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GIO Tech Times

Putting the Power of IT Back in Your Business with Insider Tips for Speed, Simplicity, and Profit



Is Your Old Contract Costing You?

When was the last time you looked at your internet or phone bill? Not just paid it. Looked at it.

If you signed a Comcast, Verizon, or other carrier contract a few years ago and haven't touched it since, there's a good chance you're paying more than you need to.

HOW OLD CONTRACTS QUIETLY GET MORE EXPENSIVE

Most carrier agreements come with a promotional rate locked in for the term, usually two or three years. When that term ends, the contract doesn't go away. It rolls over to month-to-month, and your rate often jumps to the standard price.

Nobody calls to tell you. The bill just creeps up a few dollars here, a new fee there, and after a while it feels normal.

Meanwhile, the carrier is offering new customers faster speeds for less money. In a lot of cases, you could be getting more bandwidth for a lower monthly cost just by signing a new agreement.

WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT

- Pull your current bills. Look for the monthly rate, any line items you don't recognize, and when your contract ended.
- Check what you're actually using. Are you paying for phone lines nobody answers? A backup circuit you forgot about? More bandwidth than you need, or not enough?
- Call and ask for a better deal. Carriers would rather keep you than lose you. Ask about current business plans and what they can do if you sign a new term.
- Get a competing quote. Even if you don't plan to switch, having another number in hand gives you real leverage.

IT'S NOT JUST YOUR CARRIER

Carrier contracts are one of the easiest places to find savings, but they're not the only one. A few other spots we see money leaking out of businesses:

- Subscriptions someone signed up for once and never canceled
- Copier and printer leases that auto-renewed at the old rate
- Duplicate tools that do the same job, like two file-sharing services or two video platforms

None of these are big on their own. Added together, they can make a real dent in your budget.



Planning Your 2027 IT Budget

It's that time of year. If you're like most business owners I know, you're starting to map out next year and figure out where the money should go.

I get it. Budgeting isn't anyone's favorite task. But a little planning now saves you a lot of surprises later.

A few things worth setting money aside for: computers getting close to five years old, software renewals that land mid-year, and security upgrades your cyber insurance carrier may start asking about.

Planning for these now lets you spread the cost out over the year instead of getting hit all at once.

It's also a good time to check in on your other vendors, like your internet, phone, and copier agreements. Those tend to creep up in price over time, and we're happy to review them with you.

You don't have to figure this out on your own. If you want to walk through your IT budget together, give me a call. We're in your corner.

Dan Giordano
dan@giotechnologies.com



Making Room for AI in Your Technology Budget

AI is quickly becoming part of the conversation for businesses of all sizes. From helping employees write emails and summarize documents to automating routine tasks, there are plenty of ways AI could make day-to-day work easier. But before jumping into the latest tools, it's worth taking a step back and thinking about how AI fits into your technology budget.

The goal isn't to adopt AI just because everyone else is talking about it. It's to find opportunities where it can make a real difference for your business.

START WITH A BUSINESS NEED

Before investing in an AI tool, consider where your team spends the most time on repetitive tasks. Are employees manually sorting information, creating reports, responding to common questions, or spending hours on administrative work? These may be good places to explore whether AI can help.

Start small by identifying one or two areas where saving time could have a meaningful impact. A focused approach makes it easier to evaluate the results before committing to a larger investment.

LOOK BEYOND THE SUBSCRIPTION COST

Many AI tools offer affordable monthly plans, but the subscription is only one part of the equation. Depending on the solution, you may also need to account for employee training, implementation, software integrations, and ongoing management.

It's also important to understand how a tool handles your business information. Before employees start entering company data into an AI platform, make sure you understand its privacy and security policies and establish clear guidelines for appropriate use.

These considerations can help you avoid unexpected costs and make more informed decisions about which tools are right for your organization.

MEASURE THE VALUE BEFORE EXPANDING

Once you introduce an AI tool, take time to evaluate how it's working. Is it helping employees save time? Improving consistency? Making a process easier to manage? Are there limitations that require additional oversight?

You don't need a complicated measurement system. Even a simple comparison of the time spent on a task before and after introducing AI can help determine whether the investment makes sense.

INCLUDE AI IN YOUR LONG-TERM TECHNOLOGY PLANNING

AI will continue to evolve, and your business doesn't need to adopt every new tool that comes along. Instead, build room in your technology budget to explore promising solutions, test them carefully, and expand when the benefits are clear.

Your IT provider can help you evaluate potential tools, consider security requirements, and determine how new technology fits into your existing environment.

The best AI investment isn't necessarily the newest or most expensive option. It's the one that solves a real problem, protects your business, and delivers value over time.

A little planning now can help you take advantage of AI opportunities without losing sight of your budget or your business priorities.

Key Takeaway:
AI doesn't have to mean a big investment. Start by identifying where it can make a real difference, factor in the costs beyond the subscription, and measure the results before expanding. A thoughtful approach helps you get the most out of AI while keeping your budget and business priorities on track.

5 IT Costs to Plan for With Every New Hire



While adding new employees is a celebration-worthy mark of growth for any business, technology needs must be handled properly.

Without that, onboarding can be a complicated, expensive mess. Considering these IT costs keeps onboarding smooth and efficient without surprise expenses.

These costs shouldn't be seen as barriers to bringing new employees onto your team. Costs will incur when hiring happens. The only way to mitigate the disruption is to plan for them, build your processes around them and prepare your onboarding to withstand the additional hardware, software and operation spend.

COST #1: COMPUTERS AND EQUIPMENT

Hardware is the first and most obvious cost for many businesses, but it can still come as a surprise if you're not careful.

Especially for larger businesses with a closet of old devices, hardware costs might be put off and new employees given older models. But setting up staff for success with the right equipment is instrumental to building a productive business.

Depending on the requirements of the position, a new hire may need the following:

- Laptop or desktop computer
- Headset for taking calls
- Mobile device
- Monitors

Establishing standard equipment packages for roles before the hiring process begins helps smooth over budgeting and onboarding concerns.

COST #2: SOFTWARE AND LICENSES

Recurring software costs are one of the most reliable budget items on a spreadsheet. You know what tools your employees use and keep renewing them as long as they're valuable.

However, that reliability makes it easy to forget how much these little pieces add up to the monthly budget. Building an itemized list of recurring expenses that new employees will incur protects you from being blindsided by a jump in regular costs.

COST #3: ACCOUNTS, ACCESS AND SECURITY

Accounts: Create secure logins for password managers, cloud servers and more with password resets upon login for security.

TEAM GIO



Powered by Greg

Don't Wait for Something to Break: The Value of Proactive IT

When technology stops working, business doesn't stop needing it. Unexpected outages, slow computers, and network issues can disrupt productivity, frustrate employees, and impact customer service.

That's why proactive IT maintenance is so important. Rather than waiting for something to break, businesses can take steps to identify and address potential problems before they become major disruptions.

Routine system updates, network monitoring, hardware checks, and regular data backups all help keep technology running smoothly. These practices can also uncover small issues before they turn into costly emergencies.

At GIO Technologies, we believe reliable IT starts with prevention, not reaction. Our goal is to help businesses minimize downtime, maintain secure systems, and give employees the dependable technology they need to do their jobs.

Adding proactive maintenance to your IT strategy also helps extend the life of your equipment and keeps your team focused on what matters most. By working closely with your IT provider, you can address potential issues early and keep your business moving forward with confidence.

-Greg Moretz
support@giotechnologies.com

Access: Configure keycards, fobs or other physical access technologies required for employees to access the office without relying on borrowed or temporary credentials.

Security: Prepare cybersecurity training materials so that new employees follow best practices as soon as they are onboarded.

Focusing on these three points keeps your business safe while implementing cost-conscious onboarding processes.

COST #4: IT SETUP AND SUPPORT

If you've partnered with a full-time IT service provider or have internal IT staff, the labor costs of setting up all of the above may not be clearly defined in a budget, but they are a cost that must be accounted for.

Any use of time, even time already paid for through contracted support time or regular salary, is a cost.

You can't just budget for the parts. Budgeting for the support prevents operations from stalling on your new employees' first days.

COST #5: TECHNOLOGY GROWTH OVER TIME

One employee won't require an overhaul of your systems, but five or 10 new employees might.

The problem is that most businesses aren't hiring in massive numbers all at once.

Incremental growth can creep up on your operations, so knowing what headcount will require updates to processes can set a goalpost that operations can stay aware of.

Otherwise, continued growth can put more strain on your existing technology and eventually start slowing down the business.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR THESE COSTS

Getting ahead of hiring and onboarding tech costs is all about preparation.

Building these questions into leadership discussions is the first step, but having an experienced IT service provider can keep your processes accountable so these concerns don't fall by the wayside.

Key Takeaway:
Preparing for onboarding costs every time a new hire is added to the team keeps financial, security and process failures from getting in the way of business growth.

GIO MONTHLY MOMENTS

BIG NEWS: Our New Office Is Finished!

After months of thoughtful planning, hard work, and construction, the GIO Technologies team is thrilled to announce that our new office is officially complete! Designed with both our team and our clients in mind, this space gives us the opportunity to grow, collaborate, and continue providing the responsive, reliable IT support you know and trust.

We're officially moved in and settling into our new home! A huge THANK YOU goes out to our contractor, Petrie Construction, for bringing our vision to life, along with all of the incredible subcontractors whose dedication, hard work, and craftsmanship helped make this project a reality. We are truly grateful for everyone who played a part in making our new space possible.

We're excited for this next chapter and all the opportunities it brings for our team and the clients we proudly serve!
Stay tuned for more details about our upcoming open house and ribbon-cutting celebration. We can't wait to welcome you in, show off our new space, and celebrate this exciting milestone together!

OUR NEW ADDRESS IS:
GIO Technologies, Inc.
2018 Rock Spring Rd
Suite 203
Forest Hill, MD 21050

