



READING A BOOK - ANDY'S HOW-TO, FROM THE NOT SO OBVIOUS FILE

Everyone likes to read something; a magazine, newspaper, comics, non-fiction, fiction, etc. For me, there are some tricks to choosing the right book and understanding the intent of the author. I briefly note the copyright date to find a frame of reference; scan the table of contents looking at the bold chapters and sub chapters, counting how many and how deep is the detail, then skip to the index at the back of the book, and weight the words to reference count. For example: Managing Management Time by W. Oncken, Jr. © 1984. 6 chapters, 3 each sub-chapters, index words with most weight; internal peers, follow-up, managerial leverage, and Unit President Concept. Interesting, huh? More later.

COMPUTER SECURITY -- PART VIII of X

In review, over the past several weeks, computer security was addressed at several levels. Today, I wish to address some of the latest news affecting your data, security, and the world.

1. The US Federal government continues its march to close over 1,200 data centers and consolidate operations. This opens up the security hole a bit. First, data will be transferred, data will be lost, data and the security attached to it may or may not be transferred. Not all the data will be found during consolidation. This is just the way the world of imperfection works in the computer world. Data Center specialists are going to miss something by accident. When those datacenter and telecommunications areas are vacated, records/passwords/notes must be accounted for, shredded, destroyed or picked up and packed. At a user level, those of us that like to use ROBOCOPY, then the /copyall switch has to be applied to transfer security attributes, otherwise the files and folders are transferred and Everyone has access to the data at the destination, depending on where the data is rooted at its final destination. In the end, jobs will be lost, jobs will be transferred, consolidation and centralization of data will occur, the attack surface for security will reduce, and the risk of all your eggs in one basket becomes apparent. Therefore, data center consolidation will increase the need for data center hot sites and fail over.

Reference: <http://yro.slashdot.org/story/12/01/04/2251228/feds-now-plans-to-close-1200-data-centers>

2. NGINX is the latest in a series of new web hosting servers that has surpassed Microsoft IIS. Michael Dell's private funding group is behind in part as the success of the growth. This NGINX windows binary reminds me of http version 1.0 back in 1992 but with a lot more under the hood of its architecture.

Reference: <http://wiki.nginx.org/Main>

BUILD TO ORDER SERVERS- PART III

In part I we talked about motherboards, then part II hard drive arrangements, and now, let's talk a few other things like RAM memory, video configuration, BIOS vs. UEFI. That should be enough for today.

Random Access Memory (RAM) should be DDR3 and as much as you can afford. 8/16/32GB ECC or non-ECC depending on the motherboard selection. Max out the board on RAM. Video configuration for a server should be the lowest possible, like SVGA aka analog. For the most part one will remote to the server and the overhead for video for administration is minimal considering location/co-location, a console cabinet size and space. The BIOS vs UEFI (the replacement of BIOS) should be addressed as moving forward in performance and fault tolerance. BIOS is dead, UEFI is the replacement, and motherboards supporting Xeon or i7 Intel or AMD cores have UEFI regardless with overclock button on board enabled under testing situations and monitoring in production environments. Call for more information. Free Quotes available.

TECH TIPS OF THE WEEK

1. Replace your surge protector or power strips if you believe one of the outlets is going bad. Bad power means a future computer problem and potential data loss.
2. Invest in a UPS to protect your PC from power brownouts. We use Tripplite 1000 or APC 500-750 units. Cyberpower is another good product that is affordable.



Mountain Computers Inc.
490 E 8th St. Reno, Nevada 89512

Sales (775) 287-9552

Support (775) 324-3524

Office Hours: Mon-Fri: 8am-5pm

Lunch 11x-12x

Saturday 10am-2pm

GO GREEN PC-TUNE UP!

