# Executive IT Insider

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## **Computer Joke**



How does a computer get out of jail?

It uses its ESC key!

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**Provided By:** Paul Riendeau

Owner of *IT Support RI* With **St. Patrick's Day** coming up, let's focus on your **security**. Think of your data or passwords

as being a pot o' gold.

You don't want a cyber-criminal to follow the rainbow, find your pot of gold *unprotected*, and simply **take it**, do you?

If you have any questions or concerns about your security, **give us a call**! We're here to answer your questions and <u>put your mind at ease</u>.



## Should You Let Your Browser Store Your Passwords?

Each website you visit should have its own, unique password. The average person has *at least* 10 online accounts—that means you could have 10 or more different login credentials! With all the passwords we must remember, any shortcut or way to simplify the log in process is welcomed.

Your internet browser provides the option to store and autofill your passwords. While an autofill feature integrated with your browser might seem like something you *should* use, **don't**. While it is safer than writing your passwords down, the autofill feature isn't *that secure*.

#### Auto-fill Passwords Are Dangerous

Web browsers have a feature that allows you to automatically store usernames, passwords, and other information you've entered in a form. If it automatically enters your information and removes the burden of remembering another set of credentials, then why not use it? While it might seem convenient, autofill passwords have some **unforeseen repercussions**.

#### Hidden Boxes

Hackers have discovered ways to exploit the autofill feature. By placing an invisible form on a compromised website, the hacker can

trick your browser into entering your information. <u>You read that right</u>; hackers use <u>invisible</u> forms, or hidden boxes to create a new, effective phishing-style attack.

These hidden text boxes are placed on websites and capture your data *without* your knowledge. As you start filling out your name, the hacker's hidden boxes are grabbing other autofill data, such as email addresses, credit cards, or any other information that has automatically been stored.

Suddenly, everything stored in your browser's autofill feature is compromised, and you can't even see it happening!

#### What Should You Do?

Disabling the autofill feature is a simple and effective way to improve your account security. Products like **LastPass** or **MyGlue** are great alternatives to the autofill feature. These applications store your passwords in one place and remove the guesswork during the login process. Think of LastPass or MyGlue as being the digital equivalent of writing your passwords on sticky notes.

If you have any questions about your cybersecurity, give us a call or contact your account manager!

## **Business Briefing:** Expect, Inspect, Correct

There are so many ways to say we made a **<u>mistake</u>**: botched, bungled, flubbed, mishandled, bumbled, misjudged, mucked up, fouled up, messed up, slipped up, goofed up, and



screwed up. In simple terms, an error has been made.

As a <u>leader</u>, before you get upset at someone for screwing up, try and remember they didn't do it on purpose.

Sometimes a simple reminder to ourselves about our past failings will allow us to be a little more tolerant of those who error.

Leadership is all about helping people perform better; mistakes are just part of the process.

I've heard it said many times that the only people who don't make a mistake are the people who do nothing. What I find interesting and motivating about a mistake is the evolution in how they are classified. They first start out being called a mistake. That **mistake** then turns into a **lesson**, then we call it **experience** and finally it is looked upon as a **gift** that helped us succeed.

The wonderful thing about making a mistake is it enhances our ability to succeed "**IF**" we learn from it.

Therefore, the only **real mistake** is the one from which we learn nothing.

- Robert Stevenson, www.robertstevenson.org

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Network Security Firewalls

## Expert of the Month: The Team at Stephen R. DiChiara CPA Inc.

At Stephen R. Dichiara CPA Inc., the entire team is ready to assist individual taxpayers and small businesses with their

taxes. With over 30 years of experience as a CPA, Stephen Dichiara works *tirelessly* to find tax loopholes and maximize refunds for his clients. He is also well versed in everything from figuring which form of entity is right for your business to making sure you are taking advantage of the ever-changing tax laws. Due to his extensive knowledge, understanding of tax laws, and dedication to his clients Stephen Dichiara is our new *Expert of the Month*!

Stephen DiChiara attained his CPA certificate at the age of 23, which is the **youngest** you can earn one! DiChiara took over his father's practice, and quickly expanded the business. In 1992, he purchased the former Central Credit Union building on Smith Street in North Providence.

The firm has four employees that quickly respond to clients' questions because they know that **communication is key**. DiChiara states that "It is the **best practice** to contact your CPA before making *any* significant business decisions. A lot of my business clients are the sole decision makers, so it makes sense for them to have someone they trust to bounce ideas with." At the end of the day, his "greatest joy in this business is helping clients grow and become successful." DiChiara believes that this quality makes his firm stand out from others.

When asked what he likes about working with IT Support RI, DiChiara responded, "The people! They are always patient and accommodating and whatever the issue is it gets resolved in a timely fashion." He continues, "before I was with IT Support RI, I had a malware issue every year and experienced significant downtime. For the 4 years I've been with them, I haven't had an issue. The peace of mind is well worth the monthly fee!"

If you're looking for help with your personal or business taxes or want to review your financial goals, Stephen R. DiChiara CPA is ready to lend a hand! DiChiara encourages people to contact a CPA because "with the new tax laws in effect, <u>it is more important than ever</u> to assess whether changing your form of entity is the right choice. What may have been the right choice under the previous laws might not be correct today." To learn more about Stephen R. DiChiara CPA Inc., give them a call at **(401) 231-6666** or email <u>srdcpa1@gmail.com</u>.

## Don't Push Your Luck, Get a SonicWall!

Did you know that over 58% of malware attack victims are small businesses?

A firewall is a key component in defending your business from online threats. Firewalls, like SonicWalls, provide an extra level of protection and prevent hackers, viruses, and other threats from compromising your business.

For a *limited time*, you can get a brand new firewall installed, with <u>no upfront costs</u> (*a \$1,200 value*)! You don't want to miss out on these savings!

Are you interested in increasing your protection? Claim this offer before March 29th!

Simply call us at **401-684-3036**, e-mail us (<u>support@itsupportri.com</u>) or visit <u>www.itsupportri.com/monthly-special</u> and enter **promo code: SONICWALL**!