



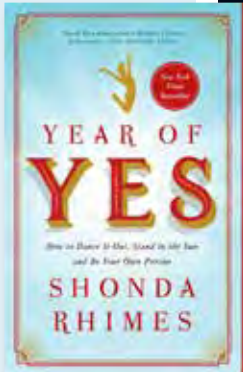
IT Times

*Insider Tips To Make
Your Business Run
Faster, Easier &
More Profitably*

Year Of Yes

By Shonda Rhimes

Shonda Rhimes, the creator and executive producer of “Grey’s Anatomy” and “Scandal,” gives readers an inside look into her life through her book, *Year Of Yes*. After her sister pointed out that she never said “yes” to anything, Rhimes made a commitment to say “yes” to anything and everything for an entire year. *Year Of Yes* takes an inspiring look at the adventures of an introvert as she tries new and exciting experiences throughout the course of a year. Using humorous, conversational and uplifting tones, Rhimes tells a compelling story that is sure to grab any reader’s attention.



The Best IT-Related Resolutions For The New Year

January 2022



This monthly publication provided courtesy of Brian Bratchie, president of **B&L PC Solutions, Inc.**

Our Mission:

**We Take Care Of Technology,
So You Can Take Care Of Business.**

The past couple of years have been difficult for just about everyone. Business owners and entrepreneurs have had to adapt and evolve to survive in an ever-changing climate. There’s no telling when or even if things will go back to what we once thought was “normal.” As we enter a new year, many business owners are putting their resolutions in place to survive and hopefully thrive in 2022.

People will focus on plans for growth and ways to bring more profit in for their resolution, but it’s important to include tech- and IT-related resolutions as well. Technology might not be an obvious approach to growing a business, but it goes a long way toward making your clients and employees feel more secure about everyday interactions. This can inadvertently

lead to growth as you improve customer relationships as well.

Here are a few tech-related resolutions that we think can greatly improve any business.

Use Multiple Layers Of Cyber Security Protection

There is no security approach that covers every hole or flaw that cyber security threats are looking to exploit. The best way to keep your defenses protected is to put in place multiple approaches to cover every possible gap. By using multiple programs and layers, you will ensure that every individual component of your cyber security program has a backup to counter any issues.

Continued on Page 2 ...

Your first line of defense should be a firewall. Firewalls help monitor incoming and outgoing traffic and work as a barrier between networks you trust and don't trust. They essentially shield you from malicious or unnecessary network traffic. Multifactor authentication is an important layer as well. This prevents cyberattacks that come from weak or compromised passwords. With multifactor authentication, you and your employees may have to receive a text to your cell phones to prove that the correct person is trying to access the network. This will help prevent the use of employee passwords to gain access to sensitive information.

As you lay out plans to make your business more successful throughout 2022 and beyond, ensure that your tech and information security practices are updated. There are simply no downsides to improving your technology and cyber security. Adopting these practices can go a long way toward making your employees and customers feel more comfortable and confident in their decisions.

SHINY NEW GADGET OF THE MONTH

Keep Cozy All Winter With BioLite FirePit+

Campfires are an American camping tradition that brings people together to talk, relax or even cook. But the main problem with campfires is the smoke. It gets in your face, hair and clothes – and can ruin an otherwise relaxing evening. For this reason, BioLite created the FirePit+. This is the upgraded model of their classic FirePit and creates hyper-efficient flames by using patented airflow technology that can erase smoke. FirePit+ is Bluetooth-operated and comes with a mesh screen that allows for visibility from any angle. It's not just a firepit, either. You can put charcoal underneath the fuel rack to turn the FirePit+ into a grill. If you're looking for a device to completely revolutionize your campfire or camping experience, look no further than the FirePit+.

TikTok Takeover

How This App Dominated Its Industry

TikTok has taken the world by storm, and it doesn't plan to stop anytime soon. The social media platform recently announced that it has 1 billion active users, and it plans to continue growing. In fact, TikTok's chief operating officer, Vanessa Pappas, stated that TikTok is in the development or testing stage for a number of new features, including augmented reality like that of Snapchat, e-commerce options and even long-form videos. By consistently introducing new features and tools, TikTok

is preparing to continue its domination for years to come. Pappas is focused on product innovation as they continue to grow the brand.



Don't Give Up On You



As you venture through your business and personal life, you'll have people tell you "no" or that your ideas aren't good enough. But remember: you know your goals, dreams and aspirations better than anyone else, so why would you let their opinions have an impact on your vision? I certainly wouldn't be where I am today if I had listened to all of the naysayers and critics. If you have a dream, don't let anything hold you back from accomplishing it.

After I wrote my first two books, *The Toilet Paper Entrepreneur* and *The Pumpkin Plan*, I approached my publisher and said I had written another book: *Profit First*. They looked it over and said, "Nobody needs another accounting book." I was a little stunned, but I wouldn't let that stop me.

I knew that I had a really strong book, and my mentor at the time told me to "make them regret it," so I doubled down and decided to publish *Profit First* myself. It ended up being a roaring success. I sold so many copies that my publisher reached out to me about buying the book after they had rejected it the first time!



Mike Michalowicz has always believed that he had the formula to success and has proven it on multiple occasions. He is the creator of the book *Profit First*, which is used by hundreds of thousands of companies across the globe to drive greater profits. Mike is a former small-business columnist for The Wall Street Journal and served as a business makeover specialist for MSNBC. Mike currently leads two new multimillion-dollar ventures as he puts his latest research to the test.

We made a revised, extended edition for Penguin Books, and it is definitely my most popular book to date. If I had listened to my publisher the first time around, I never would have made *Profit First* or any of the other small-business books I have written since then. I get calls and e-mails all the time from small-business owners who have improved their businesses through things they learned in *Profit First*. All of the money these businesses saved and the lessons they learned from *Profit First* never would have happened if I have given up on my goal.

If you come up with a product, service or idea that you think can help people in any regard, try to push forward through any negativity or criticism. Critics don't always see the big picture and may use preconceived ideas to form an opinion about your business or idea. If you think you are on the verge of something great, don't let anyone or anything stop you from pursuing your vision. You absolutely cannot give up on yourself. Push on and continue chasing your dreams.

Inside This Issue

The Best IT-Related Resolutions
For The New Year | 1

The Business Owner's Guide To IT
Support Services And Fees | 2

Don't Give Up On You | 3

Work Smarter, Not Harder



In many cases, entrepreneurs try to do as much work as possible in order to meet their standards and succeed in their industries. Sometimes, these entrepreneurs do way more work than is necessary. Unfortunately, this may involve more busywork, on a daily basis, which will put any entrepreneur on the fast track to burnout and may even reduce profits.

If you feel like your days are bogged down with busywork, you should look into business automation tools. These will help get your business back on a profitable track while also alleviating stress. Automation tools are available to boost nearly any aspect of a business. Google Workspace and Office 365 can help with various tasks, Mailchimp and Constant Contact can make e-mailing a breeze and FreshBooks can help automate billing. If you're not using any automation tools in your business, you should start now. Do your research and find the programs that will benefit your business the most.

The Keys To Quality Content Marketing

If you're interested in starting a marketing campaign, you're probably wondering how to make the best possible content. A strong marketing campaign does not rely solely on flashy images and strong keywords. There are a few things you need to do to ensure that your marketing content is quality.

Start by deciding on a few potential topics and performing extensive research. Use Google Trends or similar sites to find related keywords that will expand your search. You also need to brainstorm ideas related to your keywords and research. It's also very important to focus your research on areas that relate to your clientele. A marketing campaign will never be strong if your customer base can't connect with it. In addition to this, your title should be clear and thought-provoking while using strong keywords that drive search engine optimization. Put your content together and design it before finding the perfect place to publish. Take advantage of social media to also help expand your audience. By following a proven system, anyone can create widespread and meaningful content for their campaign.

