

9 TECHNOLOGIES TO CUT COSTS IN 2009

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CUTTING YOUR IT COSTS WITHOUT AFFECTING RELIABILITY

In the current economic "crisis", all businesses are thinking about ways to reduce costs and avoid expenditure that is not absolutely necessary. IT budgets are always closely scrutinised for unnecessary expenditure, mostly because IT seems to cost so much, but there are ways to reduce and control costs without compromising the reliability and scope of your network.

Document Management

Time spent searching through filing cabinets for paper records costs money, and not just in lost productivity. By storing your records electronically in a document management system, they can be quickly retrieved, and can be searched not only by name, but by date, products/services, invoice amount etc.

Managed Services

Having an external company, such as asp, monitor and manage your network, rather than employing an

IT Manager or IT team, will save you money. Because the network is monitored and up-kept while running well, costs are typically less than getting someone in to fix it only when it's broken.

Open-Source Software

Open source software can cut your licensing costs, because unlike Microsoft products, it's free. Most businesses will need to pay someone to customise the software to their needs, however it is a very cheap way to get custom built software.

Power Management

Just sitting there in air-conditioned luxury, your servers are using power. In conjunction with virtualisation, power management devices cut power costs considerably.

Server Virtualization

If you use two or more servers, virtualisation technology now allows them to share the same physical hardware – half the hardware cost and reduced power cost.

FAST WALLPAPER?

Recent studies have shown that your desktop wallpaper can affect your computer's efficiency.

A study of 500 Windows users in South Australia showed that, on average, PC's with Port Power wallpapers performed 8% slower than PC's with a Windows wallpaper, and 14% slower than PC's with Adelaide Crows wallpapers. Distance from the Victorian border was also a factor, with Crows adorned PC's showing increased performance at closer proximity to the MCG, where Power beautified computers seemed to choke under the same circumstances.

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ASP RECOMMENDS - NETGEAR ReadyNAS PRO

Network Attached Storage isn't a new concept, but as the price of hard drives decreases, the NAS becomes an affordable option for backup and storage of company data.

The ReadyNAS Pro has quite impressed us. It has an Intel processor and RAID, which allows the hard drives in the NAS to mirror one another, providing another level of backup. But the unique, and by far the most impressive, feature is X-RAID2.

When hard drives are mirrored in a RAID configuration, a working drive will restore data to one which has broken. Normally, if you want to add an extra drive, you have to start over – wipe all the drives, recreate the mirror

configuration including the new drive, then put all the data back. X-RAID2 allows the extra drive to be added 'on the fly', with no interruption to the operation of the existing drives.

Management of the ReadyNAS can be done by any web browser, where you can configure how the device operates in your network. You can use the web management tool to set alerts whenever something out of the ordinary occurs – such as disk failure, temperature spikes & fan failures.

The ReadyNAS includes several backup options including; snapshot (to restore to a point in time), backup to a USB drive either manually or via schedule, or replication between two

ReadyNAS units. The dual Gigabit connections can be configured in failover mode, or dedicate one link for a connection to a second ReadyNAS.

The ReadyNAS Pro is an efficient addition to any network, whether it is used as a direct storage device for critical company data or as a network backup device, the ReadyNAS Pro is an easy choice to add to your network.



SIX WORD STORY

K.I.A. Baghdad, Aged 18 - Closed Casket

- Richard K. Morgan

CUTTING YOUR IT COSTS

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Software-as-a-Service

Using your software over the internet and paying by the month removes the upfront costs, allowing you to use the software anywhere, you have the most up to date version without any cost to upgrade, and it requires less on-site maintenance and support.

Thin-Client Computing

Using a remote server, such as

asonline, allows you to avoid the costs of an onsite server completely, and because you use the processing power of the remote server, your own computer doesn't need to be as powerful, so you don't need to upgrade as often.

Unified Communications

Combining all of your phones with your network and using VOIP can reduce your landline

and mobile phone bills significantly. There's a large upfront expense, but it definitely pays for itself in the long run.

Videoconferencing

Travelling to meetings out of town and interstate can be expensive, but video conferencing has now advanced to become a realistic alternative to face-to-face meetings.

FOOD WASTE RECYCLERS

Do you recycle your cardboard?
Do you recycle your plastic?
Do you recycle your glass?
What about your food waste?

Food waste which ends up in landfill creates methane that has an environmental impact up to 25 times greater than carbon dioxide; by comparison, aerobically composted organics have a carbon neutral impact.

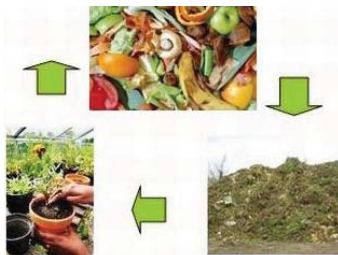
The Food Waste Recyclers service collects food/organic waste which is ALL recycled. The waste is blended with other organic waste streams, such as kerbside green waste, and is composted and put back onto the earth as soil conditioner and fertiliser.

If you are in food service, Food Waste Recyclers can come to your place of business and audit your waste to tell you exactly how much can be recycled. With

the SA State Government now charging a landfill levy for general waste, there's extra incentive to recycle more and send less waste to landfill.

Food Waste Recyclers will set up the bins, train you and your staff, and organise regular collection of your food waste. They will even promote your participation, so your customers can see that you care about the environment as much as they do.

For more information, please visit foodwasterecyclers.com.au, or call Andrew Grant on 0418 573 505



March in Tech History

On March 30 1858 Hymen Lipman gained a patent for a pencil with an eraser on the other end. The patent was revoked in 1875 by the US Supreme Court because both the pencil and eraser already existed, so Lipman had merely combined the two, and hadn't invented anything new, so he never received any royalties.

Robert Goddard launched the first successful liquid-fueled rocket on March 16, 1926. This concept is now used for launching missiles and spacecraft.

March 6 is Michaelangelo's birthday, and this date was the "trigger" for the Michaelangelo computer virus. The virus would sit dormant on the computer until the system clock ticked over to 6th March, destroying files on the hard disk. Because it was identified and publicised in April 1991, the effect of the virus in 1992 was greatly reduced.

I want it - how can I get it?

asp can supply a Netgear ReadyNAS Pro with a storage capacity to match your requirements.

aspadvisor

brought to you by

Application Service Provider

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VAGUELY INTERESTING ASP 2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

asp's event calendar for 2009 is jam-packed with motor racing, head shaving and charity fundraising.

The 18th and 19th of April is the inaugural asp Mount Alma Mile Hillclimb at Inman Valley. 120 cars and drivers will tackle the 19% slope over two days, culminating in a top 12 shoot-out. The field includes rally cars, a moke, a TVR, VW Beetles and a number of custom built one-of-a-kind race cars. For all the details, video and photos, visit www.mountalmamile.com

Mount Alma Mile is a precursor to the asp / Cut Price Adelaide

Hills Tarmac Rally on the 30th & 31st May. 100 driver/co-driver teams will compete over 10 stages through the Fleureiu Peninsula on Saturday, with 80 continuing on to 10 additional stages in the Southern Vales on Sunday. www.asprally.com is the place to go for all the details.

Both events will be supporting Cure4CF (Cystic Fibrosis), through entry fees, donations and a raffle, and the asp Mount Alma Mile will provide some CF sufferers the opportunity to ride in a race car in between competition runs. Visit cure4cf.org for more info on the charity.

And Shane's Quiz Night will be in June this year (date TBA), raising money for the Leukemia Foundation and so will again incorporate the World's Greatest Shave. Contrary to popular rumour, Heather won't be shaving this year, however the boys will be shaving and girls will be colouring to support the cause.

The quiz engine is already gearing up, and **aspadvisor** readers may have an advantage on the night...



ASP BYTES: GNOCCHI PUTTANESCA

500 grams Gnocchi - the best you can get (or maybe make it yourself - recipe coming soon)
2 x Garlic cloves - finely chopped
1 x handful Capers - washed and refreshed in water and drained
2 x handfuls Kalamata olives - pitted
12 x Anchovy fillets - roughly chopped
3 x small dried red Chillies - crumbled
1 x tablespoon dried Oregano
Extra Virgin Olive oil
2 x 400 gram cans Tomatoes - drained and chopped
1 x good handful fresh Basil
Freshly ground S&P
Shaved Parmesan
Sauté Pan and a large simmering pot of salted water

This is an absolute favourite of mine.

Fry the Garlic, Capers, Olives, Anchovies, Chillies and Oregano in a little of the Olive oil for a few minutes. Add the Tomatoes, bring to a simmer, and continue to cook for a further 4 or 5 minutes until a nice sauce consistency is achieved.

Whilst the sauce is simmering, cook the Gnocchi in salted, boiling water until they all float to the top and become al dente - should only be a few minutes. Remove the sauce from the heat, throw the drained Gnocchi into it, and toss it around.

Serve the Gnocchi onto plates and cover with the remaining sauce. Tear up the Basil and toss over the plates, then drizzle a little of the Extra Virgin Olive oil and a sprinkle of some S&P over the top to finish. If you have Parmesan, shave over the top to your heart's content.

Yield: 2 - 3 servings
Prep Time: 10 minutes
Cook Time: 10 minutes
Difficulty: Easy

