



Staff Info:

Charlie Babcock works on our web development team helping our web clients with the new projects and live websites.

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Spam Report:

In November a large computer system area was taken down that was sending a massive amount of spam. It was all part of the continuing battle against spam. Unfortunately, the system was brought back online weeks later, just in another location. [Read more](#)



If you have a chance, check out our previous [nSite newsletter](#) for our web clients.

Dear [member_name_first],

Hello and **Happy Holidays!** Here is another installment of our monthly/bi-monthly newsletter. I hope your December is filled with fun holiday cheer. Who knows, it might even snow! (Or has it already?)

- Sean

"Spam Storm"

Over the course of the past year, we have continued to see what I am calling spam storms. Even though we have spam filters in place for many of our business clients, it is extremely hard to stop. The reason for this is that the storm is using a mechanism that we all rely on within email to alert us if an email is not delivered.

The storm usually starts in Asia where a computer forges the email sender - let's use sam@somewhere.com as an example. When the millions of emails go out, they look like they all come from the forged address, sam@somewhere.com. When the receiving server gets the email, it helpfully replies to Sam to let him know of the undelivered email. As a result, Sam gets a dump of undeliverable messages into his inbox that are not spam. They are not junk; they are just notifications of a failed message. (Very helpful normally, but extremely annoying when this happens.)

The solution is unfortunately not as easy sometimes as you might think. Since the mechanism can not be turned off, we have to resort either to changing the main email address, setting up rules to move the messages into the junk folder, or a few other tricks we've worked out.

At times, the spam filters will catch up and be able to detect the storm. The other option, unfortunately, is to wait it out since these storms usually last for just a few hours. Anytime you do start experiencing this, please let us know and we can take action to hopefully slow down the storm.

Please know we have never seen any computer in the network doing the sending or seen a computer compromised; it's just the ability of a spammer to forge the sender within an email.

Upgrade vs. new computer options

As an alternative to buying a computer, upgrading an existing computer is always an option. By adding more memory (RAM), or replacing a filled up hard drive with a larger size drive, we can give the system a bit more room to breathe.

If buying a new computer is in the works, keep in mind that all new PC's in the retail stores have Vista on them. While many people have enjoyed their experience with Vista, others have found it takes some time to get used to it. It's a good thing to keep in mind as part of the learning curve.



Apple TV

Now many of you might not realize what this is, but if you have ever had an iPod or an iPhone, you probably are more familiar with it than you think. I liken it to an iPod that instead of having a screen or a headphone jack, connects to your tv and/or your stereo system wirelessly syncing all of you music, pictures, movies, etc to your tv. Have a look at it via this [link](#), and feel free to stop in the office to check it out. It is a lot of fun and a tiny box that is filled with many surprises. I wanted to highlight it here as it is a great piece of technology not many people know about. You can even control it with your iPhone!

A good gauge on getting a new computer is if the system is over 4 years old. Typically, a computer that age is on the border of not really being worthy putting the money into.

Please feel free to call and we can help guide you on the best solution. We've seen a lot of people purchase their first Mac recently as well. Either way, hopefully we can help find a solution that best fits who you are.

Reminder:

We moved into our new office about a year ago and would love for you to stop by to see the great new space! [View Map](#) (Suite 101)

3n1Media Numbers:

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Fax number: 615.372.0303

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