

# PCM EDGE March 2010

## A Newsletter for Precision Computer Clients & Affiliates

### In this Issue:

Automating HR—Why It's Important

Easy Tech Fixes You Can Apply Today

Tech Tips: Losing Connection to the Internet

#### PC Methods Provides the Key to Suburban Lock's Problems

### We Love Referrals!

Most of our best business originates in referrals from you, our valued clients and we wanted to thank you for holding us in such high esteem.

If you know of a company that is having accounting software or system difficulties for which they have not found a solution please let us know. We will contact them to get acquainted and if it's a fit, we'll set up an onsite meeting. If not, we'll get them in touch with someone who can. Either way, we will make sure their needs are met.

# Automating HR - Why It's Important

Looking back throughout the history of business we can clearly see how growth and innovation have changed our world. From the invention and use of computers and the internet, to better hardware and software applications, laptops and blackberries – the way we do business continues to grow and improve every year. One way these improvements could be measured could easily be attributed to streamlining and the accessibility of data and the reduction of unnecessary, repetitive tasks and the use of available tools and applications to ensure compliance with laws and regulations.

The right software application can help you automate manual tasks and can greatly improve your business in several ways. Let's take for example, HR software. The everchanging business environment can put extra pressure on business owners to address human resources as a key part of their strategic competitive plan in the following areas:

- Recruiting, retaining and developing talent
- Containing escalating benefits costs
- Maintaining compliance and reducing risk of litigation
- Managing limited HR resources
- Tracking benefits, cobra, workman's comp, training and accidents

By automating core HR, benefits and payroll processes you can greatly increase the efficiency and productivity of your organization. Consider this: if you are currently using a manual process for HR, it is likely that you have to enter the same information for a new hire in multiple places,



have to maintain large amounts of files, and are unable to easily locate applicable data for reporting. By reducing routine administration and paperwork you would have more time to spend on developing your workforce and business strategy. Additionally, the right HR application can provide employee self-service capabilities, ensure and better document compliance, and streamline data, by keeping it all in one place.

Ultimately, finding ways to reduce administrative complexity and turnover, and increase employee service levels will greatly impact your company's bottom line. No matter the size of your company or number of employees, streamlined operations in any area will better prepare you for future success.

### Easy Tech Fixes You Can Apply Today

Technology decisions can have a large impact on an organization, and if they're not made properly – can bring a large amount of unnecessary added cost. While some senior managers make executive decisions and pass them on to their IT department to incorporate,

(Continued on page 2)

## PCM EDGE March 2010



### Tech Tips: Losing Connection to the Internet

If you lose your connection to the internet and "repairing" the internet connection doesn't work, try unplugging the computer from the wall and the Ethernet. Some network cards have a wake-up mode which stores settings even during power down. This allows the computer to be powered up by a remote signal over the network. So, two things,

- 1. Don't forget to pull the plug when trying to fix network issues.
- 2. To be "green" with your remote access computers, you can check to see if you have a remote power -up command. As long as the computer is plugged into the wall and to the Ethernet, you can power these computers back up from a remote workstation if the correct software is installed. Feel free to call us for the remote power-up solution if you don't have one.



others simply pass on the decision-making process altogether and allow their IT people to do it on their own. However, neither of these represent the best process. In fact, it takes collaboration between executives, department managers and IT to identify the needs of the company, and the best way to meet them.

While the appropriate level of collaboration and communication between departments is the key to strategic technology planning and success, there are some ways you can quickly and easily improve your productivity through tech fixes. Some of these include:

**Mobile Internet Service.** Today's mobile networks were mostly designed for making phone calls using 3G or Third Generation technology. However, using a network built with 4G technology will greatly improve connectivity saving you time. If you don't know what your mobile internet service provider's technology was built on we recommend asking them We are using CLEAR 4G WiMAX and have been very happy with their service.

**Save on Toner.** Do you cringe when it comes time to purchase new toner because of its high price? One way you can save in this area is to set your default fonts to those that require less toner when printing. Standard fonts that use less toner include: *Garamond*, *Courier*, and *Times New Roman*; and another that is free and downloadable from the internet is: *Sprang Eco Sans*.

**Keep Hard Drives Clean.** We all know that our hard drives get filled up with trial versions of software and useless applications, not to mention the dust and dirt that builds up in the fans and internal components. Schedule a deep cleaning of your system every six months to ensure you're running at the highest level possible and avoiding possible exposure to viruses.

Adapted from Forbes.com : 10 Tech Fixes You Can Make Right Now



### PC Methods Provides the Key to Suburban Lock's Problems

In 1963, Larry Barrett Sr. left his job with a large locksmith in the Chicago area to begin his own company—Suburban Lock. Since then, what started out as a single service truck has grown into a company of 29 employees and 14 service vehicles, all still under the leadership of the Barrett family. A poorly installed software system in 1991 left Suburban Lock with multiple issues. Two years later they attempted to fix their system with the help of a new solution provider, but unfortunately, things once again did not go as they had hoped.

Eventually, Suburban Lock's solution was a Sage product. They received the benefit of Sage's connections, and were referred to PC Methods.

The partnership between Suburban Lock and PC Methods has resulted in absolute success. Simply put, Suburban Lock has doubled in size since working with PC Methods, without having to add any additional staff! From proper software implementation, custom invoices and reports, to an additional Print Boss solution to prevent errors and wasted checks, and a new remote-access feature, Suburban Lock's business has been greatly enhanced. Without the need to stop everything to repair glitches, improving productivity, and a functional business system, Suburban Lock can now grow their business and run it in a more efficient manner.

Precision Computer Methods | peter.heinicke@pcmethods.com | www.pcmethods.com | 630-208-8000

Sage, the Sage logos, and the Sage product are registered trademarks of Sage Inc., or its affiliated entities.