisories, bulletins, and direct communications, these blogs were published in August 2019, July 2020, April 2021, and again in June 2021."

For reference the old vulnerability Fortinet is referring to is being tracked as CVE-2018-13379. A Bleeping Computer analysis of the stolen data reveals that it contains VPN credentials for 498,908 users spread over nearly 13,000 different devices.

If you have Fortinet VPN your best bet is not to take any chances. Assume that your account has been compromised and force-reset all of your users' passwords. In addition to that take the time to do a deep dive into your logs and scan for any suspicious activity that may point to a possible intrusion.



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Email Unsubscribe Scam Can Easily Fool Any User

Scammers are increasingly relying on a tried and true bit of social engineering to fool unsuspecting users into unwittingly signing up to receive a flood of additional spam email. They accomplish this by blasting out an email asking recipients if they wish to unsubscribe. Most of the emails in the current campaign contain two brightly colored icons, one green, that says, "Keep me subscribed!" and one red that says "Unsubscribe."



Ultimately, it doesn't matter which you click on. If you opt to stay subscribed, you'll be emailed another "Verification" email that may ask you for additional personal information. If you click the link to unsubscribe, you'll be sent a verification email asking why you're leaving and of course, for additional personal information. In either case, you're playing into the hands of the scammers and self-identifying as a person susceptible to such things.

As ever, education is the best defense against this kind of thing. If you get an email like the one described above, your best bet is to simply mark it as spam and delete it. All reputable companies will clearly identify themselves and what, specifically, you are unsubscribing from.

If you do fall victim to this ploy, you can expect to be inundated with a wide assortment of phishing emails, which will invariably increase your risk. After all, the scammers only need to succeed once to make your life a living nightmare for months, and possibly years. You have to stay vigilant twenty four hours a day, seven days a week to protect yourself.

THANKSGIVING MAD LIBS

Have some fun with our Thanksgiving Mad Libs. Select a word for each of the blank speech below.

After filling in the empty speeches story below, read your story!

The first Thanksgiving the Pilgrims and Indians ate a _____(animal) stuffed with _____(vegetable) and served it with a side of _____(adj.) _____(animal). We still eat this to this day. In _____(year) before eating, people would gather around the table and hold _____(body part) and give thanks for _____(noun) and _____(famous person). Some family's still do this today as well. Now, After the feast is over some play _____(game) . This is to bring the family together in _____(emotion). The tradition in my family is winner of the game throws a _____(desert) at the runner-up. Everyone has different _____(holiday) traditions and new ones are created every _____(Day of the week).



Happy Thanksgiving!

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