

Is Your Network Admin Getting a Vacation this Summer?

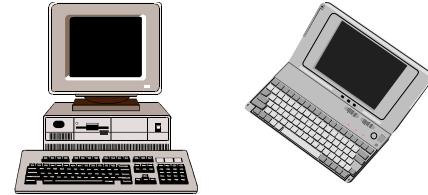
Nautalex staff can fill in when your Network Administrator or resident "computer guru" is on vacation.

The person who takes care of your company's computers and network is probably due for a well-deserved vacation. Hopefully, they'll be able to go away without toting a pager, cell phone and laptop! However, to ensure your computer expert a carefree vacation, you need to have a backup plan in place.

Quite a few area companies book Nautalex staff, or put us "on alert" when their Network Administrator is going to be away on vacation or a training course.

This plan works best if the following steps are taken:

1. **Familiarize Nautalex with your network:** Make the time beforehand to allow Nautalex to become acquainted with your network and work environment.
2. **Appoint a contact person:** We recommend you choose one person at your company or site as the primary contact between your staff and Nautalex. This lets you control the priority of service requests.
3. **Avoid paperwork delays:** Determine who will approve any emergency hardware purchases during the vacation period, for example if a hard drive needs to be replaced. Or, you may want to prepare a blanket purchase order for parts and/or service during the vacation period. ▢



Buying a PC or Laptop? Call us!

As part of our "total design" approach to networking, Nautalex has always offered brand-name PCs and laptops to our clients.

We'd like to remind you that Nautalex is an authorized reseller for **Compaq** and **Acer** products. As always, we can offer you the added benefit that your new PCs be delivered, set up, configured, and added to your existing network by a trained Nautalex technician.

Our main focus is network solutions and system integration for **Novell, NT and Unix**. However, if you are looking to buy some brand-name PCs or laptops this year, please keep us in mind. ▢

Traffic Problems? Try a Switch!

The slowest part of most networks today (besides the users!) is the 10BaseT cabling that everyone is trying to use at once. A typical network has one or two segments to which are attached every computer in the building. The rules of Ethernet only allow one device to "talk" on a segment at a time, so your computers spend much of their time waiting for a chance to use the wire.

The best tool yet to overcome the wire bottleneck is the "etherswitch". Using bridging technology, etherswitches break down the network segment into smaller logical segments based on which computers are actually communicating with each other. Each of these smaller segments behaves as if there are no other computers on the network. The result? Many computers can simultaneously "talk" on the wire. There can be as much as a tenfold increase in network traffic simply by the addition of the switch.

There are, of course, different types of etherswitches to choose from, not all of which will work well in your environment. Call us to discuss the details. ▢

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Power Problems and How to Solve Them

Many of our clients have been advised by our staff: "Never plug a PC directly into a wall socket". Here's a rundown of various power protection devices, courtesy of Tripp Lite Canada.

Before you plug into ordinary AC power, stop and consider two important points:

1. Today's high-tech computer equipment demands perfect power.
2. Your local electric company can't provide it.

Try as they may, current methods of power delivery remain imperfect. And even if utility companies refined their delivery systems, there are still **older buildings that are not wired with today's high-tech equipment in mind**. It's up to you, the end user, to make sure your equipment is safe.

Here is a sampling of some of the products that can help you solve power problems for your PCs:

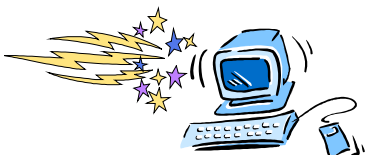
Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) Systems:

Damaging brownouts, blackouts, surges, spikes and line noise can take their toll – unless you have a UPS system on your computer. A UPS system ensures that your computer gets the correct power, even during complete power outages. There are two types of UPS systems: on-line and off-line (or standby). Offline UPS systems provide filtered AC line power and then switch to battery power in the event of a blackout. Even during complete power outages, your computer never misses a step. You can save files, exit programs and safely shut down your system – all on battery power!

An on-line UPS system continuously provides clean 120V AC power to connected equipment, regardless of the AC line power's presence or absence. Your computer is isolated from the utility power source and always has clean, conditioned power.

Line Conditioners:

Brownouts are low voltage power sags which put a strain on your computer and other electronic equipment. Under low voltage conditions, your equipment's internal power supply and circuitry must compensate by working harder. Repeated exposure to brownouts can overheat these sensitive components, causing keyboard lock-ups, data corruption or total system failure.



Line conditioners keep your equipment working through brownouts without using emergency power sources such as UPS systems or auxiliary generators. Line conditioners automatically adjust under and overvoltages too, to provide safe, computer-grade AC power.

Surge/Noise Suppressors:

Power spikes and surges are prevalent and come in two varieties. Many are products of nature, like lightning strikes. Many more are products of man, like copier or laser printer cycling. Symptoms of these problems can appear as garbled data, system lockups, general protection faults, and slowed transmissions. Consider this type of protection for PCs, audio and video equipment, network cabling, and modem/fax lines. ▢

Adapted from "Power Problems and How to Solve Them" with permission from Tripp Lite Power Protection.

Internet Connectivity

Nautalex provides Internet connectivity solutions for both Novell and Windows NT networks.

Global E-mail is rapidly becoming a business requirement, even for small businesses that don't need full-time access to the Internet. Nautalex has implemented a number of non-dedicated solutions that connect your office to the Internet for both e-mail and browsing. The type and cost of the implementation depends on the number of users and the frequency of access needed.

Call us for an appointment to review the various solutions and select the one that best fits your needs. ▢

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Nautalex designs and implements fully-integrated computer network systems for businesses. Providing consulting, software, hardware and peripherals, we offer complete, cost-effective network solutions. ▢