



Copeland Data News

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E-Commerce on the Net!

Doing business on the Web is quickly taking a hold as a standard business practice. Remember the days when a new device called a facsimile machine was introduced? Just a few years later, it was expected that every business had a fax machine in house. Today, the same issue comes up for Internet Email. It is expected that businesses have email and use it to transact business daily.

As we are now within an earshot of the next millennium, businesses are focussing on selling product and managing customer service via the Web. While the first phase of selling via the Web has been "business to consumer" sales, business to business E-Commerce is gaining rapid acceptance. Within a few short years, it will be expected that any business selling products will offer the ability to sell directly to the customer via the Web. Businesses that do not offer this option to its customers will lose market share over the long run.

There are a variety of E-Commerce possibilities that are available to you. It is important that you take a close look at your business and see how E-Commerce fits into your marketplace. Your competition is probably already moving in this direction.

For a quick look at an E-Commerce solution in action, take a look at the Copeland Data Store located at www.copelanddata.com. If you have any questions on E-Commerce technology or want to know more about how it could work in your marketplace, please give us a call.

Nightly Backup - How Important?



Many of your business systems get backed up automatically each night. While it is great to not have to sit and watch the tape move around like we had to in the olden days, this automation does present some procedural concerns for us at CDS.

While the backup may be easier to administrate, it is not any less important. We are finding that many of our customers are not paying attention to the details of the backup, thereby not protecting themselves properly in the event of a hardware problem.

While the backup will run automatically each night, it is the responsibility of the Backup Administrator to:

1. Check the printer backup log summary for errors.
2. Read UNIX mail for any detailed errors or problems. It is critical that all mail sent to "root" gets reviewed on a daily basis.
3. Swap tapes accordingly as per your tape schedule.
4. Coordinate an off-site copy of your backup.

While these steps seem routine and simple, we have had many instances lately where steps #1 and #2 were not followed to completion. Failure to get accurate backups daily will put your computer system and your entire business at a large risk.

Please take the time to review your backup procedures within your office. Backup is the most critical part of your daily computer system procedures.



Our 20th Year