METROGEEK™

TECH TALK

"Insider Tips to Make Your Business Run Faster, Easier and More Profitable"

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

We love technology and we love helping people.

Give me a call today for a quick (non-salesy) chat to find out whether my team and I can help you better secure your data and get more out of your existing technology!

- Jack Parsons
Chief Geek & CEO

6 BEST CLOUD STORAGE PROVIDERS TO SAVE DEVICE SPACE

In this digital world, it's hard to keep track of all the storage space on your devices. It's easy for our devices to run out of room because we keep adding more photos, videos, documents, and files. Cloud storage is a convenient option because it lets people store their data online, which frees up space on your devices and lets them view files from anywhere.

What Are Cloud Storage Providers?

Cloud storage services let people store and control their data online. There are many perks to using these services, such as more storage space, the ability to share files, and better security.

People who use cloud storage can get to their files from any internet-connected device. This makes it easier for people to work together and from home.

Recently, cloud storage has grown into more than just a place to store files. It's now also a way to work together and get things done. A lot of service providers now offer office software and real-time tools for working together.

How Do Cloud Storage Providers Help with Productivity?

Cloud storage providers play a crucial role in enhancing digital workflow by offering a centralized platform for storing, accessing, and sharing files. This not only helps in freeing up device space but also facilitates collaboration and productivity. Here are some key ways cloud storage enhances digital workflow:

• Centralized File Management
Cloud storage allows users to manage all their files from a single platform. This means you can access your documents, photos, and videos from any device with an internet connection, making it easier to work on projects or share files with others.

• Enhanced Collaboration Tools
Many cloud storage providers offer integrated collaboration tools that enable real-time editing and commenting on documents. This feature is particularly useful for teams working on projects together, as it allows multiple users to contribute simultaneously without version control issues.

• Advanced Security Features
Cloud storage providers typically offer robust security features, including encryption and two factor authentication, to protect your data from unauthorized access. This ensures that your files are safe even if your device is compromised.

• Scalable Storage Options
Cloud storage services often provide scalable storage options, allowing you to upgrade or downgrade your storage capacity as needed. This flexibility is beneficial for both individuals and businesses,

as it ensures you only pay for the storage you use.

What Are the Best Cloud Storage Providers?

• Google Drive:
Google Drive offers 15 GB of free storage and is ideal for those already using Google's productivity suite.

• Microsoft OneDrive:
Integrated with Microsoft Office, OneDrive offers 5GB of free storage and provides a smooth experience for Windows users.

• Dropbox:
Dropbox offers 2 GB of free storage and is popular among users who frequently collaborate on projects.

• iCloud:
iCloud provides 5 GB of free storage and integrates well with other Apple services like Photos and Mail.

• pCloud:
Known for its lifetime subscription options, pCloud offers up to 10 GB of free storage and is a good choice for those looking for long-term storage solutions.

• Box:
Focused on business users, Box offers robust security features and collaboration tools, making it ideal for enterprises.

Take Control of Your Digital Space

There's a cloud storage service out there for everyone, from individuals who want to free up room on their phones to businesses that need powerful tools for teamwork. To get personalized help choosing the best one for your needs, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.
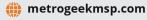
SATECHI DUAL DOCK LAPTOP STAND

Elevate your setup and boost your computer's performance with Satechi's Dual Docking Station.

Designed for professionals, it transforms your MacBook or Windows laptop into a powerful hub.

Connected via dual USB-C connectors, it's designed to fit seamlessly under your laptop.

It has Ethernet Port, 1x DisplayPort, 2x HDMI Ports, 1x SSD Enclosure, 2x USB-A Ports, 2x USB-C Data Ports, and USB-C Power Port.

NEW GMAIL THREATS TARGETING USERS IN 2025 (AND HOW TO STAY SAFE)

Cybercriminals target Gmail a lot because it's very popular. It also integrates with many other Google services. As AI-powered hacking attacks become more common, it gets harder for people to distinguish between real and fake emails.

What Are the New Threats to Gmail in 2025?

Cyber threats are constantly evolving, and some of the most sophisticated attempts have been aimed at Gmail. One major concern is that Artificial Intelligence (AI) is being used to create scam emails that appear very real. The purpose of these emails is to mimic real ones, making them difficult to spot. AI is also being used to create deepfakes and viruses, which complicates security even further.

Gmail is deeply connected to other Google services. This means if someone gains access to a user's Gmail account, they might be able to access all of their digital assets. These include Google Drive, Google Pay, and saved passwords, making it even more critical for people to secure their Gmail accounts.

When hackers use AI in phishing attacks, they can analyze how people communicate. This helps them write emails that look almost exactly like real ones. This level of sophistication has made phishing efforts much more likely to succeed. Now, almost half of all phishing attempts use AI technology.

Gmail continually updates its security, so users need to be adaptable to stay safe. Cyber threats are always changing, and Gmail users must stay vigilant to protect themselves.

What Are Some Other Dangers That Gmail Users Should Know About?

AI-powered hacking isn't the only new threat that Gmail users should be aware of. More zero- day exploits are being used to attack users. They exploit previously unknown security vulnerabilities in Gmail. This allows them to bypass traditional security measures. Attackers can access accounts without permission before Google can address the issue.

Quantum computing is also a huge threat to current encryption methods. As quantum computing advances, it may become possible to break complex passwords and encryption keys. This could make it easier for hackers to access Gmail accounts. Users can implement strong passwords, enable two-factor authentication, and regularly check account settings for suspicious activity.

Keep Your Gmail Account Safe

Users can protect themselves by staying informed, regularly updating their knowledge, and implementing robust security measures.

Staying up-to-date on the latest security practices and best practices is important to keep your Gmail account safe. In today's cyber world, it's crucial for both individuals and businesses to protect their digital assets. Don't hesitate to reach out if you're concerned about keeping your Gmail account safe or need more help avoiding these threats. You can count on our team to help you stay safe online as the world of hacking continues to evolve.

WHERE DO DELETED FILES GO?

It may seem like the file is gone for good when you delete it from your computer. However, the truth is more complicated than that. A deleted file doesn't really disappear from your hard drive; it stays there until new data fills up the space it occupied.

What Happens When You Delete a File?

It's not as easy as it seems to delete a file. When you send a file to the Trash or Recycle Bin, it is not erased from your hard drive right away. It is instead taken to a temporary storage place and stays there until you decide to empty the bin. The file's data stays on the hard drive even after the bin is empty; it is marked as free space that can be used by other files.

When you delete a file, you remove its record from the file system. The file system is like a directory that keeps track of all the files on your computer. The operating system will no longer know where the file is, but the data inside will still be there. This is why it's often possible to recover deleted files with special software, as long as the space hasn't been filled with something else.

Getting rid of files is a lot like taking the title off of a VHS tape. People who are looking for the movie can still find it on the tape, but without the name, it's like the movie doesn't exist. Also, when you remove a file, you're removing its label from the file system. The data, on the other hand, stays on the hard drive until it's overwritten.

To manage data successfully and safely, you need to understand this process. For instance, deleting private information might not be enough if you want to be sure it's gone for good. If you want to delete the information on your hard drive safely, you may need to use extra tools.

Take Charge of Your Information

If you want to keep your digital life safe, you need to know where deleted files go and how to recover them. You can keep your information safe from unauthorized access by managing your data and backing it up regularly. If you need help safely deleting sensitive files or have questions about how to handle your data, please contact us.

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10 TIPS TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR MICROSOFT 365 APPS

With its powerful features and cloud-based services, Microsoft 365 gives businesses a complete way to organize their operations and boost communication:

- Microsoft Teams for communication
- OneDrive for cloud storage
- Power Apps for custom applications

You can optimize your M365 experience by:

- Embracing collaboration tools like Teams
- Customizing your environment with SharePoint
- Leveraging automation with Power Platform
- Staying up-to-date with training
- Partnering with experts for guidance
- Managing email and time effectively
- Utilizing M365 across devices

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7 NEW AND TRICKY TYPES OF MALWARE TO WATCH OUT FOR

Malware is a huge threat in the digital world. It can cause a lot of damage and cost people a lot of money. As technology advances, so do the tactics used by cybercriminals. Malware keeps getting more complex and harder to detect.

Here are seven new and tricky types that you should know about:

- **Polymorphic malware** changes its code.
- **Fileless malware** works in memory without files.
- **Advanced ransomware** targets networks and steals data.
- **Social engineering malware** tricks people.
- **Rootkit malware** hides itself deep in systems.
- **Spyware** steals sensitive information.
- **Trojan malware** looks safe but contains bad code.

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10 AWESOME WAYS TO CUSTOMIZE YOUR DESKTOP LAYOUT

Customizing your desktop can make a big difference in how it looks and works, which can help you get more done and make your computer feel more like your own.

Here are 10 easy ways to customize your desktop:

- Change your desktop background.
- Use custom themes to match your desktop to your personal style or work environment.
- Organize icons and folders to reduce stress and improve productivity.
- Add widgets and gadgets.
- Create custom icons to make your desktop more cohesive and visually appealing.
- Set up multiple desktops to help you stay organized and avoid distractions.
- Use keyboard shortcuts to help reduce the need to navigate menus or click through multiple windows.
- Automate tasks to reduce the time spent on routine tasks.
- Customize the taskbar or dock to make your desktop easier to use and understand.
- Use third-party software that provides a high degree of flexibility, enabling users to design their desktops with unique and functional elements.

TECHNOLOGY TRIVIA TIME

Each month you have a chance to win a $50 Amazon Gift Voucher by being the first person to email us with the answer to our Technology Trivia Question of the Month!

The question this month is:

What year was Google Drive launched?

The first person to correctly answer will win a $50 Amazon Gift Card. Just go to our website and use the Contact page to send us your answer.

Last month's answer was *Bliss*

WE HAVE A WINNER!