COLLEGE OF COMPUTING AND INFORMATIC SCIENCES

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TOPIC
ASSESSING THE DIFFICULTY IN IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW TECH-
NOLOGY FOR SMALL BUSINESSES IN UGANDA

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1 TOPIC

Analyzing the difficulty in implementation of new technology for small businesses in Uganda

2 INTRODUCTION:

Small- and medium-sized enterprises play a pivotal role in both developed and developing economies in terms of employment generation, output growth, export growth, poverty alleviation. In addition, many small businesses find that their geographical isolation puts them at a competitive disadvantage. Small companies also find it extremely difficult to release staff for retraining and are caught in a vicious spiral. This implies specific policy mechanisms functional, or about information, aimed at small companies. Also the ability of small or intermediate-sized companies to utilize ongoing research.

3 PROBLEM STATEMENT

Information technology is critical to operations for most small businesses and has the power to catapult growth when utilized effectively. Conversely, if things aren't going well with information technology, powerful business tools can quickly become frustrating and expensive roadblocks to achieving business objectives.

4 MAIN OBJECTIVE

To provide employee training, equipment maintenance and new equipment purchases in order to achieve high business productivity and being able to provide all of the resources employees need to move along with the rapid growth of information technology.

5 ANALYSIS OF COMMON PROBLEMS AND THEIR POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS;

Small business is big business nationwide and around the world. According to the Small Business Administration (SBA), small businesses are the reason that more than half of the adults in this country have jobs. As larger companies are downsizing, small companies are growing leaps and bounds.

But when it comes to IT systems and security, too many small businesses in Uganda still think small to their own detriment. In this post, I cover the top five IT and security problems that plague small businesses.

6   Problem 1: Backup and Disaster Recovery (BDR)

With the ongoing changes in everything from the climate to the political landscape, having a backup and disaster recovery plan should be standard operating procedure for all companies of any size today. Manual backups can no longer be counted on to capture data in sufficient time to compensate for sudden server downtime or power outages, each of which grow increasingly common.

6.1   What you need

: Every small business should have a written BDR that includes regular automated backups, ideally in a location that is separate from company premises.

7   Problem 2: Security Protocols

While automated, offsite data backups is critical in times of disaster, it is not going to be enough to ensure data security on a real time basis. Here, there is a human element at work that makes every aspect of doing business riskier.

7.1   What you need

: In addition to comprehensive pre-hiring screening procedures, your small business needs to provide ongoing employee training to include login and password management, device theft or loss protocols, guidelines regarding downloads of software and apps and periodic risk assessments to ensure all of these are being properly implemented.

8   Problem 3: Outdated Equipment

Running a small business can be exciting and even glamorous, especially as momentum starts to build. But there will never be anything glamorous about updating hardware. No one typically gets excited about updating

network drives, servers, routers, switches or firewalls. However, lots of people will get excited pretty quickly if outdated hardware leads to data security breaches and file corruption.

8.1   What you need

: It is a good idea to survey your existing hardware at least once annually to identify necessary updates and potential threats.

9   Problem 4: Unsecured Mobile Devices

To date, experts still consider BYOD (bring your own device) programs to be simultaneously one of the most innovative and one of the riskiest programs ever introduced into the workplace. There is simply no way to comprehensively monitor and control personal devices for security at a level that can be done with company-owned devices.

9.1   What you need

: However, employees do like BYOD programs and these programs can save companies money. So if your small business incorporates BYOD policies, be sure to provide standardized security protocols and clearly outlined policies that dictate when and how employees can access secure company data from personal devices.

10   Problem 5: Lack of IT Strategy

One of the biggest challenges and opportunities you will ever face as a small business owner is the sheer number of hats you will have to wear all at one time. This can result in infrastructure functions such as IT being overlooked during strategy sessions. However, here a shift in mind-set is clearly in order, since much of any small businesss strategy today will rely upon the availability of a fast and responsive IT infrastructure.

10.1   What you need

: At least once per year, take a big picture look at your IT infrastructure from an asset management perspective. Rather than doing spot upgrades here or there, which can leave your entire system vulnerable to security risks, consider taking a more comprehensive approach with software and

hardware. By understanding how vital IT infrastructure is to the success of all small businesses today, you will be less inclined to casually outsource or delegate oversight of your data security and IT functionality. From powering your e-commerce store to fuelling your online marketing and advertising campaigns, storing sensitive data to enabling employees to work remotely, the more secure your IT systems become, the more you stand to gain.

11   CONCLUSION;

There is a limiting factor, and this brings us full circle. Small suppliers do need to integrate with their larger suppliers ERP systems,(Enterprise resource planning (ERP) is business process management software that allows an organization to use a system of integrated applications to manage the business and automate many back office functions related to technology, services and human resources), but their internal processes and requirements will often be very different. Many will buy the ERP application that most suits their internal use and seek to integrate it with whatever applications are used by organizations they trade with. In other words, tier-two fragmentation of ERP is not just something that exists in large organizations, it is also a fact of life across broader business communities. The interests of ERP users are so diverse that the market will continue to support a wide range of products, including those for enterprise-wide needs and those for specialist niches, and the various products will always need to talk to each other at some level.