



Local Feature:

NetOps Consulting

www.netopsconsulting.com



Regardless of your occupation, it is a fact of life that technology plays a major part in both our personal and professional journeys. We have become reliant not only on the technology, but more importantly on the people who make it work. Unfortunately, we have all experienced moments when both fail us, leaving us to search for direction and assistance.

A long time ago, Northern Eskimos, known as the Inuit people, created clever markers known as Inukshuk to help guide fellow travelers. These Inukshuk are carefully arranged stone figures which were assembled in key locations to lead the way to safe passage. Those who had successfully navigated the correct path placed them there. The Inukshuk is the appropriate insignia for this growing company because NetOps is continually creating guides and markers for safe technology direction.

Andrew Bowers, Senior Account Manager for NetOps Consulting, explains, “For most of us technology is confusing, but in today’s business environment, making appropriate technology decisions, is more important than ever. It could make or break your organization. Furthermore, the complexity of most environments today require more technical knowledge and resources than companies can afford to have internally. Even if funding is not an issue, how can executives be sure they are on the right path?” NetOps Consulting has collected its talent from industry giants. Their consultants have decades of infrastructure experience and intimate knowledge of what works best in complex business environments. NetOps has harnessed the efficiency and knowledge required to support large enterprise environments, and they use it to support small and mid-size companies.

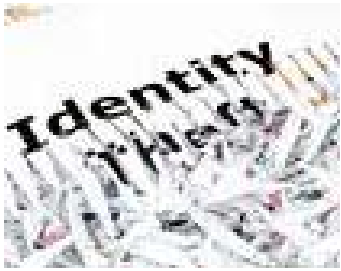
Andrew Bowers explains the primary offerings of NetOps:

- **Technology Assessment** – An independent third-party opinion of the health and well-being of a company’s IT infrastructure. On-site assessments include executive and staff interviews to obtain a clear understanding of the organizations perspective, acceptance, and reliance on technology. The assessment report includes findings and recommendations.
- **Project Consulting** – NetOps uses a collaborative approach to technology-based consulting. The NetOps’ consultants work directly with their clients, and their vendors to provide solutions that address critical business requirements.
- **Staffing Solutions** – Net Ops offers interim CIO (Chief Information Officer), temporary CTO (Chief Technical Officer), and project management for technical endeavor of all types. NetOps can provide a tailored staffing solution to meet specific customer needs.
- **ITO (Information Technology Outsourcing)** – NetOps’ “Managed Services” offering will keep any organization up-to-date with the latest technology and improve the stability and security of the IT infrastructure, while reducing both staffing and operational costs. NetOps has a refined, time tested approach which ensures that the client get the most from their IT investments. NetOps outsourcing solution includes:
 - **NetOps Benefits:** 24/7 help-desk support; 24/7 infrastructure monitoring and management; project and vendor management; on-site or remote staffing; staff management; staff augmentation; complete staffing

“An example of our outsourcing service occurred when one of NetOps Managed Services clients suffered an outage after hours at an international manufacturing location. NetOps’ robust monitoring solution alerted technicians of the outage, and immediate corrective actions were taken. The plant employees resumed production the next morning completely unaware of the incident” described Andrew.

“Our mission,” says Andrew “is to allow companies to, more effectively and affordably, manage their technology.”

For additional information about this remarkable company visit www.netopsconsulting.com.



With stories of identity theft becoming more common, most victims find themselves burdened with the complicated task of restoring a stolen identity. Unfortunately, this is a long, complicated and costly process.

Are you aware that Identity Theft Insurance is available and can be added to your homeowner's policy for about \$3.50 per month? While this coverage reimburses you for your time and out-of-pocket expenses in the event of identity theft, it often provides more. Identity Theft Coverage also gives you access to professionals that will help you through this complicated process.

If you become a victim, you first contact local law enforcement to report the crime. This early action may save others from the perpetrator and will generate the necessary report required by many creditors to begin correcting the records. Next, you will want to notify the credit reporting companies (Experian, Equifax, and Trans Union). This will allow you to have your file flagged and gather the instructions to begin removing entries generated by fraudulent activity. Third, contact all creditors with whom your name has been

fraudulently used. If you believe someone has filed a change of address for you or used the mail to commit a fraud, you will want to notify the Postal Inspector in your area. Also, if you suspect that your Social Security number has been compromised you should contact the Social Security Administration.

These actions listed are just a few of the corrective measures that must be taken. Reducing your risk of theft can be accomplished by exercising some precaution. Be strict about whom you give access to your personal information. Check your financial information on a regular basis by reviewing your credit report. Check with your financial institution or credit card provider about cards bearing new security features. When discarding an old computer, be sure that the hard drive is formatted or destroyed. Thieves are clever and convincing so never answer e-mail solicitations regarding information about your bank and credit accounts. Beware that email can be doctored to convince you that it is from a trustworthy source such as EBay. Change your PIN numbers frequently. When giving credit card information over the phone, only do so with a trusted vendor and be mindful of who may be listening to your conversation. Destroy the unused portion of all your billing statements if discarding them.

For additional Identity Theft protection information contact one of our Agents.

Hummel's Healthy Hints:

Nothing is more comforting than fresh bread and hot soup on a cold winter day. Purchase a loaf of your favorite French bread from your grocer's bakery and enjoy this healthy Chili.

CHILI



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| 1 small onion, chopped | 1 8 oz. can tomato sauce |
| 1 tbsp. oil | 1 bay leaf |
| 1 14 1/2 oz. can of tomatoes | 1 tsp. oregano |
| 1 15 1/2 oz. can of beans in chili sauce | 1 tbsp. chili powder |
| | 1 lb. ground turkey |

In a medium saucepan, brown your ground turkey and drain. Saute onion in oil until soft and add to ground turkey. Add remaining ingredients. Bring to boil, cover, reduce heat and simmer 30 minutes. Makes about 4 servings

Note: This is really very good and low in fat.

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people of our two offices
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Happy New Year!

