



T. Daniels Consulting

# THE T. DANIELS TIMES



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## Did You Know?

Our Blog is filled with helpful technology tips and insights for your business.

We post new articles that provide valuable information for your business almost every day. You can sign-up to be notified of new topics when they are posted or you can visit <https://www.tdaniels.com/blog/>

Here are a few examples of the kind of information that is available:

- **Preparing For The End Of Windows 10:** <https://www.tdaniels.com/end-of-windows-10/>
- **5 Ways Technology Can Streamline Your Business Operations:** <https://www.tdaniels.com/business-operations/>
- **Benefits Of VoIP Technology In Your Business:** <https://www.tdaniels.com/voip-technology/>

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This monthly publication provided courtesy of Timothy D. Ricketts, President of T. Daniels Consulting.

“As a business owner or leader, you don’t have time to waste on IT issues. That’s our expertise. Call us and we will put an end to your IT problems so you can stay focused on what’s important—growing your business.”

## Keep Your Business Protected By Becoming Aware Of The Most Common Types Of Cyber-Attacks

The rate of cyber-attacks has significantly increased over the past few years. Businesses of all sizes are at risk of becoming victims of them, which is why it’s crucial that every business owner and leader is aware of the most common cyberthreats impacting the business world today. Being aware of common cyberthreats and developing plans to prevent them is the best way to protect your business, customers, and employees from cybercriminals.

These criminals’ tactics will improve as technology continues advancing, but cyber security defenses will as well. Knowing exactly what you’re up against with cyber-attacks and creating the proper safeguards will protect your business. If you’re new to the idea of cyber security or need an update on the common threats that could impact your business, we’ve got you covered. Here are the most common types of cyber-attacks out there and how to protect your business from them.

### Malware

Malware has been around since the dawn of the Internet and has remained a consistent problem. It is any intrusive software developed to steal data and damage or destroy computers and computer systems. Malware is an extensive type of cyber-attack, and many subcategories belong to it, including viruses, spyware, adware and Trojan viruses. One type of malware that has lately been used more frequently is ransomware. Ransomware threatens to publish sensitive information or blocks access to necessary data unless a sum of money is paid to the cybercriminal who developed it.

Unfortunately, malware can be detrimental to nearly every operation of your business so you should do two essential things to prevent it from affecting your company. First, you should install the latest anti-malware programs. If you hire a managed and advanced cyber security services provider like T. Daniels Consulting,

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we will take care of this for you. If not, you'll need to find anti-malware that works best for your system. You should also train your team about these risks and ensure they are aware not to click on any suspicious links, websites or files that could be dangerous.

### Phishing

Have you ever received an e-mail asking for sensitive information that looked official, but something just wasn't quite right? Chances are it was probably a phishing scam. Phishing occurs when cybercriminals send official-looking messages to individuals, posing as another organization, in an attempt to receive personal information. Falling for a phishing scam can quickly result in you becoming a victim of identity fraud. The results can be substantially worse if a business falls for the scam.

So, how do you best prepare for and protect your team against phishing scams? Utilize employee cyber security trainings so they can spot the warning signs. The actual e-mail will usually line up differently from whom the cybercriminal is trying to represent. Also, most organizations will not request private information over e-mail. Common sense will prevail over phishing scams.

**"Being aware of common cyberthreats and developing plans to prevent them is the best way to protect your business, customers and employees from cybercriminals."**

### Distributed Denial Of Service

DDoS attacks can bring your company to a standstill. These attacks occur when malicious parties overload servers with user traffic, causing them to lag or shut down since they are unable to handle incoming requests. If your business falls victim to this kind of attack, your employees might not be able to access key functions required to do their jobs, and customers may not be able to use your website or purchase items from you.

DDoS attacks are very difficult to thwart, and a determined cybercriminal can lock up your websites and networks for days on end. You'll have to identify malicious traffic and prevent access before it can cause damage. If a DDoS attack is successful, you'll probably have to take your servers offline to fix the issue.

### Password Attacks

If a cybercriminal gets your password or another employee's password, this is the easiest way for them to access your valuable information. They may attempt to guess the passwords themselves or use a phishing scam to gain access. It is vital that you enable multifactor authentication (MFA) for your employees and require complex passwords so you can defend your company against password attacks.

Now that you know the most common forms of cyber-attacks currently happening, you can take the necessary precautions to protect your business, employees and customers.

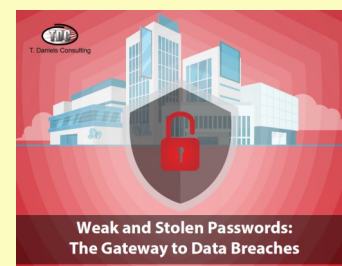
**As A Business Owner or Manager, Do You Ever Wonder If Your Network Is Secure From Hackers, Scammers and Thieves?**

**As 80% of all data breaches involve lost or stolen passwords, this means it's likely your network is NOT secure.**

**A recent survey showed that 84% of business owners know weak passwords can lead to a cyber-attack; yet, 46% of these same owners believe they can't force their employees to have strong passwords.**

**Cybercriminals and hackers are constantly inventing NEW ways to infiltrate your business, obtain your passwords, and steal your data. The ONLY way to STOP THEM is by CONSTANTLY EDUCATING yourself on how to PROTECT what's yours!**

**Read our "Weak & Stolen Passwords: The Gateway to Data Breaches" report and learn how to avoid becoming a statistic: <https://www.tdaniels.com/mfa-report-523/>**



## Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:



## Valve's Steam Deck

Nintendo, Microsoft and Sony are some of the most prominent players in the video game console industry, but there's another name making headlines in these console wars: Valve's Steam Deck. In fact, this is the perfect gaming system for anyone who is looking for a powerful and portable console.

The handheld system is capable of playing the most advanced AAA games available and comes in three different storage sizes. If you've used Steam in the past on your PC, you'll immediately gain access to your library of games and will be able to purchase any other games from Steam directly on the device. Check out the Steam Deck if you're in the market for an affordable, powerful and portable gaming PC.

## The Most Important Word In Business? It's Not What You Think

A video podcaster recently asked me, "What's the most important mindset for success in business?" For a moment, I doubted I could identify just one key mindset for success. As trusted advisors to CEOs and investors of large companies, our consultants at ghSMART typically emphasize the importance of context. For example, there is no "perfect candidate" to hire for a job. Success depends mostly on a leader fitting a given context, which has many variables - the customer landscape, strategic challenges, operating challenges, financial or legal factors and culture (among other things).

But then it dawned on me. There is one mindset that I have observed in successful versus unsuccessful ventures. The most important word in business, which you rarely hear, is *generosity*.

Leaders who succeed are generous and treat everyone with a fundamental mindset of generosity. In contrast, people who lack a spirit of generosity fail in the long run. Over the years, I've witnessed many examples of both selfishness and generosity. Here are a few lessons you can learn from my own experiences.

**(Don't) Trick The Customer:** Once, while talking with the CEO of a mortgage company, I instantly got a bad feeling about his character. His mindset was selfish. He implied that his business succeeded by "tricking" low-income homeowners into signing up for mortgages with hidden terms that were unfavorable to them. Well, that mindset backfired. When the housing crisis happened in 2008 and 2009 (caused partly by bad actors like this guy), a pile of lawsuits snuffed out his company and



career.

**(Do) Create Unexpected Experiences:** At ghSMART, one of our colleagues, Alan Foster, expressed an interest in improving his "storytelling" skills. Alan is a charming Brit who leads our UK office. For anybody who knows him, they understand that he's already a fantastic storyteller, but he just wanted to take his game up a notch - to dazzle audiences when he gave talks about leading talented teams. Some other colleagues took the initiative to research opportunities and found an upcoming two-day seminar hosted by a star Hollywood movie screenwriter and master storyteller. They got Alan admission to this exclusive seminar, comped the cost and gave the experience to him as a present. How cool is that? Can you imagine working at a firm where people look for ways to give you what you need or want? As the chairman and founder, I am very happy to see our culture of generosity and gratitude continue to blossom as we grow.

Wall Street's Gordon Gekko may have said, "Greed is good," but a mindset of generosity is better, especially if you want to succeed in your career and live a fulfilling life.



*Dr. Geoff Smart is the chairman and founder of ghSMART, a leadership consulting firm that exists to help leaders amplify their positive impact on the world. Dr. Smart and his firm have published multiple New York Times bestsellers. He stays active in his community and has advised many government officials.*

## The T. Daniels Difference



For over 27 years, T. Daniels Consulting has provided Small and Medium sized organizations with excellent customer service. Our Microsoft Certified Professionals and Engineers have an average 15 years' experience benefiting you by fixing problems quickly and correctly the first time. No other competitor comes close to our level of knowledge, experience and professionalism. We are continuously adding new and improved services to meet your ongoing needs. We never stop improving. That is the **T. Daniels Difference**. Thanks to all of our customers for making us one of Michigan's fastest growing IT consulting and service companies.

## ■ 2 Ways To Refine Work Relationships With Young Employees

The workforce gets younger every day, which can make things more challenging for business owners. Many have recently adapted to meet the needs of new millennial employees, but now even younger generations have started to work. This has required business owners to learn how to build meaningful relationships with these new employees. Here are a few ways you can do this, too.

### Setting Standards Early

One of the most significant concerns for business owners, especially in regard to young employees, revolves around values. It can be hard if values don't align. To avoid

this situation, dive deep into this topic during the hiring process so you are well aware ahead of time.

### Giving Young Employees Responsibility

Young employees want their work to matter and their voices to be heard. Once you get them through onboarding and you're comfortable with their skills, give them a chance to prove themselves.

## ■ Improve Your Sales Team And Grow Your Business

It's no secret that sales can make or break any business. Without a strong sales plan and team in place, it's difficult to bring in any profit or move your products. If your business has struggled to reach its sales goals, you must reevaluate your sales

process and make any necessary adjustments. Check out the following three pieces of advice to help you get started.

### Discover Your Company's Vision

Where do you want your business to be in five to 10 years? How will you get there? You need to figure this out and get your sales team to buy into your vision so they can help your business reach its goals.

### Hire The Right Team

Evaluate your current team members and see if there's anyone who is not meeting expectations. Have a discussion and try to inspire them – but if there's no improvement, find a more suitable option.

### Create A Pleasant Company Culture

Your team members will put forth their best effort if your business is somewhere they want to work. Create a culture where everyone is recognized, is heard and has the opportunity to grow, and you'll soon notice many benefits, including sales growth.

