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Welcome to our 7th edition of Bits & Bytes!

After a long hiatus, a company name change, a rebranding of our business and the addition of new services, we have relented to the many requests to bring back our popular bi-weekly newsletter.

As a previous customer, associate or perhaps someone we've met at a networking event, we wanted to provide you with a short summary of technology news and events that may be of interest to you.

THE VALUE OF A BUSINESS PLAN

Someone once wrote: "Most small business owners would tattoo 'idiot' on their forehead before they would develop a business plan!"

I tend to agree with that person, but I also want to change that perception. I think the primary reason most Small Business Owners have such a poor regard for a business plan is that they automatically associate a business plan with the painful experiences they imagine they will go through when they take it to their banker.

It doesn't have to be that way! In fact, the best use of a business plan is to keep it to yourself and use it to track your success in your business.

How many of us have started a business with boundless enthusiasm for what we were going to achieve? How many of us still have most of those 'achievements' buzzing around in our heads? If only we could find the time to take action on them. A business plan will help us do that.

Star Trek Technology!

In honour of the upcoming rendition of the new Star Trek movie, we decided to bring to you some gadgets that were used as props 40 years ago on tv, that are now legitimate technologies.



Starting with the most commonly used tool, the communicator. In the tv series, the flip up tool was used by the crew to communicate with their ship in orbit or across vast distances around the world they were on.

Today we have cellphones, satellite phones and Push-to-talk phones that do exactly that (and a whole lot more!).



To compliment their communications, crew members using ships communicators used

A business plan is nothing more than putting down on paper, your business:

- * Goal (Mission Statement)
- * Objectives (How I'm going to achieve my goal)
- * Products/Services (How I'm going to make money)
- * Sales/Marketing Plan (How I'm going to convince people to buy my products/services)
- * Operations Plan (How I'm going to spend money to make money)
- * Management Plan (How I'm going to make sure all this happens)
- * Finance Plan (How I'm going to keep track of it all)
- * And most importantly, Key Performance Indicators (what you're going to measure over time to prove your success)

And now that you've got all of this out of your head and on paper where you can see it, you can review it regularly to measure your successes and correct anything that is hindering success.

Then, when you are ready to expand your business, you will have a proven business plan that you can take fearlessly to your banker and with confidence, show why lending to you is money well invested.

From a technology point of view, documenting your technology requirements in the business plan ensures that you spend your technology dollars wisely.

There should be a good fit between the technology and the Operations Plan, otherwise you may find yourself rebuilding the technology as your business grows or evolves. By planning ahead, you can ensure that the

wireless type devices in their ears instead of headsets.

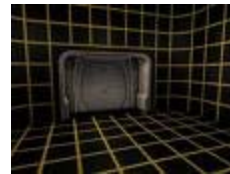
Way ahead of their time, the writers predicted what we would call bluetooth handsfree earpieces.



Next up was the Star Trek Datapad which was used extensively in the newer generations of Star Trek.

These datapads were smaller and thinner than laptops and allowed the crew to carry vast amounts of information in their hands.

Today, we have netbooks, tablet PCs and actual electronic datapads that all do the functions shown on TV.



The next item was the large scale, walk-in holodeck that the new Enterprise has onboard for entertainment and educational purposes.

The thought of fully immersible holographic worlds that were so real, with authentic characters and details pushed the imagination of viewers in the 80's to develop all kinds of similar technology.

Though we do not have the quality portrayed in the TV show, we do have holographic displays, virtual reality games and simulators that run in both 2D and 3D displays and intelligent programs that can decipher and automatically react to human responses.



Which finally brings us to androids.

technology can and does grow with the business.

Commander Data was a fully sentient artificial lifeform capable of acting human, with superhuman characteristics.

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Today, though we do not have sentient androids, we do have learning robots, reactive robots and programs so complex that they can design, evaluate, create and deploy themselves.

SOUNDBYTES!

In today's edition, we talk about: **Multiple Computers at Home or Office!**



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