The Tech chronicle

ANNOUNCING..

GRS Technology Solutions will be exhibiting on DesignDC, the premier regional Architecture conference on September 16 and 17, 2019.

We are giving away a VIP Exhibit Guest Pass (A $50 Value) to all our Achitecture, Interior Designers, Engineers and Contractors clients!
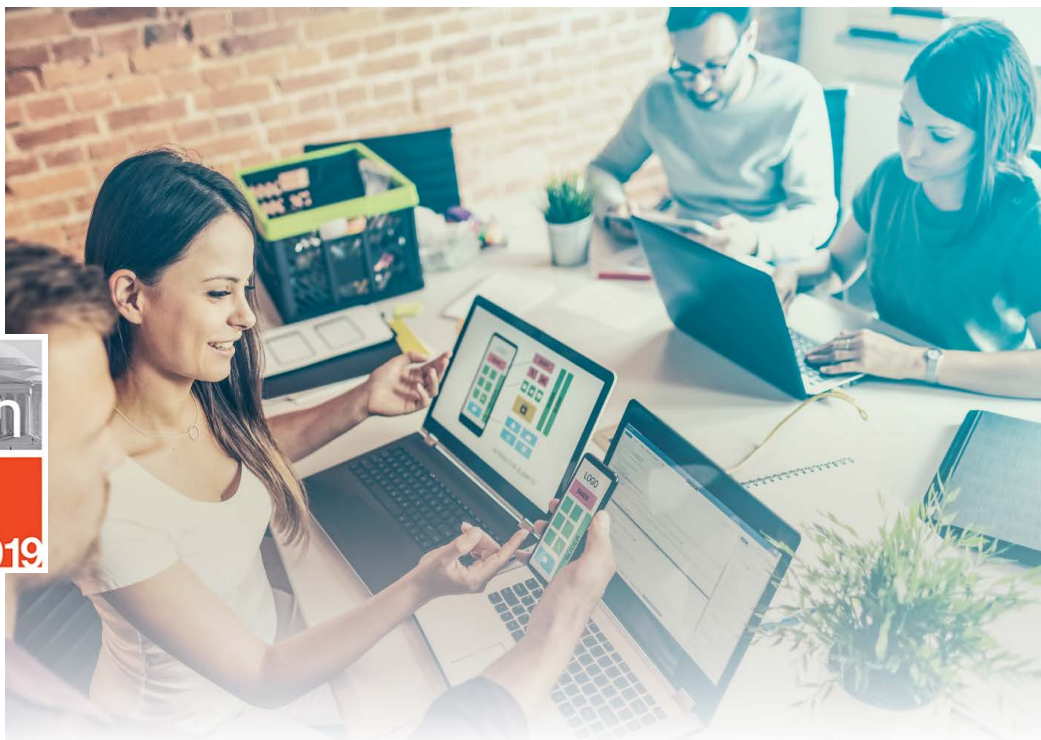
If you are interested in participating: please send us an email to: newsletters@grstechnologysolutions.com and we will send you a Registration Form to activate your Free VIP Exhibit Pass.

August 2019

GRS
TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

Our Mission:

To enable you to achieve your technology goals by being and integrated IT partner within your organization.

3 IT Investments You Should NEVER Skimp On

What is standing between your business's data and hackers a world away? What's your plan when your on-site server fails?

When you skimp on technology and IT solutions for your business, the answers to these two questions are simple: 1) There is *nothing* standing between your business's sensitive data and people who want to take advantage of that data; and 2) There is no plan.

It happens way too often. Businesses cheap out on certain aspects of their technology to save a few bucks upfront. You may even know someone who has done just this. They jump at the chance to outfit their office with a huge monitor and a PC with top specs (even though they don't need it) and then they decide that IT security isn't a priority. They aren't willing to

pull out the credit card for a security solution because they don't want to deal with a monthly or yearly cost.

But skimping on security can cost them dearly in time, money, resources and clients. When it comes to investing in IT, here are three things you *never* want to cheap out on.

SECURITY. Far too many businesses – from small to large – underinvest in IT security. We touch on this topic a lot because we see it a lot. These are business owners and managers who fall into the mindset of "It won't happen to me." This is a dangerous line of thinking.

For small businesses, a data breach can be devastating. Not only is data compromised and

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potentially copied or stolen, but your clients will also immediately question whether or not they should trust you. There's a good chance they end up taking their business elsewhere – and they may even sue you.

> "... when you cut corners and cheap out, you will end up paying for it later ..."

When IT security isn't a priority and you invest in the cheapest option available, it's like asking hackers to let themselves in. One study by the security firm Imperva found that over 50% of all Internet traffic is made by bots. Many of these bots are looking for security holes. They test websites and networks, looking for a way in. If they find their way in, they can do some serious damage.

Investing in solid IT security – with an experienced team of IT specialists behind that security – can prevent that damage from ever happening in the first place. It's not only about protecting your business assets but also protecting your clients and giving them another reason why they should trust you.

BACKUPS. You keep all of your data on-site with no backups. It's all stored in one central location and that's it. This is a recipe for disaster if you get hacked, but it can be an even bigger disaster if a hard disk or server fails.

Suddenly, you find yourself unable to access client information, invoices, phone numbers – you name it. Having a backup on-site or in the cloud means everything you do has an extra layer of protection. A backup gives you the ability to restore your data should the worst-case scenario occur.

It's even better to go a step further and have a backup for the backup. Have one on-site solution and one cloud-based solution. Even if the backup to the backup is as simple as a 4TB hard drive from Amazon, it has the potential to save your business should anything go wrong.

Of course, you also need a system in place to make sure data is being regularly and accurately updated. Another mistake businesses make is buying a backup or backup services, but not making the best use out of them. For example, they simply never bother to set it up. Or it is set up but isn't configured correctly and isn't backing up data as intended – or is backing up data too infrequently to be useful.

UPDATES. How old is your technology? Think about the hardware you're running – and the software on that hardware. Letting your technology fall behind the times can spell trouble. Not only are you opening yourself up to security vulnerabilities, but you may also be operating on technology that's no longer supported by the developers.

If the developers are no longer publishing updates or supporting the software, this is a huge security red flag that you need to update. On top of that, should you or an employee need to troubleshoot a piece of unsupported software, you may find yourself going up against walls. There might be no one to call, and if a Google search doesn't help, you may be out of luck.

The potential headaches don't end there. If you're running unsupported software on shiny, new hardware, you may be voiding the warranty of that hardware (always check your warranties and the fine print of any hardware you buy).

Alternatively, if you're trying to run brand-new software on old hardware, chances are you're going to run into compatibility issues. That wonderful piece of software might not work, or work the way you expected it to, all because you didn't want to update your old hardware.

It's not always fun to reach into your pocketbook to invest in good IT security, cloud backup storage or new hardware, but when you cut corners and cheap out, you will end up paying for it later, one way or another. When that bill comes, it's going to be a lot bigger than if you had committed to those IT investments in the first place.
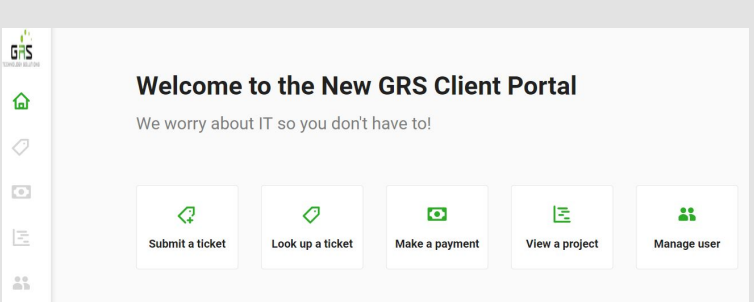
What's New!

New GRS Customer Portal

Our new customer portal offers one easy-to-use modern interface for submiting tickets, check on ticket or project status and easily pay invoices!
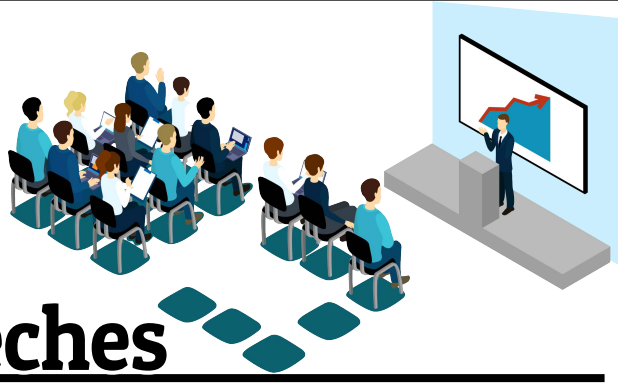
Easily sign in with your Microsoft or Gmail account.
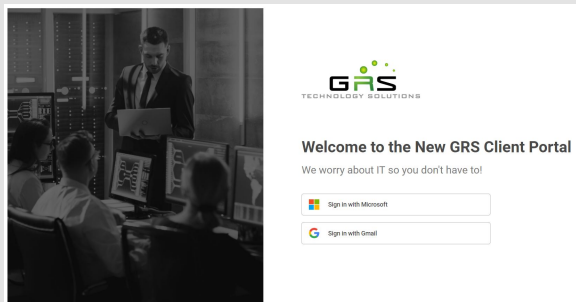
Submit tickets to our Support team, check its status and pay invoices with our Billing portal integration.

Top Tips For Giving Better Speeches

Whenever you stand in front of a group, big or small, your influence and effectiveness are on the line. Whenever you speak publicly, no matter the occasion, it offers people a chance to form an opinion of you and your leadership abilities. Here are four tips to ensure your success when it comes time for you to present your ideas.

1. Have confidence in yourself.

Being a good public speaker doesn't require magic or genius, but it does require a genuine desire to communicate well. Do you feel comfortable with the way you communicate with your friends, coworkers and family? If so, think of public speaking as an extension of the way you communicate every single day. The ease and confidence with which you talk every day is the same manner that you need to have when you are speaking in front of a room full of people. So, just remember: even if you've never given a speech, you've done this before!

Another way to build legitimate confidence is to prepare and practice. Your confidence will increase in direct proportion to how prepared you are to speak. The #1 reason most presenters bomb is a lack of preparation.

2. Relax!

Don't get overwhelmed. Be comfortable with who you are. The more your personality comes through, the more authentic the audience will find you. Your job isn't to impress the audience with what they think of you, but to influence them to think or do something because of your message.

3. Keep it short and simple.

There was a time when people would listen attentively to speeches that were literally hours long. Those times, as you know, have passed. Now that there are so many ways to get information — TV, radio, print media, the Internet — live speeches need to be short, simple and memorable. Take a look at the Gettysburg Address. It is about 270 words long. The address also uses simple, single-syllable words and short sentences. This simplicity will make your speech easier to digest and harder to forget.

4. Don't just say it – feel it!

Your audience will know if you don't believe in or care about what you're saying. If you don't believe what you're saying, why should your audience believe it? If what you're saying isn't important to you, then how can you expect your audience to care?

You can tell a story or be the story. When you tell, you communicate what happened. When you are the story, you reexperience what happened. Your feelings will enliven your words and your description will become more memorable.

Mark Sanborn, CSP, CPAE, is the president of Sanborn & Associates, Inc., an "idea studio" that seeks to motivate and develop leaders inside and outside of business. He's the best-selling author of books like Fred Factor *and* The Potential Principle *and a noted expert on leadership, team building, customer service and company change. He holds the Certified Speaking Professional designation from the National Speakers Association and is a member of the Speaker Hall of Fame. Check out any of his excellent books, his video series, "Team Building: How To Motivate And Manage People," or his website, marksanborn.com, to learn more.*

Who Wants to Win A $10 Starbucks Gift Card?

The winner will receive a $10 gift card to Starbucks and has to be the first person to correctly answer our quiz question.

Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, what did this proclamation do?

a) Freed women from being unable to vote

b) Freed all speech in the United States

c) Freed wronged prisoners from jail

d) Freed slaves from rebellious states

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Do You Have These 3 Things Every Business Needs To Be Successful?

You have a **solid team**. People are everything in business – that includes your employees. You strive to hire the best team (who match your core values and company culture and who bring top-notch skills to the table) and you train them well (they understand your systems and processes). On top of that, they're happy!

You have **purpose** behind what you do. We all need purpose to not only be happy but also to thrive. When your team knows what they're working toward and understand the value of their work, that gives them purpose. You've clearly laid out the objectives, and everyone is on the same page. When your employees know why they do what they do, they're happier and more productive for it.

You are **passionate**. You don't just love what you do, you love the people you work with, and you love the difference your business makes in the community or the world. When you have passion, it's infectious. It inspires people around you. When your team is inspired, they'll go the extra mile, and your business will find success likes it's never found before. *Inc.com, 5/20/2019*

WHAT THE HECK IS AN AUP ... AND WHY DO YOU WANT IT?

With so many access points, from cell phones to laptops and home computers, how can anyone hope to keep their network safe from hackers, viruses and other unintentional security breaches? The answer is not "one thing" but a series of things you have to implement and constantly be vigilant about, such as installing and constantly updating your firewall, antivirus, spam-filtering software and backups. This is why clients hire us – it's a full-time job for someone with specific expertise (which we have!).

Once that basic foundation is in place, the next most important thing you can do is create an Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) and train your employees on how to use company devices and other security protocols, such as never accessing company e-mail, data or applications with unprotected home PCs and devices, for example. They will also learn how to create good passwords, how to recognize a phishing e-mail, what websites to never access, etc. NEVER assume your employees know everything they need to know about IT security. Threats are ever-evolving and attacks are getting more sophisticated and cleverer by the minute.

If you'd like our help in creating an AUP for your company, based on best practices, call us. You'll be glad you did.

Help Us "Hook" Some More Clients Like You & Get Rewarded!

We've decided to start a special rewards program for the clients we value the most.

Here is the deal....
Refer clients to us and receive a $ 350 gift card to any place of your choosin' when your referral becomes a GRS client. Earn a $ 100 gift card when 3 or more referrals do business with GRS!

For more information, visit
www.grstechnologysolutions.com/referral-program
or call at 703.854.9559