

# IT Strategy Brief

ISSUE 1 | VOL 4 | January 2018

INTEGRATE SEAMLESSLY



## "Useful Technology Ideas for Your Business"

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## Technology and Security Predictions for the 2018 Year

2017 was an interesting period for IT, to say the least. The past year became a culmination of network fiascos and cyber-attacks that have seemed to have increased exponentially over the past few years. Unfortunately, research indicates that these trends will very likely continue in some capacity. The news is not all grim, however, and 2018 will host some interesting advances in cybersecurity and tech at large, in addition to the troublesome evolution of malicious software delivery systems.

Ransomware has seemingly become ubiquitous over the past year, with discoveries of new virus strains occurring at least a few times a month. The average ransom amount demanded also increased from approximately \$300 in 2015, to over \$1000 by 2017. This reflects the increasing ease at which cybercriminals have been able to acquire and deploy this particular type of malicious software. There are even "ransomware-as-a-service" vendors on the Dark Web that sell software bundles for as low as \$10.

These factors will help lead to a rise in the frequency of phishing campaigns and DDoS attacks. Another contributing circumstance will be the greater availability of Internet of Things (IoT) compatible devices for both personal and professional use. Hackers will seek to take advantage of loopholes in the burgeoning technology to discover and exploit potential victims.

They will also focus more on supply chain attacks, which similarly use overlooked exposure points that are left open by integral information sharing functions with suppliers. Industrial IoT will be faced with the daunting task of securing every vulnerability as it expands further throughout the manufacturing sector. This will be made worse by repeated personal data captures over the past few years as this information can be disseminated across the Dark Web. Actors from different theaters can seek out and acquire credentials available online to achieve easier access to valuable systems.

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## What our clients are saying: Cooper Wilbert Vault Co.

"The quick response. Having SWK is like having your own IT Department that you can count on. Our computer system is a big part of our business and having SWK gives us a piece of mind that if something goes down we have a team of individuals that are going to help us get back up in running in minimal time. Time is money and if the computers/server goes down the clock is ticking. Each "computer guy" we have encountered is extremely knowledgeable and pleasant to deal with."

Beth Cooper  
Cooper Wilbert Vault Co.



## Two ways to WIN a gift card!

It only takes a minute and YOU could be our next winner!

**Last Month's Contest Winner:**  
**Jordan Schultz**  
**HelloFresh**

Please complete our brief survey in order to be placed in the running to win this month's gift card prize!

- 1. What do you like most about our services?**
- 2. Tell us about a specific experience with us that you were happy with.**
- 3. What are the biggest benefits you've received or experienced since hiring us?**
- 4. What can we improve?**

Email Jon Stiles (jonathan.stiles@swktech.com) with your responses  
OR

Fill out our online form:  
<http://bit.ly/nwsnews-survey>  
before **February 5th** to get your name in the hat.

**You could win a \$25 Gift Card!**



## NY Launches New Regulations for Financial Data



In March 2017, the New York Department of Financial Services (DFS) officially adopted Part 500 of Title 23 of the Official Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York. 23 NYCRR 500, or Part 500, was created to address the rise in cyber attacks over the past few years. This legislation requires that all organizations handling personal financial data of consumers in the state of New York make a measurable commitment to cyber

security for their clients. It was recently expanded to also include consumer reporting agencies. The first submission of compliance with the new regulation is required by February 15, 2018.

Part 500 includes several provisions for cyber security, namely the requirement of the adoption of a comprehensive IT security program. This program must be able to address needs found in a regular risk assessment (another obligation under Part 500, and which also includes a minimum annual penetration testing), along with making every effort to protect nonpublic customer information.

This program must be carried out by qualified personnel employed by the organization, including an acting Chief Information Security Officer or anyone else with the training to fulfill the position's duties, or by an authorized third-party service provider. The regulation also contains several conditions for the handling of this data, including adequate authentication and encryption, active monitoring and response plans, immediate public notification of any breach, and thorough documentation throughout each process.

This new law represents a shift in government's attitude towards cyber security. Though the U.S. as a whole has not had as organized a response as some other nations, agencies on the state and federal levels are increasingly looking towards more proactive cyber security legislation. Part 500 is likely a sign of emerging standards for IT as network leaks continue affecting greater percentages of the population. Data protection will eventually become as regulated as personal safety in physically hazardous environments.

This will lead to expanded costs for every enterprise, but especially for small-and-medium-sized businesses for whom an internal IT department is a serious expenditure. Thankfully, regulations like Part 500 currently do have provisions allowing for these cyber security requirements to be outsourced to Managed Service Providers. MSPs like SWK NWS offer you the ability to meet compliance with the emerging data protection legalities without significantly expanding your overhead while helping protect your network from outside threats. You can read more about outsourcing IT here, or contact us with any questions you have.



## We can help you with:

- Complete network management and support
- Troubleshooting and problem solving on all PCs and Macs
- Cloud services and virtualization
- Hardware installation and support
- Virus / spyware removal and protection
- Security solutions
- Employee awareness training
- VPN (Virtual Private Networks)
- Remote access / Mobile computing
- Server installations and upgrades
- Spam filtering
- Hosted email
- Web content filtering
- System backups, on-site and off-site
- Help desk

## Contact us

Give us a call for more information about our services and products.

### SWK Technologies, Inc.

#### South Jersey

650 Grove Road, Suite 106  
West Deptford, NJ 08066

#### North Jersey

120 Eagle Rock Ave., Suite 330  
East Hanover, NJ 07936

Phone: 856.956.5800

Fax: 856.845.6466

Visit us on the web at

[www.swknetworkservices.com](http://www.swknetworkservices.com)



## SWK Launches SWKGives for Charity Partners

Shortly before the holiday season, SWK Technologies revealed the creation of a website dedicated solely to its partners managing charitable causes – SWKGives.com. This includes the Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta, the American Cancer Association’s Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, the Movember Foundation, the Jillian Fund, and the Tour De Cure. Each of these organizations help to generate funding and awareness for several people in need and contribute to improving their communities.

The Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta serve over 40,000 girls and 17,000 adults in the Atlanta metro area. They have partnered with STEMPower of Georgia Tech to increase promotion of STEM topics for young women with an interest in those fields. Tutors from STEMPower work in concert with Girl Scout troops to guide them through their educational journey.

The Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk is a three to five-mile marathon established by the American Cancer Society specifically to aid in fighting breast cancer. For over 20 years, Making Strides has raised hundreds of millions of dollars for cancer research along with providing educational and risk reduction programs. The SWK South New Jersey office has contributed to these fundraising efforts as well as actively participated in events.

The Movember Foundation began as an idea between two friends in a bar that evolved into a movement of its own. By promoting moustache-growing contests among associates, they encourage participants to donate to several leading causes of early death among men worldwide. SWK recently participated internally and donated to the Movember Foundation on behalf of the winners.

The Jillian Fund was founded in honor of the late Jillian Lauren Gorman, who was diagnosed with blood cancer at 16. The Fund supports parents going through similar circumstances with terminally ill children, as well offers scholarships to young women who excel academically and contribute to their community.

The American Diabetes Association’s Tour de Cure is a fundraising campaign through athletic events that include cycling, running, and walking. Held annual in 40 states, the money raised by the Tour go to research, educational efforts, and assisting those with diabetes. They also support programs such as Camp Aspire, a site for children diagnosed with the disease to interact with each other and live normally as kids.

SWKGives.com provides information, updates, and links to the donation portals of these organizations.