

Go Green With CMIT Solutions and \$ave Money:

CMIT Solutions of Arlington Heights recently presented a collection of cost savings ideas at AccessTek's "Go Green" conference last month. This article highlights some of the presentation themes mentioned by Scott Graflund, Owner of CMIT Solutions of Arlington Heights.

Go Green themes are typically associated with "save the planet" type of ideas according to Scott – e.g. using less power, getting better at recycling or finding ways to treat the environment better. Scott Graflund focused his presentation, entitled "How to Increase the ROI of your Technology Investments", on finding ways to make the environment that your employees work in to be as productive as possible. Why? It's simple, because your number one cost as a business is your people and you need to keep them as engaged and productive as much as possible. A small leak in employee productivity can be a businesses' deadliest expense.

Scott's thinking on this subject focused on three themes: 1) Finding ways to keep your business as productive as possible; 2) Identifying the top ideas for how to keep your people as productive as possible; and 3) Ensuring that the technology your people use is always working as productively as possible. When Scott asked the audience, what is a businesses' most valuable asset, there was unanimous consensus that a businesses' people are their most important asset, so finding even the smallest ways to make your employees more productive, can make a BIG difference.

CMIT Solutions of Arlington Heights offered up the following ideas, as ways in which businesses of any size can "Go Green" by increasing the productivity of their employees:

Go Green Tip #1) Always ensure that your systems are available to your employees and are functioning properly. Scott gave several examples of why businesses need to take data backup and data recovery seriously. Why? Because losing data in a natural disaster, from theft or from employee sabotage can be bad enough, but the downtime of recreating data lost by one of these all too common events can be a businesses' number one employee productivity drain. Just imagine the cost associated with having your entire staff unable to work for one hour, one day or even a week. It's mind boggling to contemplate and Scott's point in his presentation was to put in place the right technology to ensure that it NEVER happens to you!

Go Green Tip #2) The cost of employee interruptions could easily be your company's largest hidden expense. Scott talked about that annoying reality that we all deal with in our email systems, SPAM. But did you know that SPAM costs the U.S. Economy roughly \$588 billion a year? Scott provided some examples of why something as simple, yet annoying as SPAM, could be your company's largest employee productivity drain. Scott pointed to some research done by the Basex Group, a New York based research firm, which found that interruptions now consume an average of 2.1 hours a day, or 28% of the workday. Even worse, Scott highlighted some research done by Gloria Marks, who estimated that the average worker switches tasks every three minutes and, once distracted, a worker takes nearly a half-hour to resume their original task. Scott's point was that by using something as simple as good commercial anti-SPAM software, you could be saving hours of employee time.

Go Green Tip #3) Provide your employees with help – when they need it. Scott asked the audience how many people ever found themselves with a question about technology that they couldn't answer on their own? Almost every hand in the room went up. Scott's point was that by making it easy for your employees to get their questions about IT answered, you make it easier for your employees to stay productive. One of the top ways in which Scott mentioned that could be done, is to provide your employees with access to an IT help desk. But aren't IT help desks only for large corporations? How can a small or medium sized business implement an IT help desk? Scott quickly pointed out that IT Help Desks aren't just things you find at Fortune 500 companies. For as little as \$25 per employee per month, you can provide professional and competent IT help desks services to your staff. What's the benefit of spending \$300 per employee per year for a help desk? Typically 5 to 7 times the expense! With metrics like that, doesn't making your employees more productive with access to an IT Help Desk sound important?

Go Green Tip #4) Our employees are only as effective as the technology they work on. Ever get a new personal computer? Ever notice how fast it is on the first day? How about a week later, a month later or the following year? It's a fact that the equipment we use to stay productive, eventually makes us less productive. Why, because as Scott pointed out in his presentation, most companies fail to spend the necessary dollars to keep their machines running like they did when they were brand new. So how do you do this? How do you keep your machines running effectively every day of the week - through an ongoing maintenance program for your personal computers. Scott pointed out that for as little as \$25 per machine per month, you can make your personal computers run like they did when you first bought them. Wouldn't that "new PC feeling" feel good all the time? Scott's company, CMIT Solutions of Arlington Heights, has a portfolio of unique software and access to a network of over 300+ network engineers that have put a model in place to do just that.

Go Green Tip #5) Get the IT support model for your business right. Scott asked the audience if their company had an "IT Guy"? You know what we're talking about, that one person everyone seems to go to for IT help. But often times that same person, has another job or role within the organization. Scott pointed out that most businesses don't put the right support model in place to keep their systems running smoothly. That most companies typically wait until something with their technology breaks and then they scramble to find high priced consultants to help them out. Scott highlighted that one of the top ways to make a business as productive as it needs to be to remain competitive is this tough economy is to put in place a proper IT support model that gets your company the most for the dollars it spends on technology. At CMIT Solutions of Arlington Heights, they have a proven three tier support model that gets the right people, at the right price, working on the inevitable problems that come up throughout the workday.

Scott Graflund, owner of CMIT Solutions of Arlington Heights helped AccessTek "Go Green" conference participants really think about how to put technology to work in their organizations with these top five, "Go Green" ideas about how to make your people and the systems they work on, be as productive as possible. Scott and his team are available to help you implement these and other money saving ideas. You can contact Scott by email sgraflund@cmitsolutions.com, by phone 847-259-8324(TECH) or through their website at www.cmitsolutions.com/ahil. Contact Scott and his team and get your business on the right track today!