

The Portal

THE BRIDGE BETWEEN YOUR ORGANIZATION & TECHNOLOGY



INTEGRATED
COMPUTER CONSULTING

Summer, 2010



ICC Visited by the Mayor and City Manager

Fort Collins Mayor Doug Hutchinson and City Manager Darin Atteberry paid ICC a visit in August. Every month, they visit small businesses to learn what they do, who their clients are and how business is doing overall. It was a treat to visit with both of them and we were honored to have been selected.



Fort Collins Mayor Doug Hutchinson, ICC President Kirk Bane and City Manager Darin Atteberry at ICC in July.



Jesse Courchaine and Kirk demonstrate how Catapult monitors client server activity to Darin and Doug. A bank of six monitors shows Jesse any alerts at our Catapult clients' locations and that all data is monitored and securely backed up. Please contact us if you are interested in our Catapult services to ensure your servers and environment are secure.



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Tips for Keeping Passwords Safe

The joke goes something like this (with apologies to all our blonde friends)...

"During a recent password audit, it was found that a blonde was using the following password:

'MickeyMinniePlutoHueyLouieDeweyDonaldGoofySacramento.'
When asked why she had such a long password, she said she was told that it had to be at least eight characters long and include at least one capital!"

We all know we all have to live with **so** many passwords now – online banking, home e-mail, work e-mail, your favorite online retailer, your Facebook page and on it goes. It is a challenge to create passwords that protect us yet are easy to manage and remember - like our blonde friend did.

Wouldn't it be great if it were that easy? And you just needed one? A recent study by Jupiter Research shows that over half of the consumers it surveyed used the same user name and password at all or most of the sites they visit. And that's not good.

Here are five password rules everyone should follow:

1. Long is good. A short password can be very quickly compromised.
2. Don't share passwords between personal and work accounts. It's generally not a great idea to use the same password for different accounts.
3. Create 'strong' passwords: those which contain upper - and lowercase letters, numbers and punctuation like **sW6fGH&9**.
4. For accounts at sites where you haven't provided any sensitive information (like online news services for example) it's probably okay to use your dog's name as the password. Or use the first letter from each word in a phrase **HiMbG** for "Hello, I must be going."
5. Regular passwords changes are necessary.

Now, how do you keep track of passwords? Writing them down? Please don't. No sticky notes under your desk, either. There are several good software programs available to help manage your myriad monikers.

Helpful programs have been created to assist with password management and security. Some of the more popular programs include...

LastPass.com is free, is cloud-based and ICC's Jesse and John use it for their password tracking.

RoboForm seems to be the industry favorite, garnering high marks from the Wall Street Journal, PC Magazine and the New York Times among others. It works on Windows PCs, Macs and your smartphone and appears very user-friendly. Find it at www.roboform.com and download the free trial.

Roman Lab Software's Any Password is another which has been highly recommended. It is free, easy-to-use that encrypts and stores passwords and user names in a tree format. Find it at <http://www.romanlab.com>

Think of it this way: you wouldn't use one key for your house, car and office. Convenient? Yes but not practical or safe. Add a level of security and create passwords that will protect you and you'll know you're doing all you can to ensure your privacy is protected.

ICC can help you implement password policies for your protection—please give us a call if you are interested.

ICC and IBM Offer Great Leasing Packages Through 2010

Through a partnership with IBM Global Leasing, ICC offers **0% financing for 36 months on purchases as low as \$5,000.**

If you have been putting off an upgraded server, new PCs or other IBM products, now is an excellent time, thanks to this aggressive program. IBM has a keen understanding of the needs of small-to-medium businesses and has structured this program to provide affordable financing for top-quality equipment.

If we can assist with this incredible lease opportunity, please don't hesitate to contact ICC soon to discuss your needs.



Are You Using Windows 2000? If You Are, You Need to Read This...

As of July 13, 2010, Microsoft ended its extended support for Windows 2000 Professional. The product will no longer be publicly supported after this date. There will be self-help online support available.

If you're running Windows 2000 on either workstations or servers, this means you will be vulnerable and lose all security updates.

Please contact us if you have questions or need to upgrade your system.

Planning a Move or Remodel? Involve ICC Early to Ensure a Smooth Transition

If you are planning an expansion, a move or a remodel, it is important to address issues early for a happy ending. ICC technical staff can work with your contractor to plan voice and data cabling, wireless locations, audio and video, conference room design, access controls and surveillance.

By planning ahead, your finished product will be efficient and integrated, resulting in dramatically improved productivity. Cable drops will be where they need to be. Conference rooms will work seamlessly from the beginning with no reverse engineering.

When you relocate, you need to be up and running immediately and strategic coordination with all your IT needs is critical to the success of your move.

The time to call us in on the project is at the very beginning so we can walk the site, meet with contractors, begin the planning process and order supplies. We can also prepare an budget for your new location ahead of time so that it is incorporated into the overall financial picture.

Client News

Here are a few updates from ICC clients. And if you have news to share, please contact Kathy Bauer...970.419.0602 or kathybauer@iccusa.net

The Mantooth Company just celebrated its 15th Anniversary! Owner Connie Hanrahan was also honored by the Northern Colorado Business Report as a Woman of Distinction and Outstanding Mentor. The Mantooth Company is a full-service marketing firm handling special events, public relations, advertising and graphic design. Congratulations, Connie!

Rivendell School, the oldest non-profit secular school in Fort Collins, held a successful technology fund-raiser last spring and chose ICC to assist with improving their wireless connectivity, secure their network and generally make their IT work more efficiently. Rivendell holds classes for pre-kindergartners to fifth graders with its innovative curriculum.

Colorado Eagles announced earlier this year that Chris Stewart, president of the Eagles and former coach, is returning to his familiar spot behind the bench and on the ice. Coach Stewart will lead the 2010 team to certain victory and is busy signing players and building the Eagles into the powerhouse of northern Colorado. Look for ICC's dashboard once again at the Budweiser Event Center!

The Armstrong Hotel in downtown Fort Collins has won fans with the suave Ace Gillette's jazz bar in the lower level. Elegant and sophisticated, Ace is the place for a cool cocktail and delicious tapas menu items. Find The Armstrong at 259 South College Avenue.

Precision Ion Technology found that utilizing a local IT company to be a superior solution than having an out-of-state group handle their needs. PIT found ICC and we've been helping them sort out myriad problems, work more efficiently and having technicians close by (and in the same time zone!) to be highly beneficial. PIT, a local company, manufactures state of the art process equipment for the world's leading semiconductor, solar and LED production equipment suppliers.



Choose ICC for ...telephone systems...conference room configuration and installation...cabling and infrastructure... music on hold...monitored data backup...new computer purchase and setup...and creative solutions to make technology make your business run more efficiently!

www.iccusa.net 970.419.0602 303.422.9999 877.422.4968

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1113 Stoney Hill Drive, Suite A
Fort Collins, Colorado 80525