



Today's Technology In an Ever-Changing Environment

By Mario Nowogrodzki, CPA

Like it or not, we all need to embrace technology at some point and to some extent. I not only welcome technology but happen to like it and enjoy discussing it. I like the computer world the same way children like candy, the way celebrities like the camera, the way accountants like numbers. Yes, I like technology and I'm pleased to share my knowledge and experience with all of you. That's the premise for this regular column on computer topics.

In this inaugural issue of "City Limits Magazine", I want to start by talking about the most important subject in computers: security. It is important not only in and of itself, but also to keep your systems in good shape.

In terms of security, there is no one perfect technology. However, being proactive will ensure your safety and peace of mind. This involves having regular backups, updated antivirus protection and elimination of spyware and adware. It also includes smart and clean computer habits. We will talk about this here and in future columns.

Do not expect your computers to be any different than your automobile or your air conditioner—all equipment needs maintenance and gentle use to be kept in top condition. Plus computers are much more complex than your everyday machinery; they operate in an environment that is always shifting, especially because of the ever-changing Internet.

I always explain this to clients when we install new systems or work on existing ones. But good advice is often easy to forget, remembering usually only when it's too late—after a virus or worm invades your computer or when a particular piece of information can not be restored.

You can not expect technology to be fail-safe, but you can improve your chances of survival with a few good practices: backups, antivirus, anti-spyware, and good computer habits.

We hope this column to be an informative and educative resource for you. In different issues, we'll look into different "hot topics" in the computer world and will intercalate them with some articles about QuickBooks Financial Software. I am South Florida's leading QuickBooks authority, so it's only fair that I impart some of this wisdom with you.

Also, from time to time, I will be sharing with you some of my "rules" that keep my clients in good shape. For starters, my Rule Number One is: "Always look at the screen. The answer will always be there." I will leave you pondering this Rule and encourage your comments as to its meaning. Write or call me directly to the contact address below. I welcome all your questions regarding computers and QuickBooks.

Mario Nowogrodzki, CPA, is a Certified QuickBooks Professional Advisor and an information systems consultant and lecturer. He is the founder and principal of Mendelson Consulting—a computer consulting firm specializing in small business since 1992. By focusing on providing a solution-based approach, customized to each client's individual and specific needs, Mendelson Consulting becomes the in-house technology department for small to mid-size firms at a fraction of the cost. Reach Mario at 954.447.0250 or at www.mendelsonconsulting.com.

