

Newsletter

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Software Designed to Deliver

HI-TECH
FREIGHT
SOLUTIONS

Digital certificates expiring

A reminder as we are getting a lot of calls from clients with expired digital certificates. Digital certificates expire every 2 years and must be renewed. It may take a couple of days to renew a certificate so do not leave it until the last minute as without a current certificate you may not be able to log on to the Customs Interactive system or send message to Customs from Cyberfreight. Check Cyberfreight Comserver as it displays the expiry date of the Type 3 certificate. Your web browser should show you the expiry date of your Type 2 certificates. We cannot renew any certificates for you. You must manage this process yourself with Verisign as you have to provide proof of identity plus legally, you own the digital certificates. When you renew your digital certificates you must make a backup copy on to CD, USB memory stick, etc. Keep one backup copy on site and one backup copy off site. Create a Notepad or Word file on the backup device that contains all of the email addresses, email passwords and digital certificate passwords,

Year End Processing

A reminder that Year End must be run to roll forward the general ledger figures from one year to another. The Year End process can be run as many times as required (e.g. adjustments from your accountant that are received well into the following year). If you go back more than one year then the Year End process for the intervening years will also have to be re-run.

Server and major infrastructure changes

Please contact our support team well in advance of any major IT infrastructure changes (e.g. server change). If you or your technician call without notice then we may not be able to respond quickly to

your request due to the then current support load. It is also best to give us advanced notice as we can often provide advice that will save you money by purchasing appropriate systems. We need to test new versions of operating systems as we cannot guarantee that everything will simply transfer to a new configuration. This means we need access to both the old and the new server for a period of time for testing well in advance of the "go live".

Cloud computing/Hosted solutions – pros & cons

Cloud computing is the latest buzz word. As usual with new trends it is often hard to get the full picture.

Pros:-

- No need to back up your data
- Disaster recovery easier as you do not need a new server. You will still need workstations
- Lower initial costs.
- Easy to increase capacity

Cons:-

- You can easily be cut off over an accounting or other dispute.
- Your Internet traffic will increase and my result in a higher Internet bill.
- Your data data may be hosted overseas, anywhere!
- Do you own your data? Who has rights access to your data? Can a government agency get easier access to your data?
- No free lunches – someone has to pay for the infrastructure that you use -either you or the hosting company. The long term costs are probably higher.
- No access if your Internet is down and poor performance if your Internet connection is running slowly.