PORTABLE DATA

With the onslaught of smart phones and tablets available in the marketplace, some users may not have discovered some very useful, and sometimes free, programs(apps) that make smart phones and tablets even more useful.

Evernote(Mountain View, CA—www.evernote.com) has a free program that creates a series of notes that can be grouped in different ways. It has Word processing type of formatting capabilities and syncs all the notes to each device the user has. Notes entered on a PC appear on a phone or tablet for reading or additional editing. Editing then syncs back to the PC and all other devices. Content can be copied and pasted into other applications such as Word.

Quickoffice(Plano, TX—www.quickoffice.com) offers an app that can read Word, Excel, Powerpoint, and .pdf files(free version) and edit and create them(paid version). All such files can be loaded onto the SD cards of phones and tablets for reading or editing, without having to go to the "cloud" for the files. This is especially helpful in areas where cell phone and/or WIFI signals are not available.

SMART PHONES

Apple created quite a buzz last October with its introduction of the iPhone4s, with the talking 'siri' digital assistant. Apple has been an innovator and leader in new features, but, that does not necessarily mean that they lead the overall market.

According to Gartner, Inc. Apple has just a 9% share of the total US handset market(all phones, smart or otherwise). Broken down by operating systems(platforms), Google's Android has a 43% share, followed by Apple at 27%, and Blackberry(RIM) with a 19% market share.

There are several handset makers that offer Android phones including Samsung, HTC, Motorola, LG, and Sony. All the major cell phone carriers offer a selection of these products.

TABLET COMPUTERS

Apple revived the tablet computer market with the introduction of the iPad in 2009. Since then, several competitors have entered the market but Apple continues to dominate with a 65% market share. Motorola, Samsung, LG, Dell, and others have tablet offerings, all of which us the Google Android platform (except RIM, which has their own operating system).

Two interesting devices that have been released recently are the Nook Tablet from Barnes and Noble and the Kindle Fire from Amazon. Both are Android based and have 7 inch color screens.

The most notable difference between these two and the iPad is price, $249 for the Nook and $199 for the Kindle Fire (iPads start at $499 and go up with the amount of storage available).

While the main purpose of these devices is personal entertainment and bridging a gap between smart phones and notebooks, there are several business uses for tablet devices. Some vendors offer custom configured tablets for applications in factories, restaurants, and other businesses.

COMPUTER SECURITY

IN HOTELS

By now, everyone in hotel management hotel is aware of the importance of PCI(payment card industry) compliance. The fines, penalties, and potential lawsuits that can occur from a breach of a hotel's systems can be staggering.

There is the aspect of computer and network security, which is very important, but, there is much more. Securing documents, shredding expired ones, and using common sense about sensitive data is also required.

Examples are writing down a credit card number on a desk calendar pad and then not shredding the page, entering numbers in guest's comment fields, or other data fields that are not encrypted, and repeating numbers verbally in areas where dishonest people can hear. For a full article on PCI compliance, please see the link below.

http://www.hospitalityupgrade.com/_magazine/magazine_Detail-ID-612.asp

The Omni Group

Atlanta, Georgia 30084

404-647-OMNI(6664)

www.atlantaomnigroup.com