

In This Issue

[Smartphones](#)

[Remote Office Access](#)

Quick Links

[Parallax Solutions Online](#)

About Us

Parallax Solutions is an information technology consulting firm located in the Waterloo/Cedar Falls area. What we are trying to bring to the table is a clear understanding of how offices can utilize hardware and software to effectively manage their electronic information.

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I hope you have enjoyed this issue of our newsletter. If you are concerned that your network isn't living up to its potential, give us a call.

Sincerely,

Steve Bantz
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[Blackberry](#)
[APC UPS Systems](#)

Issue: # 6

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Welcome to the latest edition of our technology newsletter. This month, we are covering Blackberry smart phones and remote office access.

Steve Bantz

p.s.

Just a reminder that we archive all past newsletter issues on our website. You can view the archives by clicking [here](#).

Stay Connected Outside the Office

Many of us are on the go and we can't always be at an Internet enabled computer to retrieve e-mails, contacts and appointments. What is a person to do? Maintaining work information in separate places only leads to confusion and inaccurate recording.

Fortunately, we have a savior in what is called a smart phone. Smart phones can be configured to store the same information you keep on your desktop or laptop computer, making your information truly portable. Synchronization options allow you to maintain one repository for your data so you can be sure everything is up to date and correct. Smartphones, such as Blackberry devices, allow you to quickly extend your corporate e-mail and contact manager to your phone.

If you have your own Microsoft Exchange server in-house, Blackberry allows you to run Blackberry Enterprise Software on the server. This service, which comes with one user license out of the box, will synch your phone e-mail with your Microsoft Outlook e-mail. The benefit is that your phone is updated constantly all throughout the day. When an e-mail reaches your Outlook inbox, the software also sends the e-mail to your phone. If you read and delete it, the phone will automatically synch with the mail server so that your phone and Outlook always work in harmony. Corporate E-mail, contacts, tasks, calendar, etc are all available to you wherever you are.

If you don't have an Exchange server, you can always run Blackberry Desktop, which will also synch your e-mail. It is less robust, but it will still extend your office to your phone.

Setting up Blackberry Enterprise does require extensive knowledge of Microsoft Exchange and SQL server to ensure the back end is set up properly. If you are interested in Blackberry services, give us a call.

Remote Office Connection

Extending your office to your home is not as difficult or expensive as you might think. If your office is connected to the Internet, it is likely that you already have a firewall capable of handling Virtual Private Networking. In this case, it is just a matter of configuring the firewall with a VPN and also installing software on the home machine to allow a secure connection to the firewall. Modern VPN configurations also support SSL VPN, which requires no additional configuration of the remote PC. This is ideal if you are at a location that has Internet enabled PC's but are configured to allow no installation of software.

Once you have a VPN connection, you have to decide how you want to access work resources. Since you are very familiar with your own PC at work and all of the software installed on it, you should consider connecting to your Windows XP computer using a Remote Desktop Session. As long as your work PC is on, you can connect to it and use it remotely just as if you were sitting at your desk. What could be easier?

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