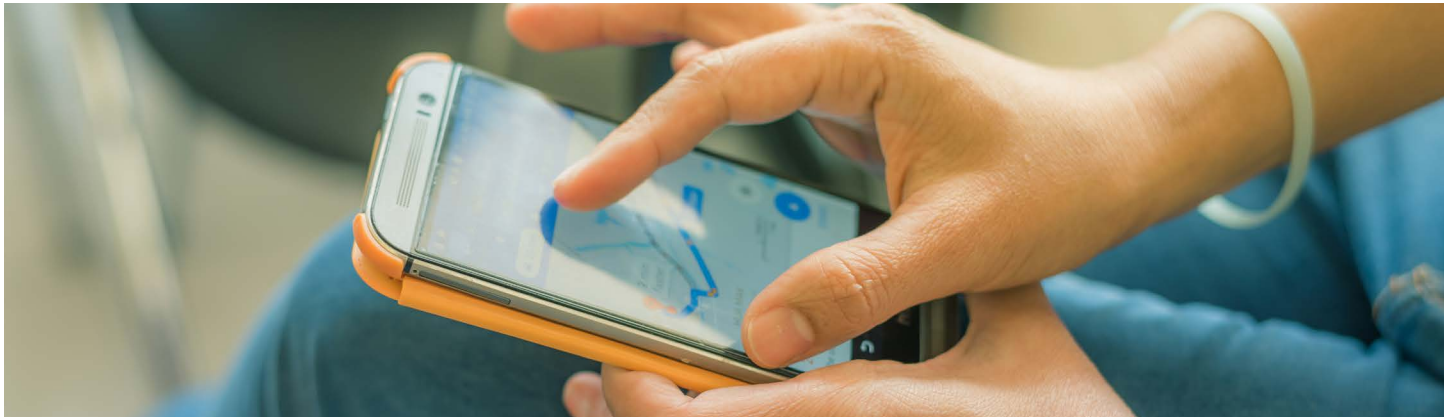


The AvTek Chronicle



Wayne's World
Where in the world is WAYNE?

Coming-up

Small Business Tech Day in Houston
November 16th

Register here:

www.avteksolutions.com/tech-day-2023/



TBA Security & Risk Management Conference

San Antonio, Nov 28 - Dec 1

November 2023



Wayne Hunter is the President and CEO of AvTek Solutions, Inc. where he concentrates his efforts on providing the best solution to customers.

Wayne has over 30 years of experience in Information Technology, focusing on implementing storage and data systems, IT management, and systems integration.

HERE'S WHAT GOOGLE MAPS TIMELINE KNOWS ABOUT YOU (AND IT'S MORE THAN YOU THINK)

It's 10 p.m. – do you know where your children are? Google probably does. Thanks to Google Maps' Timeline feature, the tech company probably knows where your whole family has been – down to the GPS coordinates. The feature was first rolled out in 2015 on Android devices and two years later on Apple, but many people still don't know how much information the app actually collects. Before you hit the road this holiday season, take a minute to review your privacy settings to see if the risk is worth the benefits.

What Google Maps Timeline Can See

With Google Maps Timeline, you can go back to any day and see in detail where you were, when and for how long. For example, the map will show you when you left work, got home and any pit stops you made. It can also tell if you traveled by bike, car, train or bus. If you haven't changed the settings, this information may have been stored for YEARS. This kind of tracking is helpful if you forget the name of a lunch place you visited last month with an amazing chicken wrap. However, if you care about your privacy and prefer not to have your home address or daily jogging routine under Google's watchful eye, you need to turn this feature OFF.

Pros And Cons

Under the guise of being a digital assistant, Google collects that information to make your life easier. At the same time, it's creating detailed profiles of all of us. In some ways, this makes our lives easier. In other ways, it invites severe risks.

Upsides

- Find what's lost: Has your kid ever lost their phone during an errand spree and is not sure if they left it in the cart at Target or the bathroom at The Cheesecake Factory? Yeah, it's not a good feeling. If your phone is connected to the Internet, Google Maps Timeline can retrace your steps.
- Peace of mind: Many parents gain peace of mind about their children's safety by knowing where they are and where they've been.
- In business: Employers can also use the feature to ensure employees working remotely are where they are supposed to be when they are supposed to be there.
- Tailored ads: Because Google apps speak to each other, your ads and recommendations are customized to your lifestyle.

Downsides

- Peeping Toms: Anyone who gets hold of your account can build a profile of you. They know where you live, work and hang out. Threat actors weaponize profiles in extortion schemes or impersonate people to commit other heinous crimes.
- Not 100% accurate: You must be connected to the Internet and logged in to Google for the feature to work.
- A lot less privacy: It's creepy when an app tracks and stores personal information!



Before you hit the road this holiday season, take a minute to review your privacy settings to see if the risk is worth the benefits.



How To Turn Tracking OFF

If you don't feel like having Google's eyes on your every move, follow these steps on one of your devices to update the settings. Here's how to do it from your computer:

Change Settings Using Your Computer:

1. Log in to your Google account.
2. Tap your profile icon or initials, and select "Manage Your Google Account."
3. Click on "Data & Privacy."
4. Scroll to "History Settings" and select "Location History."
5. Pause your history.

6. BONUS TIP: Delete your timeline history by going to Maps Timeline, "Manage Location History," and selecting an auto-delete option.

Tips For Using Google Maps Timeline

If the benefits outweigh the risks for you or your family, do two things. First, define a timeline to delete stored data. You can delete your location history after 3, 18 or 36 months – or keep it forever (which we don't recommend). Once you pick an option to remove the data, Google is legally obligated to delete it. Second, use multifactor authentication on your devices and accounts so that even if someone finds your phone or hacks your account, they can't get in.

Take control of your privacy and review this buried feature in Google's Maps app!

**FREE REPORT
DOWNLOAD:**



If You Are Considering Cloud Computing For Your Company, DON'T, Until You Read This...

If you are considering cloud computing or Office 365 to save money and simplify IT, it is extremely important that you get and read this special report: **"5 Critical Facts Every Business Owner Must Know Before Moving Their Network To The Cloud."**

This report discusses in simple, nontechnical terms the pros and cons of cloud computing, data security, how to choose a cloud provider and three little-known facts that most IT consultants don't know or won't tell you

about cloud computing that could end up causing you MORE problems and costing you more money than you anticipated. Even if you aren't ready to move to the cloud yet, this report will give you the right information and questions to ask when the time comes.

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6



Essential Elements of an Effective Compliance Program

MONITORING, TESTING AND UPDATING

Listed below are six foundational elements to consider for your compliance program. Part 5 of “The 6 Essential Elements of an Effective Compliance Program: Monitoring, Testing and Updating

We will focus on the 5th foundation for the month of November.

1. Executive Sponsorship and Commitment to Compliance
2. Conduct Risk Assessments and BIA
3. Appointing a Chief Compliance Officer (CCO)
4. Establish or Refresh Your Data Governance Strategies
5. Monitoring, Testing and Updating
6. Routine Employee Training

Regular monitoring, testing, and updating of systems and processes ensure they don’t inadvertently become non-compliant.

5. MONITORING, TESTING AND UPDATING

It ensures the control environment is effective and includes:

A. Vulnerability and non-compliance scanning/alerts.

You must deploy solutions that can conduct regular automated scans to detect vulnerabilities and non-compliance. Once the solution identifies an irregularity, it should immediately alert key staff.

B. Patch management.

Poor patch management provides a freeway for cybercriminals to exploit vulnerabilities. For this reason, it is best to use tools that automate patch management.

C. Policy management.

Efficient policy management is essential for risk management and compliance. Robust policy management systems can take that load off your shoulders.

D. Acceptable use policy.

There must be a set of rules to restrict the use of company networks, websites or systems. This helps minimize illegal activities and cyberthreats.

To learn more about how to tailor a compliance program to meet your organization’s unique requirements, schedule a consultation with us here

go.appointmentcore.com/app/multiservice/HVpYFe

BYTE-SIZED BRAIN CHALLENGE

What’s the vertical three-dot menu icon called?
(Answer at the end of the issue.)

A. Kebab

B. Hamburger

C. Meatball



AIRLINE TICKET SCAMS ARE SOARING

Scammers love travel season. They know your eyes are peeled for a cheap ticket and have devised convincing ways to get their hands on your money. Tricked consumers have spent months of their lives dealing with the consequences of these scams and lost thousands of dollars in the process. In a recent plague of travel scams, criminals are pretending to be “travel agents” selling plane tickets. Between 2020 and 2021, digital fraud in travel and leisure increased 68.4% globally, according to TransUnion’s 2022 Global Digital Fraud Trends Report.

How Plane Ticket Scams Work

Travel scammers use a handful of tactics to steal your information. They create fake websites, pose as travel agents and send you “confirmation” e-mails that don’t include an airline ticket. Some call your phone to “confirm your information” for a flight, asking for your credit card, bank or personal information. Or they use social media ads or e-mails advertising free or cheap tickets. These are all major red flags to watch out for. Before clicking or booking anything, pay attention to these travel tips to avoid getting scammed out of thousands of dollars of your hardearned vacation savings.

Here’s How To Avoid Travel Scams

1. *Always verify that an agent or agency is legit.* In the U.S. and Canada, you can use the Better Business Bureau (BBB) or travel associations like the International Air Transport Association to verify agent credentials. Read customer reviews and look for weird grammar errors in e-mails and on websites. However, the BBB recommends booking directly through hotels or airlines.
2. *Check for a ticket confirmation number.* If you don’t get a ticket number with your confirmation e-mail, a scammer may have reserved you a seat instead and stolen your money.
3. *Watch out for online deals.* Scammers use fake e-mails and ads to boast amazing deals on hotels or flights. If you think they are too good to be true, they are.
4. *Be skeptical of “confirmation calls.”* If you get a follow-up call from an agent to verify your personal information, it’s probably a scam.

Stay informed, pay attention and implement these practical tips for your next adventure. Safe travels!



WHAT’S NEW

vPenTest is **AvTek Solutions’** automated network penetration testing platform that combines the knowledge, methodology, processes, and toolsets of a team of security consultants into a single, deployable platform for organizations of all sizes. We help organizations to perform a penetration test within their environment at any given time, satisfying both compliance requirements as well as meeting security best practices. This platform is automated by vPenTest and is based on a framework that continuously improves over time.

Below are 5 key features of our Penetration Testing services:

Organizations can perform penetration tests at any time they want, however often they want.

Penetration testing activities are tracked in real-time and can be used for improvement of detection and monitoring controls.

Email notifications can be sent out to establish up-to-date progress and activities.

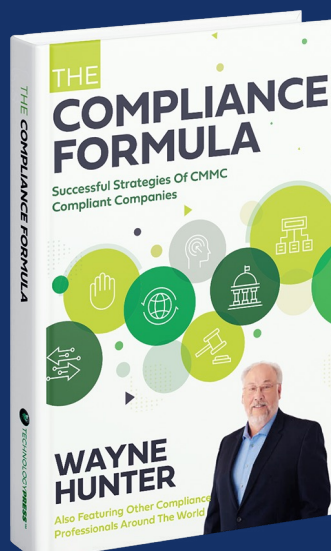
Turnaround time from start to finish is significantly faster while providing the same or more results than traditional penetration tests.

Deliverable packages contain more comprehensive details to help organizations understand, mitigate, and attempt to reproduce threats identified found in their network.

Answer: A. The vertical three-dot menu icon is called a “kebab” menu. Its friend, the horizontal three-dot menu, is called a “meatball” menu. In fact, most menu icons are named after food. Someone must’ve missed lunch when they were naming these things.

The Compliance Formula:

Successful Strategies Of CMMC Compliant Companies



The definitive guide to understanding and implementing CMMC: everything you need to know to win DoD contracts and squash your company’s vulnerabilities from hackers, data theft, and ransomware.

You must make implementing CMMC a priority. Right now, crime organizations are paying up to \$90,000 a month plus full benefits to people who will hack into your business. Without CMMC compliance, you will lose DoD contracts, stunt future business growth, and risk your business survival. We’ve gathered 21 top CMMC compliance experts to help you figure out which level of CMMC compliance is right for you and provide a blueprint to make it easier to put these standards in place, so you can secure your company against criminals, win more business, and create a powerful, competitive advantage.

This Amazon Best Seller book titled The Compliance Formula...Successful Strategies Of CMMC Compliant Companies co-authored by Wayne Hunter gives businesses like yours the knowledge, strategies and action steps protect your business from hackers.

CHECK IT OUT NOW